

# ECCHINSWELL, SYDMONTON AND BISHOPS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held at Ecchinswell Village Hall on

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, commencing at 19:30 hours

**Present:** Cllrs Stamp (Chair), Sadler (Vice Chair), Dain, Debenham, Parkes and Hardy-Giles.

**In attendance:** Sarah Jones (Clerk), 18 members of the public

Item		Action
1	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>There were no apologies as all Cllrs were present.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
3	<p><b>Planning.</b></p> <p><b>1. 24/00852/FUL Land At Strattons Farm Newbury Road Kingsclere Hampshire</b></p> <p>Installation, operation and decommissioning of renewable energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays together with transformer/inverter stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.</p> <p>Cllr Stamp invited the members of the public present to give their views on the proposal. There was much discussion and the points raised included, but were not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area has good quality agricultural land although there are different suggestions of the actual grade, but any of the grades deemed inappropriate to build an industrial site on. An independent grade of the land is needed.</li> <li>• Central Government released a statement earlier on 15<sup>th</sup> May advising their intention not to build renewables on farmland.</li> <li>• There are no details about the suggested decommissioning of the solar farm.</li> <li>• The site map shows local footpaths will be adversely affected, including the Brenda Parker Way. Some of these are historic footpaths that date back to the 1700's.</li> <li>• The solar panels will need to be fenced in, making for an industrial look.</li> <li>• The energy produced will not be utilized in the local area.</li> <li>• Visual - views will be negatively impacted.</li> <li>• Construction will create issues on the local roads which are already excessively busy and in poor disrepair.</li> <li>• The application is not in ESBG PC's parish, but it borders the area.</li> <li>• The Anglo Renewables report states they consulted ESBG PC but this is not the case.</li> </ul> <p>Following public participation and further extensive discussion, Cllrs agreed unanimously that they would strongly <b>OBJECT</b> to this planning application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on landscape</li> <li>• Impact on Public Rights of Way</li> <li>• Impact on the Environment</li> <li>• Displacement of productive Agricultural Land</li> <li>• Compliance of the Proposal with Established/Emerging National &amp; Local Policies and the balance of benefits vs adverse impacts.</li> <li>• Quality of Supporting Documentation</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other points of concern including the “decommissioning” which is in the title but there is nothing on how/when this will take place, and the installation of major cable along the A339 which is a highly loaded major road, and the impact this will have on local traffic.</li> </ul> <p>A letter detailing ESG PC’s full objection will be sent to BDBC.</p>	
4	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b>  Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm at Bishops Green Village Hall.  There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.21pm.</p>	