

Vale and South Oxfordshire Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on 7th December 2022 at 8:15 pm

Present: Greg O'Broin (Appleford PC/Chair), Chris Neill (Burcot & Clifton Hampden PC - left meeting 9:00 pm), Sam Casey-Rerhaye (Culham PC), John Peters (Nuneham Courtenay PC), Vicky Shepherd (Appleford PC), Chris Hancock (Appleford PC WG), Charlie Hopkins (Planning Advisor).
Dr Rita Atkinson (Sutton Courtenay PC) joined circa 8:25pm.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk).
2. **Minutes of last meeting 22 Nov 2022** – approved
Action – GO to sign and scan copy to the joint committee clerk.
3. **Update from Planning Advisor**
CHp referred to the Reg 25 consultation which is due to close 24 Dec. Letters seeking an extension have issued from – Appleford, Culham, Clifton Hampden & Nuneham Courtenay. RA confirmed SCPC were drafting a letter seeking an extension.
Action: GO or JF to send letter from NPC-JC seeking an extension.

Planning & Reg Committee dates were noted - 16 Jan 2023 & 27 Feb 2023 with the latter the most likely but still to be confirmed.

CHp explained there has been a deluge of documents submitted in response to the Reg. 25 request which he is wading through to identify matters of concern to us. He needs to assess the responses by the County to the Reg 25 questions raised by the Case Officer but also a need to refer to the original submissions raised by us and were not included by the Case Officer – a two stage process.

Prof. John Whitelegg has advised he cannot respond in the time available due to work and personal pressures. However, he has kindly produced a short paper with Carbon Emissions. This recommends a calculation of the quantity of carbon emissions (KtCO₂e) with a reconciliation of reductions to be achieved. Appendix K of EIA only provides broad estimates back to national figures.

CHp proposed Alan James to take this up and to work with Andrew Dorian (who has identified transport assessment / modelling gaps) to look at compliance with WebTAG and LTCP (adopted July) and whether the EIA meets the requirements of a Schedule 2 application. CHp will assess this against overall planning policy and law.

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CHp recommends leave hydrology to the Environment Agency as it's such a big area that we will have not the resources or budget to explore. We need to prioritise. CH has downloaded many documents and asked if CHp can forward a list of key areas to review.

Action: CHp to send a list of important areas (hot topics) for reps to review.

GO asked what are we trying to achieve? CHp said the Case Officer (EC) may recommend HIF & the Planning & Reg Committee could approve the application. It is important for us to outline the planning reasons why it should not be approved and that it doesn't comply with planning policy (and SODC & VoWH DC policies) and therefore, is unlawful. For this exercise we are aiming at the Planning Committee and for this we need to submit objection on planning policy grounds.

While financial issues are not a reason to object to an application, however deliverability is relevant.

Action: Final response to be circulated to all OCC Councillors. (c/fwd)

JP asked about the interim objections. CH advised 3 areas – noise, air quality & health and wellbeing. All broke to planning policies of the VWH, SODC and OCC. He proposes to see if Aecom's responses goes any way to addressing those issues.

SCR said we seeking to do two things (1) convince the Planning Officer (EC) that certain matters are deficient so she will highlight these in her report whether she recommends HIF or not. (2) We are seeking to influence the P&R Committee through the Officers Report by highlighting deficiencies.

As agreed we will send our objections to every OCC Cllr and attend the P&R Committee meeting in numbers (can divide up between us) seeking rejection. RA said if HIF goes through, and OCC seek to modify the Scheme it should be treated as a fresh application.

VS mentioned that Appleford & Culham have been 'leafleted' and material passed to SCA to socialise by email. She also noted the Carol Singing protest outside OCC -13 Dec. CHp recommended raising awareness and getting as many people as possible to submit objections. Avoid petitions – often treated as a single objection. Some discussion on the nontechnical summary to explain the scheme to those who are unfamiliar. The ORAA website is another avenue.

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4. Actions arising from previous Meetings

Issues discussed above.

5. Cabinet Meeting

HIF2 has been withdrawn from the legal CPO process and will be brought back following a review.

6. Feedback from Councillors

No feedback received since last meeting.

7. Other Developments

ORAA planning a Carol Singing Protest to publicise local opposition to HIF1.

8. Mitigations Identified

Carry forward to next meeting.

9. Administration

CN asked to discuss items requiring decisions as he had to leave shortly.

CHp is seeking approval to engage Alan James to complete the interim work and to undertake the work previously outlined (assessing submissions v planning policy / WebTAG etc.).

RA confirmed SC want some funding to be retained for engagement with local traffic modeller. She was awaiting CHp assessment but what is emerging is the scope of traffic modelling is ill defined and the answer to questions asked is "not in our scope" and the scope seems to be defined to suit them rather than addressing the impact on communities around HIF. Even mitigations are outside the scope. There is a problem there and somehow we must address the traffic assessment deficiencies.

CN said CH&B PC could make £200 available if required and left the meeting (9:00 pm). CHp said, as Andrew Dorian confirmed, there are all sorts of areas that have not been modelled & the effects are unknown therefore, HIF doesn't comply with the Transport Assessment, WebTAG nor EIA regulations. SCR & RA agreed that the traffic data is insufficient, and we have no way of rectifying that. RA said we need to find all the policies that have not been complied with (boundaries, nodes, input data etc).

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It was agreed to authorise £2,000 for Alan James but retain the balance of the budget for traffic work as requested by SC.

In summary, the meeting approved a fee of £3,600 for Charlie Hopkins plus £2,000 for work by Alan James. The latter to be funded by £400 out of the £2,000 reserve retained by Sutton Courtenay and £200 committed by CH&B PC above. The balance required to come from the residual budgeted funds available.

SC representatives will take the additional £400 back to SCPC for approval at the next PC meeting.

Action: RA to seek guidance from their contact (TD or RA) and revert.

10. Next Actions

CHp to prepare & circulate draft responses or an outline by 16 Oct or week after.
If any further questions on traffic arise please refer to GO or CHp.

The meeting finished 9:20 am.

11. Next Meeting - Jan-2023 (date to be advised)

END

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