

BAGINTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 27th January 2022 AT OUR VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

| | | |
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| Councillor | Julie Keightley | Chairman |
| Councillor | Chris Goodwin | Vice Chairman |
| Councillor | Robert Taylor | |
| Councillor | Walter Bush | |
| Councillor | Mike Meakin | |
| Councillor | Roger Horsfall | |
| Councillor | Rob Newman | |
| Councillor | Steve Williams | |
| Councillor | David Hewer. | |
| Clerk | Phil Clark. | |
| Public | 10 members of the public were present. | |

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30 and welcomed those present.

2147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, APOLOGIES & WELCOME

2147.1 Declarations of interest were sought and none were declared.

2147.2 The following had apologised: NONE

2148. GIGAFACTORY – W/21/1370

2148.1 Council Keightley opened the meeting, stating that its purpose was to establish any actions that could be taken to aid our objections to the gigafactory being built on Coventry Airport.

2148.2 Before inviting Councillors to comment, it was reported that the Secretary of State had refused to 'call in' the application.

2148.3 For those who were not familiar with the 'call in' process, Councillor Keightley explained that for a large development such as this, the Secretary of State has the option to take the matter to Public Enquiry (call in) or to leave the decision with the Local Authority. He had chosen the latter.

2148.4 Councillor Keightley explained that the best option to oppose the gigafactory was via H & S issues associated with the chemical hazard permitting & licensing for the site, but at the Coventry City Council planning meeting it was indicated that it was "pretty unlikely" that the application would be rejected at this detailed planning stage.

2148.5 The matter was opened for Councillors to comment.

2148.6 It was agreed that the Parish Council should identify who would be responsible for the site's chemical licensing and formally lodge an interest so that we can be part of the decision making process. **Clerk to action.**

2148.7 It was asked what would happen if no tenant was found for the site. Councillor Keightley indicated that WDC legal team and planners had included a condition whereby they can veto any use of the site other than as a gigafactory. Further, they had indicated there could be no variation of condition to remove their veto powers.

2148.8 It was proposed that despite the 'call in' being refused, a letter should still be sent to the Secretary of State, WDC and our MP, so that the Parish Council stance was on record with all relevant parties. A debate ensued regarding what this would achieve, as the decision had already been made. Some Councillors argued that we would appear as an antagonistic Council who complain as a matter of course and we need to find another approach as our current approach has generated little success in recent times. Others argued that it would place our views on record and should result in a response acknowledging our concerns. The proposal to send a letter to the SoS, WDC & MP received a second and was carried by a show of hands.

Clerk to action

2148.9 It was asked if our cause could be aided by contacting the press. The Clerk pointed out that whilst individuals may wish to seek support from the press, it would not be appropriate for the Parish Council as a local authority to do so.

2148.10 Councillor Keightley asked if there were any other actions we could consider and none were forthcoming, so the public were invited to comment.

2149 PUBLIC COMMENTS

2149.1 Is there an expiry date on finding a tenant? **No**

2149.2 Has anyone approached Environmental Groups regarding the hazardous chemicals?

2149.3 Has the Air Ambulance been contacted, as information provided by the WDC Planning Officer was false. **(Post meeting note - recent letter from Air Ambulance to WDC covers this)**

2149.4 It was asked if outside bodies in similar situations had been contacted.

2149.5 Can we contact newspapers to give our point of view?

2149.6 Can the Nevada gigafactory where leakages have occurred be contacted?

2149.7 Questions were asked about whether the Planning Inspectorate had been contacted under Rule 6(6) of the Town and Country Planning rules.

2149.8 It was suggested that if the S106 conditions have not been completed by the end of March, the application could be refused.

2149.9 It was suggested that procedures had not been followed, as over 100 documents had all been received and validated on the same day, one day before the rules changed. Has this been pursued?

NOTE: The Clerk indicated that the Parish Council had restrictions regarding what they can do as a local authority, but individuals or action groups had greater autonomy to pursue suggestions such as contacting the press.

2150 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Next Ordinary Meeting: **Thursday 3rd February 2022** @ 7.30pm, Baginton Village Hall.

2151 CLOSE

The meeting closed at 8:08