

LEVINGTON AND STRATTON HALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 4 November 2015

Present: David long [Chairman], David Pryke, Ian Angus, James Ramsey, John Bailey, Pat Pryke

Apologies: Nick Hopkins [away on holiday]

Declarations of Interest: None

Lead Councillor: David Pryke

Members of the Public: 6, including our District Councillor and Parish Clerk, and Penny Lawrenson [Head of Planning] and Willow Mercer [Graduate Planner] both representing Lightsource Renewable Energy Holdings Ltd being the agent for Elli Solar SPV1 Ltd.

The Committee met to consider the following Planning Application:

Application No: DC/15/4107/VOC

Location: Walk Farm, Stratton Hall

Proposal: Variation of condition 3 of original application to allow for an extension, of the life time of the planning permission, to 30 years, for solar panels & ancillary works

Minutes of Meeting

Before opening the meeting the Chairman invited comments from the public, and especially invited comments from the two representatives of Lightsource. The two representatives provided helpful information on recent changes to the ownership of the solar 'farm', why there was an application for a 5 year time extension at this time when there was still around 24 years to run on the current planning permission [latest technical evaluation resulted in an estimated working life of the existing panels from 25 to 30 years], and on the status of their £15,000 funding of a Community Benefit fund.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the Chairman formally opened the meeting of the Parish Planning Committee

Discussion took place on the merits of an extension of time to the current planning permission when there was still 24 years to run on the current permission and the technical uncertainty of renewable energy so far into the future. It was also noted that an extension of time at the current moment would increase the asset value of this site for the new owners and would, if agreed, at all their other sites, lead to a greater valuation of their asset base.

As the Parish Planning Committee had no experience of a Community Fund, it was **agreed** that further information be sought on the ethical/legal aspects of such a fund.

It was further **agreed** to request an extension to the consultation period so that we may obtain this information, primarily from SCDC and SCC.