

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF**

**FARRINDON PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Held at Farringdon Village Hall, Church Road, Upper Farringdon on  
Wednesday, 18 June at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Cowan (Chairman)  
Cllr Cubitt  
Cllr Garrard

2 member(s) of the Public, 3 representatives from Lightsource, Cllr. Elderton and Cllr. Oakley, Emma Dillnutt (Parish Clerk) and Mr Edwin Macknamara (Acting Clerk).

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▪ **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

▪ **PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None received.

The Chairman asked the 2 members of the public present to use the feedback forms provided to comment on the Crows Lane exhibition and presentation directly to AR Design Studio via the Parish Clerk.

▪ **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS & NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr. Garrard disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in and will therefore withdraw from any discussion on 'Land at Marelands' having been involved in an appeal to oppose a previous application on this land as well as being a homeowner neighbouring the site.

▪ **SOLAR FARM SOUTH OF GASTON LANE, FARRINGDON**

Representatives from Lightsource updated the committee on progress with this project:-

On-site marking is currently underway with contracts due to be signed within 7-14 days to enable the groundwork to commence 3 weeks thereafter. The groundwork consists of ramming foundation pilings into the ground (approx. 2 week duration) followed by construction of frames, fitting of solar panels and electrical cabling with a view to the site being operational within a 3 month period. A further 2 month period is set aside to ensure the site meets its Performance Acceptance

Certificate (PAC) and the specific criteria of this contract, i.e. planting, tidying etc.

It is anticipated that approximately 72 HGV deliveries will be made in all with 12 initially for foundation and frame equipment to be brought to the site. Banksmen will be used during the HGV delivery periods for road safety reasons.

Cllr Cowan alerted Lightsource to the A32 road closure which is expected to commence for a period of 12 weeks from the end of June. Lightsource will investigate this with Hampshire County Council Highways Department to determine the best access to the site. They agreed to keep the Parish Clerk informed.

Cllr Garrard also asked that Lightsource and their contractors be mindful, particularly during the delivery phase of construction, that it will be during the summer/school holidays and therefore people are more likely to be out and about enjoying the village.

The committee asked Lightsource to provide a work schedule to the Parish Clerk with updates should timescales slip.

The committee asked Lightsource to investigate the planting that has already taken place as it does not appear to be in line with plans. They also asked that the company contracted to do the planting get in touch with the Parish Clerk to open a dialogue with the Parish Council's representative for Footways, Byways and Trees.

Lightsource will consult Hampshire County Council concerning the likely damage to Gaston Lane from deliveries and report back with a remedial plan. The committee requested a copy of the condition survey undertaken on the surrounding area as there is architectural concern for the properties as well as for road damage. Lightsource also agreed to supply the Parish Clerk with a copy of the Construction Schedule and contact details of the Site Agent.

- CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES:

- Land at Crows Lane, North of Southernhay.

AR Design Studio had held a community engagement event and presentation prior to the meeting enabling the public to comment on their conceptual designs. The Planning Committee await a formal planning application for consideration.

The Committee and Councillors present in the audience unanimously agreed that an ongoing dialogue with these developers has been

helpful and has given the public an opportunity to shape their surroundings. It is also encouraging that the developer has used the Vision 2030 Plan on which to base their concepts.

## Land at Marelands, Farringdon.

Cllr. Garrard withdrew from discussion.

Terry Galgey has requested a meeting with the planning committee who feel this MUST be done in public to ensure transparency.

The Chairman expressed concern in general terms about engaging with developers prior to a planning application being submitted and requested guidance from the Parish Council at their next meeting in July.

### ▪ CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

None.

### NEXT MEETING ARRANGEMENT

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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### KEY MESSAGES:

- Members of the public wishing to comment on the conceptual exhibition and presentation given by AR Design Studio prior to this Planning Committee meeting concerning the Crow's Lane site should do so on a feedback form available from the Parish Clerk.
- Construction of the Solar Farm South of Gaston Lane is shortly due to commence with a view to the site being operational within a 3 month period.
- The Planning Committee will be guided by the Parish Council in the manner in which developers should or should not be engaged prior to planning applications being received.

Signed as a correct record of events by Jeremy Cowan, Chairman of the Farringdon Parish Council Planning Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_