WOODSETTS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16th August 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, GILDINGWELLS ROAD, WOODSETTS AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT
Councillors: R Swann (Chair), M Carroll, R Woodhead, M Bradburn, K Ward, P Clarke, C Cockayne.

IN ATTENDANCE
Clerk B Smyth, and over 100 members of the public.

7784 Apologies; Councillors J Hill, J Sherratt.

7785 To identify items which may be considered following the exclusion of press and public.
None but to be reconsidered if necessary.

7786 To receive new Declarations of Interest in respect of business on the Agenda.
It was noted that all Councillors have potentially a personal and pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 “INEOS Shale’s proposed exploration well in Woodsetts” as they are home owners in Woodsetts. However, any adverse house price effect has not been fully proven and all the Councillors agreed to remain in the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
A correspondence had been received from Ineos Shale about a proposed exploration well in Woodsetts and the Parish Council invited them to attend this meeting with a view to engaging with the Parish Council and the public on this matter. The Parish Council resolved to extend its public speaking section to 1 hour and as there was no objections that the public area to be recorded by any members of the public if they so wish.

The following points were noted but are not a verbatim report of the verbal exchanges.

Members of the public commented:
- Why was a high court injunction needed before any consultation had taken place?
- Why are Woodsets residents described as “defendants”?
- Why is an Environmental Impact Assessment not going to be carried out?
- How long can this “temporary” site be in place?
- What guarantees are being put in place about potential damage to properties?
- House prices will be adversely affected!
- This is a historic coal mining area and there are grave safety issues concerning fracking.
• Road safety is a major concern and the extra traffic is certainly not welcome!
• Why has fracking been abandoned in some countries?
• Ground water sources will be adversely affected by the drilling and future fracking!
• Who will benefit financially from this operation?
• Woodsetts has a natural aquifer and this will be affected by this operation!
• The Wildlife and water courses will be adversely affected by this development.
• Do Ineos know how many children are in the local School?
• The notices being put up are of a bullying nature and people should be allowed to protest peacefully.
• Notts County Council and Bassetlaw District Council need to be consulted on Traffic issues.
• A screening report should not be used to try and avoid a full EIA.
• Why was a Traffic Management survey not put in place before the application?
• Who will Police the site?
• Housing developments in Harthill have been put on hold in Harthill due to potential fracking there.
• How will the Public rights of way be affected?
• Can the Public instigate an Injunction against Ineos?
• Prevailing westerly winds will cause wind pollution from the site.
• Where did the judge grant an injunction for the site?
• Why use Shale gas when renewable energy is available?

Kevin Barron MP commented:
• A Liasion Committee would be recommended with Ineos and concerned parties
• He fully agreed the notices were abusive and of a bullying nature.
• Agreed with many if not all the comments from the public gallery.
• Strongly felt a consultation should have taken place before the injunction!

Lynne Coulder on behalf of Ineos Shale commented and replied:
• The High Court injunction was common practice and was not aimed at Woodsetts residents rather “professional” protestors.
• They are happy to engage with any groups or individuals on the application.
• There is no consultation before application to protect the identity of the land owners.
• The word “defendants” is the legal term for the application.
• It was not felt that an EIA was needed for this application and RMBC have agreed.
• The site can be in place for up to 5 years.
• Ineos will be responsible for any damage to property.
• A comprehensive Traffic Management policy will be implemented with no movements during critical school drop off and collection times.
• There will be up to 60 HGV movements per day to site.
• Ground water sources will not be affected by this operation.
• They do not know how many children are in the local school.
• The notices are what they do on most sites as a matter of course.
• Public rights of way will not be affected.
• As a percentage of revenue from fracking local organisations will receive: land owner 1%, Area Housing 2%, Local Community Groups 2%.
• The injunction was granted in London.

In conclusion the public thanked Woodsetts Parish Council for holding and facilitating the meeting and they also urged Kevin Baron to bring these matters up in Parliament.

End of the Public Engagement section and all members of the public vacated the meeting.

7787 To consider a correspondence about INEOS Shale’s proposed exploration well in Woodsetts.

The Parish noted the very strong opposition to this proposed exploration well. The Parish Council resolved to note that it strongly objects to the aggressive wording and nature of the notices placed by Ineos. It also resolved to seek legal advice on this matter as recommended by its professional body YLCA.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.