

Minutes of the Council Meeting to discuss planning application 14/20653/FUL (3 wind turbines at Knightley Hall Farm)
Held in the Brearley Room on Monday 1st September 2014 beginning at 7.30pm

Present	Cllr. R Greatrex (in the Chair)	Cllr. S Wallis
	Cllr. G Payne	Cllr. K Ingram
	Cllr. P Alker	Cllr. J Cook
	Cllr. D Willetts	Cllr M Deegan
	Cllr. J Cook	Cllr T Simkin
	Cllr K Abbott	Cllr J Tomkinson
	Cllr M Booth	Miss J Cooper, Clerk

Along with Cllr Ken Williamson and Cllr Mike Smith (Stafford Borough Council) and 5 members of the public

14/102	Public Open Forum Gail Gregory informed councillors that she had a petition with her to stop development on Audmore Loop should any Councillor wish to sign it.	
14/103	To receive apologies, record absences Apologies received from Cllr Hughes, Cllr Green Absences: Cllr Watson-Jones, Cllr Cowie	
14/104	To record any declarations of interest There were no Declarations of Interest	
14/105	To approve joint working with High Offley (Woodseaves) Parish Council in relation to planning application 14/20653/FUL, wind farm at Knightley Hall Farm. It was proposed that Gnosall PC works jointly with High Offley PC (as well as Norbury PC as previously agreed) sharing information on this application that would be beneficial to both parishes. Should the application be approved, the funding contribution to communities would be discussed with all parishes working together to agree how this should be allocated. The proposal was seconded with 11 cllrs voting in favour of the proposal and one abstention.	
14/106	To consider application 14/20653/FUL, the installation of three wind turbines and construction of associated infrastructure on land within Knightley Hall Farm. The notes of a public meeting held on 28 th July regarding this application had been previously circulated to Cllrs. About 60 people had attended the meeting expressing their views on the application, all of which were against the proposed development of a wind farm. The majority of parish councillors had attended the meeting and therefore were aware that the application did not have the support of the majority of parishioners (although it was noted that some parishioners are not totally against wind farms but had not attended the public	

	<p>meeting to share their views). About 150 parishioners of Gnosall and neighbouring parishes had submitted their letters of objection to the Borough Council by the agreed deadline of 12th August. Cllrs had noted these objections.</p> <p>Cllrs gave their own views on the application focussing on the negative impact the wind farm would have on the landscape and the effect to nearby heritage sites. It was also noted that the Ministry of Defence had objected to the application.</p> <p>The Chairman said that should the application be approved, a condition should be included that the applicant sets aside a bond so should the project fail there would be money to carry out decommissioning work.</p> <p>It was proposed that the Council objects to the application. This was seconded and a vote taken with 11 voting in favour of the proposal and one abstention.</p> <p>The Clerk would prepare a response and circulate to Cllrs for comments before it is submitted to Stafford Borough Council by the deadline of 15th September.</p>	Clerk
14/107	<p>To receive a verbal report following the inquiry held on 27th August in relation to application 13/19051/OUT for 55 houses on Knightley Road</p> <p>The Chairman had circulated a written report following the 3 day inquiry held the previous week. He had attended the majority of the inquiry on behalf of Gnosall Parish Council. The Borough Council, Parish Council and GRID had all spoken giving reasons for why the application should be refused. There had been a lot of discussion about the Local Plan and the 5 year housing supply and whether or not the Borough Council did actually have a 5 year supply. Cllr Williamson said following this debate, SBC had met with Sir Bill Cash MP to request guidance and advice from Government.</p> <p>Cllr Greatrex also reported that the Borough Council's landscaping consultant spoke at the inquiry and said there were more suitable sites such as the field in the centre of Audmore Loop and an another field off the loop. This, he added, was not helpful. GRID members also expressed their disappointment that this had been reported at the inquiry.</p> <p>No date was confirmed when a decision would be made by the Inspector.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.05pm