



MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD 29 APRIL 2025

LEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors M Thorn (Chair), M Budgen, S Dawes and S Jones

In attendance: 2 members of the public

01.25 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from the Clerk, and Councillors A Bain, M Corrie and W Vernon.

02.25 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

03.25 Public Participation Session - *a period of 20 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 3-minute limit per speaker. Members of the public may speak on matters appearing on the agenda. However, if a matter does not appear on the agenda, a written request should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 2 working days before the meeting.*

The two members of the public present spoke to agenda item 05.25 raising concerns regarding: fire hazard and public safety; safety issues presented by HGVs coming through the Parish; and land stability of the proposed site.

04.25 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 March 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Budgen and seconded by Councillor Jones and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 March 2025 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

05.25 To consider planning application 25/01270/FUL prior to the consultation deadline of 5 May

Planning application 25/01270/FUL (Construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility including the erection of battery container units, transformers, inverters, 132kV substation, 33kV customer switchgear, storage container and welfare container, water tank, new internal access roads, resurfaced compound, installation of perimeter fencing and access gate, associated ground works, landscaping and attenuation pond) was discussed at length.

It was proposed by Councillor Thorn and seconded by Councillor Jones and

resolved (without opposition)

that the Clerk would submit an objection to Planning at Shropshire Council due to the following reasons:

- The applicant proposes that HGVs are routed via the B4380 through the parish of Leighton & Eaton Constantine. However, there is a known safety issue on this rural route through Leighton, particularly in relation to HGVs and other large vehicles. This has been accepted by Shropshire Council on previous applications relating to development in the area. In response to this, a degree of traffic mitigation is being funded by the Ironbridge Power Station developers. Additionally, routing agreements to avoid the B4380 have been required on approved applications, including enforcement with cameras.
- The traffic impact assessment in this application is peremptory and side steps the safety issue presented by more HGVs being routed along the B4380. It also ignores the cumulative effect of other applications that have been approved by Shropshire Council - primarily relating to 19/05560/OUT which involves the construction of up to 1,000 dwellings at the Ironbridge Power Station site and all the associated works including sand and gravel extraction, together with 21/03090 Buildwas Leisure Site application for static caravans and lodges. It also fails to mention the proposed Buildwas Bank roundabout in the Transport Statement, construction of which is due to take place in the next few months.

In view of the above, it is requested that the following conditions are imposed if the application is approved:

1. A Section 106 agreement is required to prevent HGV traffic using the B4380 for deliveries to and from the site. Instead, all HGV deliveries should be via Buildwas Bank, turning at the new roundabout and then routing back up Buildwas Bank to the site. HGVs leaving the site should follow the same route in reverse.
2. The Construction Management Plan must include the required HGV routing and be submitted for approval before construction commences

ACTION: Clerk to submit objection to Shropshire Council prior to the consultation deadline.

06.25 Date of next meetings

Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 7.00pm – Eaton Constantine Village Hall – following APM
Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 7.00pm – Eaton Constantine Village Hall
Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 7.00pm – Eaton Constantine Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 7.27pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date: 20 May 2025