

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CONSULTATION COMMITTEE HELD AT MILLFIELDS
PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH ON TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 8.15PM**

PRESENT:

Cllr N Dyne
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr D Jackson
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr E McNeill
Cllr C Pearce
Cllr A Whyte (Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Whyte was elected to Chair the meeting.

8. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

Cllr J Neish- personal
Cllr S Mortlock – personal
Cllr M Williamson – personal

9. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th August 2024.

Resolved: That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr Jackson) 2 in favour, 5 abstentions.

10. To review the following documents:

(i) Local plan engagement 2024.

Comprehensive paperwork provided and maps available.

Chairman summarised the 7 sites put forward within the Parish of which 4 are not going to sustainability stage leaving 3 possible sites for development.

A robust discussion took place with similar comments for all 3 developments.

Resolved: That all sites be rejected on the following grounds.

- Smaller settlement status.
- Agricultural land grade 2/3
- Lack of infrastructure
- Proximity to chicken farm (sites 2/3/5)
- Fens reservoir pipes – site 4
- Flooding
- Need for 3rd river crossing-EA need to be involved
- Support rejection of sites 2/3/5

Clerk was also asked to comment on St. Ives site 4 objecting on grounds of noise, flooding and the impact on Holywell and increase traffic issues at bottleneck in St. Ives. (Prop Cllr Pearce 2nd Cllr McNeill) All in favour.

(ii) A141 and St. Ives Improvement Scheme.

Member consensus of opinion was that the proposed scheme will not solve any of the current traffic issues and is a total waste of £1.65m

Existing cycle paths and footpaths are not maintained so why put more in?

Committee was set up approx. 3 years ago and Cllr Neish attended reporting back on progress to look at traffic flows around St. Ives, this scheme does not implement any of these proposals.

Members strongly object to a park & ride at Gifford farm as it will not be accessible.

Resolved; That the Clerk respond rejecting the proposal on the above grounds. (Prop Cllr Pearce 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour.

- (iii) Government consultation on Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings

Cllr Whyte pointed out that code of conduct states members need to come to meetings with an open mind, listen to the debate and vote by raising of hand.

Cllr Jackson stated that a proxy vote is not possible when you do not know what the proposal is. Chairman stated that individuals can respond.

Noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.46 pm

Chairman Date