

## MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 19.00 in the Community Hall

**Present:** Cllrs David Bennett (Chair), Kate Ryan, Rod Lees, Mike Blake, Paula Barrett, Richard Paske, Lesley Haywood and Chris Morgan.

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr Guthrie; Parish Clerks; Alison Sutton & Jeremy Stephens; and 18 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Patrick Meredith.
2. **Declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation** – Cllrs David Bennet, Richard Paske and Lesley Haywood DECLARED an interest in item 4.1 and left the meeting for the item. Cllr Haywood did not return to the meeting.

### 3. **Public Forum**

#### 3.1 *Local Residents Session (not part of meeting, adjourned for this item)*

As per Standing Orders – At the Chairman’s discretion, up to 10 mins will be allocated for the public to make representations, ask questions & give evidence in respect of any item on the agenda. Maximum of 2 mins per person per item is allowed. Item is not for comment on parish council discussions or decisions. Names will not be minuted and every effort will be made to keep personally identifiable data to a minimum, in compliance with GDPR and data protection. Bullet points on the topics raised will be noted to allow the council to address items either as part of appropriate agenda items, by adding to the agenda for a subsequent meeting or by adding responses to minutes. Items raised will be marked Question/Statement (Q/S) and Answer (A).

**Re:** Drakeley Farm Planning Application by S&A. P221524/F

3.2 NOTED: the following points were brought forward by Parishioners many referring to the planning presentations by S&A.

Q/S Concerns re:

#### **Urdimarsh Lane:**

It is a very narrow single-track road with no verges or passing places. There are no safe areas for children, adult walkers and riders with horses. The verges are very soft and will be damaged by the very large vehicles as will the road surface. If a car meets another vehicle, reversing is very difficult with only private property access as a passing place. When questioned S&A had indicated that the passing problem would ‘sort it’s self out, we will make passing places’.

It was also noted there was a lack of a transport report, or indication of traffic management. Repeatedly mentioned the Lane is far too narrow for the proposed use.

#### **Water:**

Many of the properties rely on a consistent, uncontaminated, water table level for their private wells. Concerns were raised regarding flooding problems from the proposed reservoirs, the run-off from the polytunnels, the chemicals from the troughs draining into the water table. Flash flooding occurred in the area when the site was an orchard. The names Urdimarsh, Litmarsh and Burmarsh give an indication of the type of land in the area. There is also concern for the flora and fauna inhabiting the wildlife ponds if they are flooded with chemically contaminated water. The possibility of permanent damage to the water system.

#### **Wildlife and Waste and the Environment:**

Work is happening already without permission: Ancient hedgerows dug up and not able to be replaced; road surfaces broken and not repaired; creation of a massive spoil heap; no preservation carried out; badgers impeded by dumped waste; sterile soil under the tunnels; no natural soil growth under the tunnels; black plastic waste and

plastic bottles spread everywhere, ploughed into ground, does not degrade. Promises made not upheld. Not working with residents, a bad attitude. What happens to the waste from the troughs? Must not be allowed to heat or light tunnels. Noise is also a big problem at all times of day and night and must be restricted. Including during any construction.

What will happen to the site if the business fails? Who will be left with the mess to clear up. It is an Industrial operation happening on a deep soil agricultural site that will sterilise the good Hereford earth.

**Aesthetic:**

60% Of the public paths and bridle ways in the area will be surrounded by poly tunnels. The planting of elephant grass or trees will not restore the view of the magnificent countryside. The value of the houses in the area will be reduced indiscriminately. Tourism and enjoyment of the countryside will be affected.

The site is far too big, huge, extensive, and industrial for the small village of Marden to accommodate and a cavalier attitude is not welcome. Nothing is being done or given to the 'community' it is big business.

*(Cllrs David Bennet (Chair), Richard Paske and Lesley Haywood left the room for item 4.1. Vice Chair to conduct Cllr discussion.)*

**4. Planning Applications** – To comment on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council.

4.1 P221524/F, Drakeley Farm, HR1 3EA – Erection of up to 13.5 hectares of fixed (i.e. non-rotating) 'Spanish' Poly tunnels over soft grown fruit on table tops, excavations and ground profiling to form new winter storage reservoir and the erection of an agricultural storage building and 6 no. water tanks.

The discussion covered the following main points:

Hedgerows, private water supply, drainage, flooding, safety, horses, pathways, narrow roads, can't create passing places without destroying lane, transport effects, lost habitats, the impact of CO2, relevance to Herefordshire biodiversity plans, is it Co2 neutral? Construction plans. It is a PR Exercise. It is an industrial operation, it has got to make money, false equivalents to past agriculture, change is inevitable, more houses, numbers of children, what are the long term plans to restore the sterile soil if the business fails?

It is industrial farming, a business, more real food needed post Brexit, the waste plastic in the air and in the ground has been a problem for years.

The development is now too much for a small village.

Enough is enough.

**RESOLVED** to **Strongly Object** to the planning application. (P221524/F)

**5. Matters for next Agenda or for Clerk's action under delegated authority**

Parish Clerks ordered to draft full Objection statement in relation to Marden Neighbourhood Development Policy (NDP) (2016), Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy (2015) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021).

*(Cllrs David Bennet (Chair) and Richard Paske returned the room.)*

**6. Date of next meeting** - Monday 11 July 22 at 19:00 in the Community Centre.

The meeting was declared closed at 20: 25

Signed:

Date:

Marden Parish Council Chair.