

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **Planning Committee** held at **7 pm** in the **Main Hall of Harting Community Hall** on **Thursday 16 March 2017**

Present: Chris Healey (Chairman), Sheridan Bowman, Andrew Shaxson, Tim Bonner and David Barnard.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk

129. Apologies for absence: Hugo Stuttaford, Simon Powys-Maurice and Sheila Bramley

130. Declarations of Interest: None

131. Members of the Public Present: 1

132. Minutes of the meeting on 9 March 2017: Having been agreed the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

133. Current Planning Applications

133.1 SDNP/17/00629/FUL

[Temporary one-year use of land and barn for the storage of 8 self-storage containers \(partly retrospective\).](#)

Poppetts Office West Harting Road South Harting West Sussex GU31 5NS

No objection

133.2 SDNP/16/04679/CM

[Appraisal and production of oil incorporating the drilling of one side track well from the existing well \(for appraisal\), three new hydrocarbon wells and one water injection well, and to allow the production of hydrocarbons from all four wells for a 20 year period.](#)

Markwell's Wood-I Well Site South Holt Farm Dean Lane End Forestside Rowlands Castle West Sussex

Planning Committee decision based on the application documents and the committee's discussion of the proposed development:

Objection:

The Council objects to this application which we consider may cause severe ecological and environmental harm to the South Downs National Park.

Our reasons for objection are as follows (NOTE: points 1-5 reiterate our previous reasons for objection and points 6-8 are new):

1. It is the responsibility of the SDNPA to ensure that the beautiful and unique landscape of the Park is protected (National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949). It is further their remit to ensure the Park is protected from "damaging development" and to conserve the Park's natural beauty and wildlife for the enjoyment of the public.

2. We have considerable concern over the acidisation drilling process and the water injection well and their potential harm to the environment: in particular, aquifers and groundwater may be put at risk by contamination. Obviously the Council is not in a position to make an independent assessment of the technical arguments, but we worry that in Portsmouth Water Company's objection to this application they disagree with the Applicant's Risk Assessment. The latter states that the impact on groundwater is "negligible". However the Water Company feels the drilling process may have a "damaging effect on the Bedhampton and Havant springs". If so, this would impact not only on the drinking water in the Company's supply area, but on other areas in times of water stress when supplies are shared. Furthermore, the water from these springs is particularly pure and is mixed with that from other sources to improve water quality for a customer-base that is much wider than that supplied by Portsmouth Water.

3. Should the Markwell's Wood's well prove fruitful, applications for additional wells throughout the Weald should be anticipated, escalating and further endangering the environment and landscape of the Park.

4. It is estimated that heavy goods vehicle traffic movements may increase by 10%. This, on narrow roads not designed for such vehicles, would be noisy and disruptive. It would be contrary to the SDNPA's Tranquillity policy and could also incur local Council Tax payers in addition costs for repairs to our lanes.

5. Flaring of gas on a 10 metre stack and 24-hour on-site floodlights would be contrary to the SDNP's Dark Skies policy and impact directly on local residents and wildlife.

6. UKOG's Mitigation measures are not convincing and not entirely adequate (S10 Environment Statement)

7. Portsmouth Water Company asked for a detailed Hydrogeological Risk Assessment. UKOG has failed to produce this in sufficient detail. The mitigation measures recently submitted do not provide satisfactory safeguards should spillage or leakages occur on the site.

8. Envireau Water's hydrogeological risk assessment (SDNP16 04679 CM-ES Addendum Appendix 9.1A) states that solution features can be ".....characterised by a surface expression which is a roughly circular depression in the ground's surface....." (Part 1, p.14). No such depressions are shown within a 500m radius of the site (Part 2, fig.8). In fact, the Environment Agency's Lidar data show 4 circular depressions, and a fifth roughly circular, to the NNW-NW of the site; all are within about 200m of the site. The one not in woodland can also be seen on Google Earth. There are potentially two others within 500m and numerous others, mainly to the south, within about 1km. While these depressions may not be solution features, let alone active ones, it is of considerable concern that these data were not part of Envireau Water's risk assessment.

133.3 SDNP/17/00969/HOU

Proposal to add a small exterior porch to the current front door.

Whistle Jacket Barn North Lane South Harting GU31 5NR

No objection

133.4 SDNP/17/00840/CND

Variation of condition 12 for permission SDNP/14/02433/FUL. To allow for temporary re-siting of approved car parking.

Poppetts Office West Harting Road South Harting West Sussex GU31 5NS

No objection

134. Planning appeals: None

135. Date of next meeting: 6 April 2017 (time to be confirmed)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.25 pm.

Signed:

Date