

# Cadney Cum Howsham Parish Council Full Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2021 / 19:00 / Online

**Parish Clerk – James Truepenny**

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## In attendance

Cllr. P Heath, Cllr. S. Stringfellow, Cllr. S. Hoy, Cllr. F Leahy & Cllr. Elaine Evens

## Apologies

No Ward Councillors in attendance.

### 2104/01 Nominations for Co-Option

Kerry Spence

Nominated Cllr Evens Seconded Cllr Hoy All in Favour

Craig Stafford

Nominated Cllr Evens Seconded Cllr Hoy All in Favour

### 2104/02 Declarations of Interest

- a. To record any Declarations of Interest by any member of the council in respect of the Agenda items listed below. Members declaring interests should identify the Agenda Item and the type of interest being declared.

Given that all Councillors have interest in land in Cadney and therefore in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site for work in item number 2104/03. All Councillors declared a Personal interest.

- b. To note any dispensations given to any member of the council in respect of the Agenda Items listed below.

The Clerk gave dispensations to all councillors to to speak on item 21/04/03.

### 2104/03 Planning Issues

It was proposed that the council discuss Screening Application PA/SCR/2021/1.

Proposed Cllr Hoy Seconded Cllr Leahy Vote - All in Favour

It was proposed that the council feels that an environmental impact is necessary.

Proposed Cllr Hoy Seconded Cllr Evens Vote - All in Favour

The Chair gave the following points;

1. The public right of way crosses through the middle of the entire proposed site and is used daily by numerous dog walkers, hikers and cyclists. What will happen to this footpath?
2. The existing private access road is used by multiple landowners to access the fields, woodland and to tend livestock.
3. We absolutely disagree that the site is away from population centres. Whilst the centre of the village is approximately 300 metres from the site there are residential properties and a B&B business within 20 metres.
4. We would argue that the site will be visible from North Kelsey, Caistor and the A1084 which runs along the top of the Wolds.
5. Whilst the site is not within any designated area Cadney is a small village, with almost no amenities. Its one great advantage is that it is surrounded by pretty countryside. The proposed area has lovely rolling views, teeming with wildlife, which would be completely destroyed. There is a population of both deer and badgers that use the land currently and there would be concerns about the wildlife's sustainability and their interactions with the site.

#### Installation

6. The installation will have a negative impact on the inhabitants of Cadney and Howsham. Whilst the installation is not taking place during antisocial hours it is all relative. This is a rural environment. Residents are not exposed to industrial noise for long periods of time. There will be a significant increase in noise pollution impacting inhabitants and wildlife.
7. The HGV deliveries during installation will have a massive impact on the village of Howsham and the road between there and Cadney. The road is single lane, is in poor condition & the verges are badly eroded. This has been reported to NLC Highways on numerous occasions.

Six months of heavy traffic using the road would make it almost unusable for local people in both Cadney and Howsham. Considering the ongoing traffic issues, even a recent fatal accident in the area, it would be difficult to see how this project could be completed safely without adding other traffic concerns.

It will be almost impossible for two HGVs to pass each other if they were to meet on Cadney Road. There are no established passing places. There is a significant risk that if HGVs leave the road they will get stuck and further damage the already eroded verges.

Cadney Road is not a thoroughfare for HGVs because they cannot get to Brigg via Cadney. Therefore, Cadney Road ordinarily has very little HGV traffic.

Many pedestrians and cyclists travel between Howsham and Cadney to exercise and take in the scenery. There is no footpath. There is a Children's play park on Cadney Road in Howsham. The increase in HGVs increases the risk of injury to children, pedestrians and cyclists.

8. We do not have sufficient details regarding the screening but as the village is visible from Caistor and higher ground, and as the proposed solar farm covers a larger surface area than the village, we are confident that screening will not reduce adverse views into the site.

The solar farm will be visible from the upstairs of the Old Barn B&B.

#### Ongoing Impact

9. There will be noise from the transformers and fans on the inverters. We would expect there to be an accumulative noise effect given the proposed size of site and the level of noise will depend on wind direction. Whilst there may not be a high level of noise there will still be some noise or white noise. Again, this needs to be put in perspective. This is a rural area. There is little or no noise (particularly residual) especially at night when often the only noise is from the wildlife.

10. We are sceptical of the benefits to the local economy, certainly to the Parish. The equipment and infrastructure will not be made locally. It is unlikely that the contractors installing the equipment will live in the Parish or surrounding area and if they do the advantage will be short lived.

The provision of accommodation by the B&B in Cadney during installation will not outweigh the impact that the solar farm will have on it indefinitely thereafter. People stay there for the lovely rural views and wildlife which will be destroyed. The only other business in the Parish that may be impacted is the café which we accept may have a temporary increase in trade.

The Parish Council believes that we should be supporting our local businesses not making it harder for them to survive.

11. There are water courses on the site. The dike at the bottom is the main route to the River Ancholme.
12. As the panels will stand up to 2.5 metres tall they will be higher than the existing hedging making them clearly visible from residential properties. Mitigating this by planting tall hedging will restrict residents' views of beautiful rolling countryside and block out light. It will take years for screen hedging to become established and effective.
13. Saying that the development is reversible should not be an influential factor in decision making as 25 years is a significant period of time.
14. Under the EIA regulations this proposed solar farm falls under an industrial installation. There is no pre-existing industry in Cadney, which is a small village. The strong physical presence and industrial appearance of this proposal is out of character with the rural fields and village in which it is proposed to be located.

15. The solar farm will produce sunlight & moonlight glare. This will potentially impact road users as the site is close to the road and the dark night skies as there is little light pollution currently.

We have the following further comments:

16. Infrared cameras are going to be used to provide security. With respect these can be disabled. The solar farm equipment is valuable. The site will attract criminals in what is a low crime area. It will be more tempting than it would be in brown field sites that are close to more highly populated areas.

There is no indication as to how potential thefts will be dealt with. Our allocated police station to contact at night is Gainsborough which is 22 miles away.

17. Should electricity generation cease on site will the panels be removed responsibly, or will they just be abandoned?
18. Whilst we agree with green energy we would like to point out the hidden indirect CO2 emissions generated through the manufacture of solar panels and the colossal energy footprint required to produce panels on this scale. Given the farm will cover 110 acres of land these 'hidden implications' will be significantly exacerbated compared with simple domestic set ups.
19. The ratio of land acreage required versus potential power output of solar is substantial compared to other forms of green energy such as wind energy.
20. The land is grade 3 good to moderate quality agricultural land. Land which is not of such high quality should surely be prioritised for solar farms. We hope that NLC will not feel pressurised to accept this proposal in the interests of meeting green targets, when other nearby sites are available. We would argue that brown field sites should be prioritised over quality agricultural land.
21. The proposal brings no advantage to the villages of Cadney and Howsham only disadvantages.
22. The solar farm will result in the decrease in value of properties in Cadney.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, we appreciate that green energy is essential for the future of this country, but the Parish Council feels that the negative impact on Cadney and Howsham far outweighs the benefits. The proposed area has lovely rolling views, teeming with wildlife which would be completely destroyed purely for the gain of maximum profit for the farm's owners, who have no links with the village as they live in Oxfordshire. A case of profit over people.

We believe that this is an inappropriately sited industrial commercial development that is out of proportion and character for this pastoral setting. It would have a major adverse and significant urbanising effect on the character of the landscape and village.

The harm to the character and appearance of the area would be significant and in our view is not outweighed by the benefits of the renewable energy provision.

The impact on the landscape is not acceptable.

Planning permission within the village of Cadney is restricted. This is to protect the village's identity as a small rural community. It would therefore be counter intuitive to site a large industrial development that is significantly bigger than the village's footprint next to it.

We request that a site inspection is undertaken to ensure understanding of the consequences to this small village of such a huge industrial development.

Councillor Hoy agreed with the comments that Cllr Heath made.

Councillor Leahy echoed the sentiment concerning the risk of crime and wondered if other brownfield sites would be more appropriate. She also agreed on points of road safety when it came to delivering the project as well as the screening issue.

Cllr Stringfellow agreed with the comments being made.

Cllr Evens agreed with the comments made by Cllr Heath and raised concerns about the effect on the community.

Cllr Stafford agreed and echoed concerns about road safety.

Cllr Spence agreed with the comments and raised more concerns about wildlife using that area including deer and badgers.

Cllr Proposed that the above comments be submitted to North Lincolnshire Council.

Cllr Evens seconded. All in favour.

Meeting close at 19:36