

Minutes of a meeting of Rothersthorpe Parish Council held on Monday November 29th 2021 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall Church Street, Rothersthorpe.

Present: Mr F Gilkes – Chairman, Mrs J Johnson, Mrs C Nolan, Mr S Major and Mr P Lord.

In Attendance: Mrs S Murphy – Clerk
Miss D. Owen
60 members of the public

Mr Gilkes addressed the meeting and advised councillors and members of the public that under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 members of the public are permitted to photograph, film, broadcast and report on the meeting, subject to the efficient running of the meeting not being disturbed.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from WN Cllr A Brown.

2. Declarations of Interest in respect of matters on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Open Session

To discuss the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan: Spatial Options Consultation

Mr Gilkes addressed the meeting and explained that the meeting had been called to discuss the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan: Spatial Options Consultation only. He explained that a presentation would be made by the parish council and an open discussion would follow.

He asked where people had heard about the plan. The response was unanimous that it was only information provided by the parish council had made people aware.

Mr Gilkes explained that the consultation is how West Northamptonshire wants to grow between now and 2050. It shows proposed or potential places for housing, commercial and industrial units. The whole consultation is confusing for members of the public and the presentation aims to make it clearer how it relates to Rothersthorpe. Mr Gilkes said that it was important that all villagers submitted individual responses. The presentation will be available on the website and responses should be submitted by December 24th.

Dominique Owen introduced the powerpoint presentation and explained that it was a summary of the consultation referring specifically for Rothersthorpe.

: All proposed areas of land are on the Long List or the Short List

: The Long list is sites identified by WNC as reasonable alternatives at the edge of Northampton for development.

: The Short List is sites identified by WNC as currently preferred sites for development and further assessment.

: Sites on Long List are Site 80

Site 228

Site 229

Site 230

: The only site on the shortlist is Site 228. Although other sites are not on short list this could change.

: The strengths and weaknesses of Site 228.

- : Areas that WNC are asking for comments on.
- : Map of the possible future landscape for Rothersthorpe.

Mr Gilkes thanked Miss Owen for her presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

: Mr Boscott said that he was opposed to the plans coming south of the M1 and was keen to protect the rural identity of the village and not become part of Northampton. He is also keen to preserve the historic and archaeological assets such as the ridge and furrow system. Light Pollution has got worse over the last 10 years from Swan Valley and this is likely to get worse.

: Mr Henry asked if the Parish Council were linking with any other parish councils to put together a joint response.?

Mr Gilkes said that the Parish Council were not actively seeking to do this at present.

: Mrs Botterill said that it was so disappointing to see all the wild habitats being lost for such developments.

: Mr York said that the fields between Grafton Way and the M1 had been used to bury livestock during the last foot and mouth epidemic and could be contaminated.

: Mrs Kutas spoke about the archaeology of the land between Rothersthorpe and the M1 and that there is history of a Roman villa and a walkway for Roman soldiers. Need to ensure that there is a green belt between any development and the village.

: Mr McDonnell expressed his concern over the loss of public footpaths if the development is allowed to go ahead.

: Mr Betts said that there is pressure on developers to provide infrastructure. There is a need for more bus routes and cycleways.

: Vicky asked why the field at Kislingbury Road is still available for development after being turned down. Mr Gilkes explained that it is only an assumption that the land is available and the landowner could go to WNC.

: Mr Lord explained that it is a strategic plan and will not be happening immediately.

: Mr Betts asked if there was any merit in placing an objection now or should we wait for an actual planning application?

Mr Gilkes explained that it is important to object to the site on the Short List in the consultation.

: Mr Orr said that the proposed areas of development were teeming with wild life and a wild life audit should be carried out.

: Mr Betts suggested that the Parish Council should make it an area of natural importance

: Mr Gilkes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained that the parish council would be putting together a response but emphasised how important it was that individual responses were sent as well.

4. To discuss and prepare the Parish Council response to the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan – Spatial Options Consultation.

Following the conclusion of the Public Open Session, the Parish Council discussed the response to the above consultation.

The following points would form part of the Parish Council’s response:-

Flooding, Light Pollution, traffic infrastructure, pollution issues, historical matters, loss of natural habitats, need for a green belt and the justification for the demand for such warehouses.

It was agreed that each councillor would prepare an individual response and these would be co-ordinated into the Parish Council response.

Mr Gilkes thanked everyone and particularly Dominique Owen for putting the presentation together.

Meeting Closed at 9.45p.m.

Signed.....Dated.....