

WESTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE WESTERN AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Terry Chivers (Substitute), Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Gordon King (Substitute), Cllr John Knight (Vice-Chair), Cllr Christopher Newbury (Chairman), Cllr Horace Prickett and Cllr Pip Ridout

107 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dennis Drewett, Gordon King, Jonathon Seed and Magnus Macdonald.

Councillor Drewett was substituted by Councillor Terry Chivers.
Councillor Macdonald was substituted by Councillor Gordon King.

108 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2014 were presented.

Resolved:

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd September 2014.

109 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman gave details of the exits to be used in the event of an emergency.

110 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

111 **Public Participation and Councillors' Questions**

No questions had been received from councillors or members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all present. He then explained the rules of public participation and the procedure to be followed at the meeting.

112 **Planning Applications**

The Committee considered the following application:

113 **14/05253/FUL: Land West of Ganbrook Farm, Little Chalfield, Wiltshire**

Public Participation:

Charles Potterton spoke in objection to the application.
Christopher Morley spoke in objection to the application.
Sarah Morley spoke in objection to the application.

Peter McLaren spoke in support of the application.
Anthony Fuller spoke in support of the application.
Adam Tucker spoke in support of the application.

John Kirkman spoke as a consultee on behalf of CPRE in objection to the application.

The Planning Officer outlined the report which recommended the application for approval subject to conditions. The site description and an overview of the proposed development were also given. The Planning Officer outlined the relevant planning policy, consultation and relevant planning considerations. The Senior Landscape and Design Officer gave more detail in respect to the applications impact on the landscape. In response to a question, officers gave more detail regarding the views of one of the consultees, namely English Heritage.

Members of the public were invited to speak on the application as listed above.

Councillor Terry Chivers, as the local member, spoke in objection to the application. The main issues were noted as: the level of objection in the community, highways issues, and cumulative effect. The debate focused on the impact of the proposed development on the character of the area. A motion was put forward to refuse the application. At the end of the debate it was;

Resolved

To refuse planning permission for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposal by reason of its size and scale would result in a dominant and uncharacteristic form of development which introduces a series of uncharacteristic utilitarian structures across the open field together with security fencing and cameras causing unacceptable visual harm to the landscape character and appearance of the site and the wider landscape setting. This would conflict with policies C1 and C34 of the West Wiltshire District Plan (1st Alteration) and with policies CP42(i) and CP51 of the emerging Core Strategy (April 2014 tracked changes version) and with the Government's Planning Policy guidance that recognises that large scale solar farms can have a damaging effect on the landscape.**

In response to a request the following votes were recorded in favour of the resolution to refuse permission: Councillors Ernie Clark, Terry Chivers and John Knight.

114 **Urgent Items**

There were no Urgent Items.

(Duration of meeting: Times Not Specified)

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