

BARFORD SHERBOURNE AND WASPERTON JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the special meeting of the Joint Parish Council held at Wasperton Village Hall on Monday 18th December 2006

- Present:** Cllr Dr M J Metcalfe (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs W Barlow, Cllr R Clay, Cllr R G Mulgrue, Cllr S G Starkey, Cllr W Worrall,
Cllr Mrs A Gordon, Cllr G P Grima, Cllr E G Scrannage, Cllr N F J Thurley, Cllr J T
Wright, Cllr L Caborn,
- Apologies:** Cllr M P Byerley, Cllr Mrs M A Hayward, Cllr J V Murphy,

Opening

- 225 The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
- 226 Apologies for absence were noted.
- 227 No members of the public were present

Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- 228 No declarations were made.

A46/M40 Junction 15 (Longbridge) Bypass Public Enquiry Outline Statement of Case

- 229 The JPC agreed the following outline statement of case for submission to the Public Inquiry:

“The Joint Parish Council objects to the Highways Agency proposed new line for the upgraded A46 as it runs too close to Sherbourne compared to the alternative proposed lines A and B and will adversely affect the residents with noise and light and air pollution as well as the risk of flooding through construction across the flood meadows (see JPC letter of 12th August 2006)

If a new road is necessary, then a more westerly route should be followed to take it away from both Sherbourne and the identified bat roost; to this there would appear to be no technical problems.

The Joint Parish Council understands that alternative routes have been proposed by Sherbourne residents and that the HA has produced some preliminary drawings. The JPC will consider these alternatives in due course.

When the date of the Public Inquiry has been officially notified to the Joint Parish Council its representatives will be nominated”

A46/M40 Junction 15 (Longbridge) Bypass Borrow Pit Development Request for an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion

- 230 The JPC adopted the comments submitted by Cllr Mrs Gordon for transmission to the Highways agency.

M40 J15 (Longbridge) Bypass ES Addendum (change to the published ES) dated Nov 2006.

- 231 The JPC had not received a copy of this document and had therefore had no opportunity to comment upon it.
- 232 The clerk had asked HA for a copy. [Afternote: received 20 Dec 06]
- 233 It reported a surveying error which confused ground level with crop height. Consequently more material for the construction of embankments had to be won from much larger borrow pits at an additional cost of £5m.

234 The suspense date for comment was 21 Dec 06 and such was the concern of members they instructed the Clerk to write to the HA expressing it which he did subsequently in these words:

“The Barford Sherbourne and Wasperton JPC did not receive a copy of the M40 J15 (Longbridge) Bypass ES addendum (change to the published ES) dated Nov 2006 until today.

Nevertheless at a JPC meeting on 18th December members were made aware of its existence and the implications of its contents.

It is understood that the original survey confused ground level with crop height. The error means that a great deal more material for embankment construction must be won from borrow pits, thus increasing their area and adding £5m to the original estimate.

The JPC has advocated alternative alignments for the bypass further west than that proposed. It has been told that the cost of the necessary additional land take made such proposals uneconomic. Now with the project set to cost an extra £5m, the JPC urges that a proper cost-benefit analysis of all routes be conducted with a view to offsetting the increase in road length against the environmental damage of greatly enlarged borrow pits.

Please ensure that this view is taken into account and given full weight at the Public Inquiry.”

Any Other Business

235 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:25 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

236 The next ordinary meeting of Council is on Monday 8th January 2007 at 7:30 pm in Barford Memorial Hall