



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF HALE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HALE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 27th JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Williams, Cllr Healey, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Wright, Cllr Spargo, Cllr Cleary, Cllr McNamara, Cllr Trevaskis,

In attendance: The Clerk and eleven Members of the public were present

- 1. Apologies** – Cllr Brown recorded his apologies
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – Cllrs Trevaskis and Spargo declared a non-pecuniary interest as members of the LJA airport sound monitoring committee.
- 3. Public Participation** – To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation

The Chair allowed a number of members of the public to make representations regarding both the agenda Item and also the wider subject of proposed airport expansion and its adverse effect on a large number of residents of Hale Village. In particular a number of residents living in the Baileys Lane area gave personal accounts of the negative impact that the uncertainty is having upon their health and wellbeing.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the current Local Development Certificate (LDC) planning application was submitted on 24th December 2021 and that the notice for submissions to Halton B.C. was published on 10th January 2022. It was felt that this did not give the best opportunity for residents to submit an objection within the 21 day submission period.

Concerns about the validity of the closure of Dungeon Lane and the proposed solar array being situated in the area designated as a Runway End Safety Area (RESA) were expressed. A further observation regarding the concrete based construction of the proposed solar site which appears to be in direct conflict with the safety requirements when a construction within the RESA should be non-frangible in its composition.

Residents were extremely concerned with the lack of consideration and discussion offered by Halton B.C. who they believe have a statutory duty to consult and to offer advice.

It was noted that a large number of residents feel that they are living with a constant threat to their livelihood. They would like to initially be kept informed, secondly, to be consulted and thirdly to be permitted to have some input in the decision making

process. One resident expressed a need to know “What the plans are for Baileys Lane” and believes that the higher tier authorities are negligent in their lack of attention regarding the residents.

There was an overriding insistence by the current residents that they are happy in their present location and that residents feel that they need to express the view that the arrogance of Peel Holding to be able to pre-suppose that they can initiate a compulsory purchase order at will if they are minded to is fundamentally wrong. Consideration was given to a number of issues raised by one concerned resident who uses the bridleway in the application area being discussed. This pathway was installed by Halton B.C. as part of a previous green initiative. However the upkeep and maintenance required to keep the area usable has declined considerably and it was noted that residents have major concerns about the number of people using it with their animals untethered and running loose. In addition the amount of unattended dog waste and bagged waste which has been left in heaps is both shocking and a risk to health.

The Chair reassured all resident that the Clerk would forward the minutes of this meeting to the Higher Tier Authority for their comments and would in the meantime explore the options available for increasing and improving advisory signage in the area to help to improve some of the problems being experienced.

An opinion that any installations of a “green” nature such as the proposed solar array would be wholly supported by the higher tier authorities was partially opposed by the Chair. He gave an example of the recent decision by the Mayor of Liverpool Joanne Anderson who has questioned the validity of the Airport project in question and its associated costs. She has asked officials to explore the availability of other areas of “non-greenbelt” (brown field) status before supporting any new initiative.

It was recognised that Cllr Anderson has supported a proposal to make the Liverpool area carbon neutral by 2030.

Cllr Cleary noted that the decision making process was often difficult in view of the constantly changing nature of politics and the continual changes in personnel. Projects are often subject to change as the originators are not always in office long enough to see them through to conclusion.

The Chair gave an overview of a previous objection submitted to Halton BC by Hale Parish Council.

The submitted opposition to the awarding of a LDC to LJLA was based upon 4 major areas of concern.

- i. The application land is not Operational land in its nature
- ii. Solar Panels are not considered as “buildings” as they are not operational buildings
- iii. No Environmental Impact Assessment had taken place
- iv. No recognition and consideration of the previously identified environmental sensitivity within the application area.

Cllr Spargo made it known that he did not feel comfortable with the motive behind the current LDC application and said that he believed it to be a “smokescreen” which may follow a similar route as previous applications submitted by Peel Holdings in respect of two regional airports at Doncaster and Cardiff where the long term goal was to achieve runway extensions.

Cllr Wright asked whether the previous objection submitted by Hale Parish Council to the original application 21/00310/PLD could be used again in this instance. The Chair explained that the new application 22/00019/PLD appeared to be a lot more substantial in its presentation with an emphasis on the environmental impact of the plan. He proposed that the services of a Professional who is experienced in planning matters should be employed to make an assessment of the current situation and to produce a new submission on behalf of Hale Parish Council in support of its residents. It was recognised that Hale Parish Council is limited in the resources available to it but that there should be an appropriate objection submitted once again in support of local residents.

The Chair reassured residents that the Parish Council will do everything it possibly can to support its residents and acknowledged that the lines of communication should be improved in future to keep residents suitably informed.

A proposal for the Parish Council to delegate authority to the Clerk to engage the services of Jonathan Welch the barrister who helped to arrange the previous objection to a LDC for LJLA was suggested.

Jonathan has extensive knowledge of the relevant complicated issues and is a colleague of Ned Westaway who was also engaged to produce a submission on behalf of the Parish Council for the DALP hearing in the summer of 2021.

Cllr Trevaskis proposed that delegated authority be granted to the Clerk to instruct Jonathan Welch to make an assessment of the current application and to help submit an objection against the LDC 22/00019/PLD. The motion was seconded by Cllr McNamara

The Motion was approved

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.30pm