

**MINUTES OF THE RUFFORTH WITH KNAPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN RUFFORTH VILLAGE INSTITUTE ON MONDAY 4
OCTOBER 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present:

Cllr Peter Rollings (PR) Chairman; Cllr Helen Butterworth (HB); Cllr Andrew Mate (AM); Cllr Jane Wright (JW); Cllr John Flynn (JF); Cllr Nicholas Murray (NM); Cllr Mark Reynolds (MR):

In Attendance: Ward Cllr Anne Hook (AH); The Clerk, Stephanie Warden (SW); Patrick Keogh, Project Manager Solar 2; 1 member of the public:

088 Presentation by Renewable Energy Company, Solar 2:

Patrick Keogh was introduced to the meeting by PR. Mr Keogh explained that Solar 2 was a relatively new company but was well funded and well backed with expertise. They were looking to develop a solar energy farm on land at Hessay and possibly into Rufforth, they had identified where they could tap into the grid at Poppleton.

They had not yet applied for planning but had talked to Hessay Parish Council and also wanted to communicate with Poppleton.

Patrick said that Solar 2 would like to hold a public exhibition once designs were in place and would liaise with the Clerk. There would be a benefit fund for the community per 40 mw of power produced. This would total £20,000 per annum for the community in the local area.

Plans and information about the company were handed out prior to the Presentation. Patrick explained that the red line was the boundary area but would not need the whole area for solar panels. Land use around the Panels would be for sheep grazing below the panels or wildflower meadows for biodiversity enhancement. There was currently no design or layout. Designs would be shown at a public exhibition. Contact details were on the back of the handout.

PR asked how big an area would the company need. They would need 50 – 60 hectares to include vehicular access tracks, the boundaries were not fixed at present. There were 2 landowners at present but there could be 3 to 4 landowners. Solar 2 were seeking rights to use the access road Yorwaste use. It was made clear that there should be no traffic coming through Rufforth village. The grid connection would be north to the A59 and then to Poppleton. The electricity sub station would be about the size of a double garage and would be brick built. Solar 2 would be the owner, Investor capital would be used build out the project. Solar 2 had not looked at other sites. They had been offered this site by land agents. There would be 6 foot high security fencing round the panels with CCTV looking down the fence lines. Where the fencing was visible screening would be planted.

MR was concerned that Green Belt land would be used when brownfield sites had not been looked at. Patrick said that fields would be able to rest while the solar project was ongoing. The Panels had a life span of 30 – 40 years. A bond would be lodged with CYC to say that the Solar farm would be completely removed. PR welcomed the idea of a consultation with the local community and it was agreed that it should take place from mid afternoon to early evening on a week day in Rufforth Institute.

Solar 2 would submit a screening request towards the end of the month. PR would consult with the Hessay chairman. PR reminded the meeting that

renewable energy is regarded in the NPPF as inappropriate development in the Green Belt and this would be the starting point for the Parish Council. The onus would be on Solar 2 to prove special circumstances. He also referred the meeting to the Neighbourhood Plan (para 8:17:6).

089 Public Comments:

A landowner of one of the fields within our parish had just been approached by Solar 2. He was unsure how he felt about it but that his field was not good arable land and prone to flooding.

090 Apologies and reason for absence: Cllr. Anne Powell's apologies were accepted as the reason was illness.

091 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (not previously declared): there were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

092 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 September 2021: AM proposed the minutes as a true record, HB seconded and they were agreed and signed.

093 Ward Councillors Comments and Reports:

AH reported that they had lost their community involvement officer but was pleased that £5000 ward grant had been awarded to Knapton Play Area.

094 Clerks Report:

- Dog Bin, Knapton end of Rufforth to Knapton Bridleway: SW had reported that this was overflowing, it was emptied later that day.
- Noticeboard Refurbishment: to go on the next agenda
- Extra cuts to cycle path and Natural Burial Ground to add to schedule for grass cutting: SW would arrange a meeting with AJT Garden Services and AM and HB. AM suggested strimming back the verges of the permissive path in May, mid Summer and Autumn. The hedge along the path had been cut and PR would thank the farmer who had done it.

095 Planning Matters:

- 21/01086/FUL Sunnyside Wetherby Road Rufforth for single storey side extension: this had been approved
- 20/02462/FUL Wooley Edge Farm Bradley Lane Rufforth for replacement agricultural building for the housing of livestock: this had been approved

Appeal Decision:

- APP/C2741/W/21/3271045 Land at Boroughbridge Road, West of Trenchard Road for 60 affordable homes: the Planning Inspector had dismissed the appeal as it would have been inappropriate development in the Green Belt. PR said that it was gratifying to note that the Inspector had referred to the Neighbourhood Plans and the emerging Local Plan.

096 Finance: Monthly report

a) The following payments were proposed as being ratified by AM and seconded by JF and agreed.:

Clerk: September Salary	£ 498.27
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Clerks expenses last quarter	£ 133.82
Clerk: reimbursement for electrode pads Knapton Defib.	£ 43.20
Cllr H Butterworth for NBG strimmer fuel	£ 6.67
External Auditor's fees	£ 240.00
HMRC for last ¼ PAYE	£ 111.61
CM Marketing Solutions for website	£ 60.00
The following invoice was agreed:	
Garden and Estate machinery Services for strimmer cutter head	£ 27.00
c) <u>Payments Received:</u>	
CYC for Knapton Play Area	£17700.00
CYC 2 nd half Precept	£ 5722.50
d) <u>Funds Available:</u>	£20128.01

e) **External Audit Report:** The Parish Council had received £766 in respect of insurance claims. The auditor felt that this should not have been accounted for as a receipt as accounting for it on a gross basis inflated the gross income and expenditure and could push the authority into a higher fee band than it would otherwise be in. This was noted.

097 Burial Grounds:

- a) Report on Burials: There was to be a green burial on 15 October. Damian Hirst had been planning to do the French drain that week but would now be doing it on the 18th and 19th October. This needed to go on the website etc to advertise the fact that the work would be going on and access along the lane would be restricted.
- b) Maintenance in Burial Grounds: York Sports Turf Services would be coming this week to flail the Natural Burial Ground.

098 Website:

There were a fair number of hits on the website and those areas getting the most number of hits had been highlighted on the report from CM Marketing Services.

The Southfield Lane closure would go on the website. It was agreed that there was an encouraging usage of the website.

099 AJ1 Project Road Safety Fund:

NM reported that the Community Speedwatch signs were now up together with the posts ready for the VAS. These will hopefully be installed by the end of October. NM would get this put on the website.

100 Rufforth:

- Benches for Rufforth to Knapton PROW: these may be delivered this week.
- Rufforth Pond: SW would advise Jim Cavanagh (CYC Drainage) that a tree had fallen into the pond and reeds were taking over again, the concern was that they would impede the flow of water into and out of the pond resulting in flooding. SW would ask him to look at the pond on the permissive path also.
- Allotments: Dave Meigh had said the contractors were ready to go as soon as planning permission came in. Planning has now asked for an extension until 19 October. PR had written to planning and copied in

James Gilchrist and Charlie Croft explaining that further delays must be avoided.

- Cycle path: Closure signs would be put up to show that the path would be closed on 21st December this year, it would also be advertised on the website.

101 Knapton Recreational Field, Play Area:

JF formally thanked AH and Cllr James Barker for the £5000 for the play area. He was now able to progress with the plans and get the remaining bit of funding needed. SW would move £10,000 from funds available to Knapton Play Area funds along with the £5000 when it came in.

102 First Aid/Defibrillator Course:

The Ambulance Service gave 2 dates for the course and were prepared to do it for free. The dates were 11 or 22 November between 7 and 9 pm. Alistair would be happy to be there with equipment but the 11 November would be better for him. JW would check the availability of the hall.

103 York Community Woodland:

The parish council had issues with the process. Whilst the basic design of the Woodland was satisfactory, concerns remain over parking and the process going forward needs improving. CYC were not sharing information and not listening to the stakeholder group. PR and JF were meeting with Cllr Paula Widdowson the coming Wednesday evening to address these issues. AH is trying to get the speed limit changed on Northfield Lane to 30mph from 60mph. PR and JF will report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

104 Representatives' Reports:

a) Rural West York Team and residents Forum Meetings: AH hoped to hold one soon.

b) York Branch Yorkshire Local Councils Association: PR had circulated the draft Parish Charter, this will be going to Executive this month and will hopefully be ratified. There is to be a quarterly liaison meeting with Cllr Daryl Smalley and Charlie Croft (CYC) at which issues on the implementation of the Charter and other matters can be raised. PR would be attending these meetings.

c) Yorwaste Liaison Group: PR would fix a date in November

d) Rufforth Playing Fields Association: The last meeting was on 28 September. They have not yet had quotes in for the Play Area repairs. They are looking to do a Halloween event. 2 Trustees had left and been replaced.

105 Minor Matters and Items for the Next Agenda: SW would chase up repairs to the fence and tidying at the accident spot on Bradley Lane.

106 Date of next meeting: Monday 1 November 2021 in Rufforth Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.

PR thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Signed _____ Date _____