

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF RADLEY PARISH
COUNCIL HELD AT THE CHURCH ROOM ON MONDAY, 27 MARCH 2006,
AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Cr B Mott (in the Chair) (to 8.30 pm)
Cr D Standen (in the Chair (to 9.20 pm)
Crs Crowley, Henderson, Rogers, D Standen, J Standen, Wren, Wyatt

46/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Crs Johnston, Nutt, and Wilson.

47/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cr Crowley declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest as set out in the Standards Board for England lobby group, dual-hatted members and the Code of Conduct, top paragraph, page 7.

48/06 PLANNING APPLICATION FROM RWENPOWER

The Planning Application from RWE npower related to new bunded ash lagoon in existing "Lake E" gravel pit, including: construction of new ash lagoon, including working clay from the bottom of the existing lake to form an impermeable lining to the sides of the new lagoon; filling the new lagoon with pulverized fuel ash, restoration to nature conservation, deposit of silt and slurry from lake E to lake G and pipe and drainage works and that the application is accompanied by an environmental statement.

The application had been circulated in advance to Crs Henderson, Mott, D Standen, J Standen and Wilson.

The Parish Council received objections from the Oxford Green Belt Network, Mrs J Standen, Mr D Standen, Mr and Mrs Stovel, and Mr C R Tyler. It also noted that BBOWT had no objections to this application.

IT WAS AGREED that Cr J Standen should be the spokesperson for Radley Parish Council at the OCC Committee which considers the planning application.

The Parish Council considered in detail a briefing document from Save Radley Lakes, and **AGREED** to make the following comments:

1. The lakes were a beautiful and essential part of the landscape and should remain. When the original application was made in the early 1980s, the Parish Council stated that one of its objectives was to ensure that the lakes at the Thrupp Lane end of the pits should be retained. Over the

last twenty years, the Parish Council had continually made this point at the Radley Local Liaison Committee, a Committee comprising representatives of the Parish Council and representatives of the various companies who have operated the Didcot Power Station.

This view had also been reiterated locally over the last few months. There is a strong local feeling that something was owed to the people of Radley because of the disadvantages to the village of gravel pits in the near vicinity over many years, and the adverse effect it had had on village life.

This view is based on the appearance of Lakes A to D some twenty years after being filled with pulverized fuel ash (PFA). The Parish Council urges the Oxfordshire County Councillors considering this plan to look at these lakes before making a decision.

2. This was an important wildlife area, and there was a need to protect the fauna and flora on the site. This proposal contravened Planning Policy Statement PPS9, Oxford Structure Plan 2016 EN2, and White Horse Local Plan 2001 NC2 and NC4.

Draining and digging out Lake E must affect the adjoining Lake F, which was also covered by the above planning policies.

3. The Parish Council was concerned that another area filled with PFA would affect the natural flood plain, particularly as the pits now had to be lined with clay, and increased the risk of severe river flooding in the Abingdon area. The Parish Council did not think sufficient consideration was given to this aspect when Lakes H and I were filled, as these lakes were on the flood plain.
4. Water contaminated by PFA could be discharged into the Thames and cause pollution threat to wildlife away from the site. This occurred in February 2001 when there were problems at Pumney Brook when the level of the water in the stilling chamber was lowered and small amounts of cenospheres were discharged into the Pumney Brook.
5. There is concern about the arrangements for cenosphere clearance. Problems occurred a few years ago when the cenospheres were not cleared soon enough and the wind carried the very fine dust into a nearby house.
6. The Parish Council was concerned about any additional heavy traffic along Thrupp Lane. This single tracked road was part of the classified cycle way between Oxford and Abingdon and was extremely dangerous with the current level of traffic.
7. The Parish Council felt that RWE Npower must have an alternative plan before submitting the current application. It felt that Lake E would not

have adequate capacity to satisfy the needs of Didcot A until its scheduled closure in 2015 and, if the rate of fill was the same as Lakes H and I, the Power Station must require further capacity within two years.

The Chairman indicated that he and the Clerk would draft a letter which would be circulated to all Councillors. The letter would reiterate the statement made by the Parish Council at its meeting on the 24 November 2005.

The Clerk was asked to ascertain the deadline for comments as Councillors understood that the public were now being told that the deadline was the 17 April 2006.

Date:
Chairman