

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
CONEY WESTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022 AT 7.00PM  
AT CONEY WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Craig, Duncan, Flood, Ladell & Mihr (Chair)

District Councillor A. Smith

12 members of the public

A. Morris (Clerk).

Jack Spurway, Head of Planning at Boom Power

Councillor Mihr, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7pm.

- | <b>AGENDA ITEM</b>   | <b>ACTION</b> |
|--|---------------|
| <p>1. <b>To receive apologies for absence and approve the reasons given</b> – apologies received from Councillor Clark who is on leave.</p>  |               |
| <p>2. <b>Declarations of interest</b> – interest declared by Councillor Duncan for any discussions relating to the Playing Field as he has been appointed as a Trustee.</p>  |               |
| <p>3. <b>To approve the draft minutes of the last Parish Council meeting</b> (Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022) – the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April March 2022 had been previously circulated and were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Duncan, seconded by Cllr Craig and unanimously agreed.</p>   |               |
| <p>4. <b>Scheme of public speaking</b> (public participation about a specific agenda item) – 4 requests from members of the public to speak on Agenda item 5 were received.</p>  |               |
| <p>Chair moved Agenda item 6 before item 5 as a representative of Boom Power was due to attend but had not arrived at that time.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan left the room</p>  |               |
| <p>6. <b>To consider a grant application from the Coney Weston Playing Field Committee for funds to cover the cost of annual insurance premium</b> – an application from the Treasurer of the Coney Weston Playing Field Committee for a grant to cover the cost of their annual insurance premium (£361.05) which had previously been circulated to Councillors was considered and approved. Proposed by Cllr Flood, seconded by Cllr Mihr and voted unanimously.</p> |               |
| <p>5. <b>Planning Application DC/22/0445/FUL</b>– ground-mounted solar farm including associated infrastructure with comprising inverters and transformers, a DNO substation, battery storage and grid connection</p>  |               |

Location - Land East of Firsfield Bowbeck, Bardwell, Suffolk

530

Geoff Mihr, Chair



Andrea Morris, Clerk

Discussion took place among Councillors and members of the public.  
Points raised included:

1. Traffic nuisance, the planned route is unsuitable for the vehicles due to mainly the width of the c class(minor) roads, and the fact that the route is over the ancient bridge in Rushford, is completely unacceptable.
2. Concerns over food security, with the increasing likelihood of food shortages the council is against agricultural land being used for solar panels. Alternatives suggested include brownfield sites, building rooves and supermarket car parks, would be more appropriate places for solar panels.
3. Concern was expressed at the size of the proposed substation next to Heath Road at the north end of the site.
4. Concern over the potential danger of batteries to store electricity, although we subsequently learnt they have been removed from this application.
5. Concerns over who is charged with the dismantling of the site after its suggested lifespan of 35 years.
6. Concerns for the archaeology of the site, and how much actual investigation had been completed.
7. Noise from the piling of hundreds of supports for the solar panels in the construction phase, which we understand is likely to last 9 months.
8. General concerns over Solar energy, as electricity is in the highest demand at night and in winter months, when solar power is producing little or no output.

Head of Planning at Boom Power, Jack Spurway, attended the meeting at 8.05pm. The above issues were raised with him and he responded on behalf of the company. He agreed that further consultation, along with communication on the above points, was necessary.  
Cllr Smith agreed to ask WSC Planning Department for an extension to the deadline for submission of consultee comments on this application.

Councillors agreed unanimously to defer their formal response to this application until a new deadline had been approved.

7. **To consider any correspondence received and matters for Council's attention since publication of the agenda - no further items of correspondence had been received.**
8. **Date of next (Annual Parish) meeting – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

