

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 27th January 2021

Following the passing of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (c.7), Councils were unable to meet in person during the COVID emergency. This meeting was therefore held via a Zoom link, with Councillors connecting remotely. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Ward (Chairman) Cllr J Roberts (Vice Chairman)
Cllr M Barnes Cllr C Blackmore (from C/24/21)
Cllr P Godwin Cllr P Mackenzie
Cllr E Phennah Cllr G Shelton
Cllr S Terry Cllr T Treacy

In Attendance: Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council
Mrs L Stewart, Clerk's Assistant

C/22/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr MacTiernan had tendered apologies. No further apologies for absence had been received.

C/23/21 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Godwin declared an interest in item 3 (Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Application). No further declarations of interest were made as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 11th July 2012 (Minute Ref C/159/12), including paragraph 12(2).

C/24/21 **Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Application 20/00896/FUL Land to the North East of Hardwick Bank Road, Northway –**

Development of a road bridge over the Bristol to Birmingham mainline railway North of Ashchurch, Tewkesbury, (Ashchurch Bridge over Rail – AboR) including temporary haul roads for construction vehicle, site compound, security fencing, surface water drainage channels and attenuation ponds.

7.01pm – Cllr Blackmore joined the meeting.

- i. **Representations** – Members considered whether the Council should make representations at the Borough Council Planning Meeting in relation to the above application, which had previously been objected to.

A Community Involvement Statement relating to the application was examined by Members and it was felt that some sections were factually incorrect, for example, the bridge would no longer be the centre of the Garden Town, as was stated, nor would its development relieve any congestion in Northway. It was also noted that Tewkesbury Borough Council claimed to have sent 2,600 letters to houses and businesses in Northway and Ashchurch, yet some of the people who would be affected by the bridge had not received any such correspondence.

Members discussed their concerns, mainly relating to the extra traffic which would undoubtedly be travelling through the parish. Cllr Roberts felt that, if the Council make representations at the Planning Committee Meeting, the following points should be included:

1. It was not clear where the Garden Town centre was now supposed to be due to the army camp no longer being used development (except on the eastern side)
2. It was unknown how the Junction 9 proposals were progressing; it had been hoped that this would provide adequate relief to the A46.

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Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Application 20/00896/FUL Land to the North East of Hardwick Bank Road, Northway (continued)

3. The Community Involvement Statement showed the strength of the public's opposition to the bridge proposals.
4. The bigger picture was not currently clear and so it would be difficult to support the proposals.

Cllr Barnes had concerns about the security of the bridge, which would be in the middle of nowhere, and he reminded Members that a heavy object had been thrown over the motorway bridge in Northway only several years before. Additionally, if the bridge was going to be sat uncompleted for 5-10 years it would need to be brought back up to standard again before the approach roads were constructed, at the public's cost.

Cllr Ward PROPOSED that the Council made a representation, in writing, to be received at the Borough Council Planning Committee Meeting on 16th February 2021, using the comments and concerns raised during the meeting as well as re-iterating the Council's previous response to the application.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

Cllrs Roberts and Ward offered to review the response after the Clerk had completed it and make any necessary amendments. It was then suggested that the representation be forwarded to the other Members present, as well as Zoom or live-streaming details for the Planning Committee Meeting, if available. [\(Draft copy circulated to Members\)](#)

- ii. **Wording of Representation** – As above.

C/25/21

Correspondence received after 21st January 2021

None received.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded at 7.52 p.m.