

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meetings of Husthwaite Parish Council
Held on 1st & 12th December 2022 in Husthwaite Village Hall**

1st December 2022

In Attendance: C. Fenwick (Chair), S. Aspinall, C. Nichols, E. Smith and 2 Parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** H. Pilcher (working in London), C. Colton & J. Hampshire (previous engagement)

Declarations of Interest: E Smith declared a personal interest in Planning Application 21/03042/FUL.

2. **Planning Application 21/03042/FUL – OS Field 2700, Carlton Husthwaite, York** – Application for installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) array / solar farm with associated infrastructure – as amended (additional and revised plans, visualisations and other documents received by Hambleton District Council on 27 June 2022 and 22 November 2022).

Councillors discussed the amended application along with the correspondence received from Lightrock Power and agreed to request clarification on the following issues before submitting a formal response to the revised plans: –

The density of panels – The revised site is 39% smaller but there is only a 10% reduction in output, how can this be achieved?

Access to Woolpots North – Fields 1, 6 & 10 adjacent to the Husthwaite/Carlton road no longer contain panels, so where will the site access be located and will there be any roadside fencing?

Site Boundary – Although the site is now 39% smaller, the planning application still includes the whole 99.7 hectares, is there a reason for this?

Storage Batteries & Inverters – Removal of batteries from each of the fields and the reduction in number of batteries/inverters is welcomed but does this mean the batteries will be larger?

Electricity Sub-compound and Battery Storage – Could this infrastructure not be located further away from the road so the entrance to the village and AONB is not dominated by large industrial units?

Fire Safety – The use of liquid cooled batteries is good news in terms of noise pollution, but do they have any proven safety record in terms of fire risk? **Action: SA / CF**

3. **Boundary Commission for England – Review of Parliamentary Constituencies:** Councillors endorsed the concerns highlighted by local MP Kevin Hollinrake and agreed to submit a response to the consultation confirming that we DO NOT support the new constituency of Wetherby and Easingwold. The main reasons being that we are a small rural village, closely integrated with Thirsk, North Yorkshire, Howardian Hills AONB and NY Moors National Park and we wish to retain a Member of Parliament who understands our cohesive rural constituency. Furthermore, it is illogical to include us in a new constituency with Wetherby, a West Yorkshire town on the other side of the A1 motorway, with close links to Leeds. **Action: CF**

4. **High Voltage Upgrade Works – Low Street:** The revised offer of a Capitalised Wayleave Agreement which pays a one-off payment of £50 as a lump sum on condition that we cannot terminate the Agreement during the first 10 years was discussed. Councillors agreed that they had no objection as long as the Recreation Area Tarmac Access Track was undisturbed and the electric pole adjacent to the public footpath would not be altered. As a matter of courtesy, CF will ask Hambleton District Council if they have any objections as they own the land. **Action: CF**

.....17th January 2022

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meetings of Husthwaite Parish Council
Held on 1st & 12th December 2022 in Husthwaite Village Hall

12th December 2022

In Attendance: C. Fenwick (Chair), S. Aspinall, C. Colton, J. Hampshire, C. Nichols, E. Smith and 3 Parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** H. Pilcher (working)

Declarations of Interest: E Smith declared a personal interest in Planning Application 21/03042/FUL.

2. **Planning Application 21/03042/FUL – OS Field 2700, Carlton Husthwaite, York** – Application for installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) array / solar farm with associated infrastructure – as amended (additional and revised plans, visualisations and other documents received by Hambleton District Council on 27 June 2022 and 22 November 2022).

The Parish Council wished to see the application **REFUSED** and sent the following comments: -

Husthwaite Parish Council appreciate the overall reduction in area of the Woolpots Solar Farm site but remain of the view that the scheme will have a very adverse impact on the surrounding environment and landscape contrary to the Hambleton Plan, in particular Policies S5, E7 and RM6. It will also erode the close relationship of our historic settlement to the wider rural landscape which is very important to parishioners. In particular we note that, due to the topography, Woolpots North will remain highly visible from both conservation villages and from the Howardian Hills AONB and that an increased density of the fixed panels may increase the visual impact. We understand that plans for the site have been reduced by 39%, but the cumulative impact of this new development, alongside the 220 acres already in situ at Boscar Grange and Peter Hill Solar Farms, has a detrimental impact on the rural character of our village and is an additional loss of very productive agricultural land. Additionally, we note that if this application is approved, there will be no further capacity in our Sub-station for any smaller / community schemes which would be more welcome within the area.

In addition, the Parish Council remains concerned by the proximity of the Electricity Sub-compound and Battery Storage facility to the road and believe it to be visually intrusive on the entrance to our village and an industrialisation of our rural landscape. There continue to be serious fears about the safety of the BESS, which is situated extremely near to the Ethylene Pipeline, after reports of uncontrollable fires in other battery storage facilities. Therefore, the Parish Council would like assurances that a suitable water source has been identified in case of emergency and that a drainage interceptor trap would be installed around the facility to prevent an environmental disaster should excesses of water be needed to control a fire.

With regards to the reduction in storage batteries/inverters on site, this is welcomed but will it result in the inclusion of more or larger batteries within the Battery Energy Storage System? Furthermore, we would like confirmation that there will be no noise or light pollution from the sub-station compound / BESS as these important issues do not seem to have been addressed adequately in the application.

The Parish Council would also like to see consideration given to the effect of this solar array on long standing businesses, especially the nearby well-established busy commercial airfield who provide a comprehensive range of services. Therefore, we would be grateful if the concerns raised by the CAA and GAAC regarding the Airfield Safety Area of Baxby Aerodrome could be investigated before any planning permission is given.

Husthwaite is a popular tourist village, and many local businesses depend on tourism, so the Parish Council is very concerned about both short-term and long-term impacts on the local economy (Policy EG8). In particular, as the construction of both halves of this development is liable to cause considerable disruption on the extremely narrow roads leading to our villages,

.....17th January 2022

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meetings of Husthwaite Parish Council
Held on 1st & 12th December 2022 in Husthwaite Village Hall**

Husthwaite Parish Council would insist that a detailed Construction Management Plan containing the following conditions are applied and adhered to should any planning permission be approved:

- Hours of operation are limited to 8am until 5pm Monday to Friday and 8am until 1pm on Saturdays. No Sunday or bank holiday working.
- Plant and materials must be stored within the site boundary, which should be secure.
- Parking for ALL construction traffic **MUST** be provided on site and no parking should be allowed on the sides of the highway.
- Deliveries should be restricted to avoid school drop off / pick up times to alleviate traffic congestion on the narrow lanes into the village.
- All unloading of materials should take place on site and vehicles must be able to access and leave the site in a forward gear.
- Clean access should be provided to the site and wheel cleaning facilities should be available to ensure no mud or grit is transferred onto the existing highway.

It is understood from the plans that cable laying will take place on Ings Lane and Bell Lane which are both Public Rights of Way. Therefore, we would insist that public access is maintained throughout, and sufficient safety precautions are put in place to safeguard protected species and users of the PROW while construction work is underway.

Furthermore, we would like assurances that sufficient screening will be provided by the developer to limit the visual impact of the development and no future development or expansion of the application site will be allowed.

Finally, we note that there is no mention of any community payback initiative for the two closest villages (Husthwaite & Carlton Husthwaite) who will be most affected by this development.

Planning Application 22/02760/FUL - Old Granary, Flower O'May, The Nookin, Husthwaite

- Change of use of ground floor agricultural building to create ancillary living accommodation.

The Parish Council had **NO OBSERVATIONS** on this planning application.

Planning Application 22/02777/CAT - The Outwoods, The Nookin, Husthwaite - Works to

fell and works to trees in a Conservation Area.

The Parish Council had **NO OBSERVATIONS** on this planning application.