

Minutes of Planning Meeting held on Thursday 27 August 2015, 8pm, Waresley Village Hall

Present: Councillors Chris Thorne (Acting Chair), John Archer, Val Coleman, Helen Richardson.

In attendance: County Councillor Julie Wisson, Mr Charles Mear, Mrs Liz Mear, Ms Jo Mear, Mr and Mrs Edward Faye

Minutes taken by S Sullivan

2015.

74 Apologies for absence were accepted from Mrs E Jack, Mrs B Boddington

75 Open Session The Chairman invited a discussion of the application for an anaerobic digester at Wood Farm.

A number of questions were asked, in particular regarding the potential problems of noise, odour and extent of traffic.

Mr Charles Mear explained that in the course of his research on the proposal he had visited three anaerobic digestion plants and neither noise nor odour had caused any problems.

The applicant's objective was to generate renewable electricity using his land to grow whole crop rye and by recycling the animal waste from poultry and horses at Wood Farm. The anaerobic digester would generate methane gas that would be used by a combined heat and power unit (CHP unit) to provide electricity and hot water. Some of the electricity would be used by the farm but most would be exported to the national grid. The hot water could be used in the egg production process and buildings on the farm. In addition, the process would turn the rye and animal waste into relatively odourless compost that would be used directly on the farmland to fertilise crops, rather than having to be removed from the premises as at present. The digester would process poultry and horse manure and other feedstock that was produced on the farm. It was not proposed to process material from elsewhere. The proposed digester was on a relatively small scale but would still generate enough renewable electricity for around 340 homes. It would operate 24 hours a day. Any associated noise would come from the generator CHP unit but this would be enclosed and the whole facility would be sited in a wood more than 340m from Vicarage Road.

The proposal would benefit the community by reducing the amount of heavy traffic in Vicarage Road. Access to the digester would be from the farm, although a temporary access track could be built from the Waresley-Gransden road across the applicant's farmland to facilitate construction.

Mr Mear outlined the noise mitigation measures that were envisaged, such as a sound-insulated building, and siting the plant within the screen of a wood. He was confident that any noise generated would not be noticeable in Vicarage Road and he was prepared to install further sound barriers if necessary.

Waresley-cum-Tetworth Parish Council Signature..... *V.G. Coleman*

Date 1.10.2015

With regard to odour, Mr Mear said that the process occurred in a sealed building and that the material produced was inert and odour-free. It would be stored on the farm prior to use.

The Chairman thanked all participants to the discussion and closed the open session.

76 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests to receive from councillors' declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda items: None.

77 Planning Application 15/00960/FUL, Wood Farm, Vicarage Road, Waresley

Installation of an anaerobic digestion facility for the production of renewable energy. To include 1 x partially buried tank, 1 x gas holder. 1 x gas membrane located on tank roof, 1 x process building to house process controls and CHP unit, 1 x feeder, 1 x digestive evaporator and associated works.

The Parish Council unanimously recommended that the application be APPROVED with the comment that the Parish Council would support a proposal to carry out installation works via a temporary road created on the applicant's land from an entrance on the road between Waresley and Great Gransden: proposed by J Archer, seconded by C Thorne.

78 Any Other Business Councillors noted with regret Councillor Eleanor Jack's resignation as Chair – they thanked her for fourteen years' service as Chair and wished her a speedy recovery from recent illness.

79 Date of the Next Meeting (provisional) 1 October 2015 8 pm Waresley Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Waresley-cum-Tetworth Parish Council Signature..... *V.E. CORN*

Date 1-10-2015