

# Haverhill Town Council

## Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

### PLANNING WORKING PARTY

Held remotely on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00pm



**Haverhill**  
Town Council

**Present:** Councillor P Hanlon (Chairman)  
Councillor A Brown (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor D Smith  
Councillor L Smith  
Councillor A Stinchcombe  
Vacancy

**Apologies:** Councillor Bruce Davidson

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Councillor J Burns  
Harry Gilham, Instinctive Partners, Acorn Bioenergy  
Alistair Veitch

There were no members of the public present.

#### **Welcome:**

Councillor P Hanlon welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting was being recorded. **To note that this Working Party has no delegated authority and may only make recommendations to Full Council. Urgent actions may be taken under delegated authority given to the Clerk and Chair.**

#### **P22 Apologies for Absence**

/158 The above apologies were noted

#### **P22 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**

/159 P22/160 – Councillor T Brown declared a pecuniary interest in this item as Vestey Trust are the landlords for his business and left the meeting during the presentation

#### **P22 Acorn Bioenergy proposals for new anaerobic digestion plant at Spring Grove Farm off the A1307 near the Epicentre, Haverhill.**

/160 Harry Gilham and Alistair Veitch gave a presentation to the committee, summarised in appendix (ii)

#### **P22 Minutes of the Meetings held**

/161 Councillor L Smith proposed, Councillor T Brown seconded that the minutes of the meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were approved as a true record by show of hands. All in favour.  
**RESOLVED**

- P22 Matters Arising from the Minutes**  
 /162 P22/150; Councillor Burns informed the meeting that the History Group will collate names and forward to VP
- P22 For members of the Public to speak on Planning Matters other than applications before the Working Party**  
 /163 Appendix (ii) – None
- P22 Planning Applications determined by the Clerk and Chair under Delegated Powers (List A attached)**  
 /164 Applications determined by the Clerk and Chair are shown on List A attached to the Minutes, see Appendix (i)
- P22 Planning Applications currently before West Suffolk District Council and received by publication of agenda (List B attached)**  
 /165 Applications determined by the Committee are shown on List B attached to the Minutes, see Appendix (i)
- P22 Matters to Report**  
 /166 Councillor Burns reported problems around parking on grass verges at The New Croft to WSC. WSC replied that they had visited and were managing the situation, although JB suggested that they were not getting to the root of the problem, similarly the situation at Strasbourg Square.
- P22 Date of next Meeting**  
 /167 The next meeting of the Planning Working Party will be 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022
- P22 Closure**  
 /168 The meeting was closed at 8.33pm

Signed .....  
 Chairman

Date.....

**Appendix (i)**

**List A – Approved by Chairman and Clerk under delegated powers**

		PLAN NO.	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	TOWN COUNCIL DECISION

**List B – To be considered at the Working Party Meeting**

		PLAN NO.	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	TOWN COUNCIL DECISION
21.09.22 Expires 12.10.22	<b>1</b>	DC/22/1588/HH	a. raising roof over garage with insertion of windows to front and rear first floor elevations b. rear dormer and new window to enable attic conversion c. single storey rear extension. Attic conversion, first floor and attic extension (with rear facing dormer) over the garage and single storey extension at the rear.	34 Osprey Road	Members requested more information on this application. *Following the meeting the Clerk contacted the Planning Officer, the application will be resubmitted as concerns had been raised by WSC.
23.09.22 Expires 12.10.22	<b>2</b>	DC/22/1636/HH	a. installation of new window to first floor of side elevation b. single storey rear extension c. two storey rear extension	70 Burton End	NEUTRAL Proposed Councillor L Smith, seconded Councillor D Smith All in favour
23.09.22 Expires 14.10.22	<b>3</b>	DC/22/0977/FUL	RE-CONSULTATION Extension and improvements to pedestrian access  Havebury Housing	1-4 Clements Lane	NEUTRAL  Proposed Councillor P Hanlon, seconded Councillor D Smith All in favour
26.09.22 Expires 17.10.22	<b>4</b>	DC/22/1656/ADV	Internal illuminated media charger with screen media charger unit  Mr Andy Horwood, Tesco	Tesco Stores Ltd, Cangle Road	NEUTRAL  Proposed Councillor T Brown, seconded Councillor D Smith All in favour

		PLAN NO.	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	TOWN COUNCIL DECISION
29.09.22 Expires 20.10.22	5	DC/22/1571/HH	RE-CONSULTATION a. solar panels to front and rear elevations b. enlargement of dormer on front elevation c. porch enlargements d. new window and door side elevation  Mr Philip Jordan	7 Bryony Close	
<p>Councillor Brown proposed, Councillor Stinchcombe seconded that the Clerk contact the planning officer to ascertain what changes had been made to the application as it wasn't clear. Following the meeting the Clerk contacted the Planning Officer, and it was confirmed that there had been no changes to the actual application, there had been an error in the wording which, once corrected, had prompted a new application to be submitted. It was proposed that a NETURAL be submitted once this had been confirmed.</p> <p>All in favour</p>					
06.10.22 Expires 27.10.22	6	DC/22/1313/FUL	RE-CONSULTATION Five apartments (following the demolition of existing building)  Mr R Oakley, Onions Yard Developments Ltd	S R Builders, Station Road	OBJECT:
<p>The Town Council's previous OBJECTIONS stand.</p> <p>Overdevelopment: although the Town Council like the design of the building, this is an overdevelopment of the site. Parking; there is no parking provision for the development and as Haverhill does not have sustainable transport links, residents will need to use cars which will exacerbate parking congestion along Station Road. It should also be noted that Station Road is subject to a TRO</p> <p>It has been noted that the siting of the Bin store has been resolved.</p> <p>Proposed Councillor D Smith, seconded Councillor L Smith. All in favour.</p>					
07.10.22 Expires 28.10.22	7	DC/22/1719/FUL	Change of use from car sales (sui generis) to self storage (B8); a. extensions and alterations to existing building; b. vehicular and cycle parking and landscaping  Cinch Self-Storage	Arriva Vauxhall, Duddery Hill	NEUTRAL Sustainability; the Town Council request that solar panels and batteries are fitted to this unit  Proposed Councillor Brown, seconded Council Luccarini 5 for 1 against RESOLVED.

		<b>PLAN NO.</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TOWN COUNCIL DECISION</b>
07.10.22 Expires 28.10.22	<b>8</b>	DC/22/1735/TPO	TPO 376 (2004) Tree Preservation Order - two Beech (1 and 5 on plan, T1 and T2 on order) overall crown reduction by up to four metres and crown lift up to eight metres above ground level  Mr Daniel Jupp	46 Beaumont Court	NEUTRAL  Proposed Councillor L Smith, seconded Councillor A Luccarini All in favour
10.10.22 Expires 31.10.22	<b>9</b>	DC/22/1705/TCA	Two Sycamore (LSE0187, LSE0188 on plan) fell	Street Record, Les Ager Drive	NEUTRAL  Proposed Councillor D Smith, seconded Councillor Luccarini All in favour

## **Appendix ii**

**(HG) Harry Gilham, Instinctive Partners, helping Acorn Bioenergy with the public consultation process**

**(AV) Alister Veitch, Agricultural background and long background in the industry**

AV shared a slide presentation of the site. Acorn have recently been taken over by a Spanish company, Q-Energy, who will provide the money to build out the scheme. Acorn Bioenergy have accreditation for four injection hubs across the UK, Portsmouth, Banbury and Milton Keynes to take in 5000m cubes per hour of bio methane into those hubs. The proposed plant at Spring Grove Farm will take in around 1,200m cubes per hour and the gas will be taken to the Milton Keynes hub.

The proposal is to generate Biogas from anaerobic digestion and move it via truck to the injection points. The gas will go into the national grid and be utilized by power stations and residential homes.

Anaerobic digestion can be thought of similarly to the digestion process that occurs in a cow. Feed stock and water goes in one end and to provide heat (37-40 degrees centigrade) which produces biogas. Biogas is made up of approx. 60% methane and approx. 40% carbon dioxide. The aim is to refine the biogas by using membrane technology to produce both Carbon dioxide and Biomethane that will then be trucked out. Digestates will also be produced, which are valuable fertilizers and will replace carbon derived ammonium nitrate, mined phosphate and potash. There are no other bi-products or waste.

The facility is to the West of Haverhill, on the A1037. The location was chosen due to the proximity of the A1307 and is well hidden in the woods. It also provides track access to the Thurlow estates which will provide the feed stock. The site is 11 hectares, which is largely planting. Maize, rye and grass silage will be stored on site and a sealed shed will hold manures. The digesters are covered domes. Withersfield Parish Councillors, who had concerns of potential odours being emitted from the site, visited the site at Thetford and were pleasantly surprised at the lack of odour that the site produced.

45,000 tonnes of silage will be stored on site, there will be straw and manure sheds, digesters and a feed hub, gas clean up equipment and a clean water lagoon. Covered digestate store lagoons will take 10,000 digestate, the cover will prevent animals getting in and odour escaping. Along with an Environment Impact Assessment, an odour report will be submitted in the planning application to show how smells will be mitigated.

HG outlined that the benefits of the site will help tackle the energy crisis caused by the War in Ukraine and energy security. There will be significant benefits to local agriculture, as the land is mostly clay and organic levels have decreased over the years, the digest will be used to feed the crops that they need but also the food crops that farms will use. The feed stock will fit into a 1 in 6 rotation which will allow increased agriculture of an alternative crop to oil seed rape. The site will provide environmentally friendly carbon neutral fuel for the HGV's. An 15% increase biodiversity on site. 14/15 roles created. Supply cheaper CO2 to local business and provide education.

HG showed members figures relating to the HGV and tractor movements to and from the site. HGV's will travel via A1307 and M11 to Milton Keynes, a large proportion of feed stock will come in through existing farms tracks on land. Bioenergy will also submit an application for a pipeline which will run to the middle of Thurlow Estate, liquid digestate will not be based around the site.

The planning application will be submitted in mid-November, for a winter determination, hopefully aiming to start on the site in Spring/Summer if permitted.

In summary HG outlined that the site will produce 1,200m cubed of biomethane which is enough to heat 7,000 homes or fuel 270 HGV's running constantly. Each year will take 4,700 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide out of the system, as their biomethane is carbon negative there will be a yearly saving of 26,000 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide overall for the whole project, equivalent of planting 1million trees or taking 17,000 cars off the road