MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANTON ST QUINTIN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 22ND APRIL 2026

1. Present: Cllrs A. Andrews (Chairman); G. Horton; S. Parker; T. Parker R. Starling; R. Whiting

Mrs Carey (Clerk)

2. Apologies: Cllr H. Greenman

3. Absent: Nil

4. Public Question Time: There was two members of the public present.

A parishioner asked for an update on the 20 mph speed limit proposals. The Clerk outlined the current position. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

A parishioner had reported potholes on the road between Wychwood Cottage and the Lodge on the MyWilts app. He had received a replied to sat that "according the their records the area is not maintained by Wiltshire Council and therefore this case will be closed." Clerk to forward this to Cllr Greenman and ask him to pursue it

5. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest: There were no Chairman's announcements or declarations of interest

6. Lime Down Solar Park: Discussion on the responses by Lime Down to the Parish Council's objections.

After discussion it was agreed that the following comments be submitted:

Ref SSQPC-001 – Landscape and Visual

"The Stanton St Quintin Parish Council has extremely strong objections to this proposal. The objections relate to the vast scale of the development in open countryside"

At 1237 hectares the Parish Council feels that this is an overlarge development for this location and the links of approximately 22 km to the Melksham Substation is far too long. How can a site of 1237 hectares in the countryside **not** have an Impact on the surrounding landscape and local villages. A development of this size is bound to affect everyone. The Parish Council feels that no mitigation could be undertaken that would alter this.

Ref SSQPC-002 – Transport and Access

"*There would be an issue with increased traffic on the local narrow roads; impact on the local hospitality and tourism and impact on walkers and riders in the area*

The Parish Council disputes the comment "the assessment concludes that, with appropriate mitigation in place, there would be no significant adverse impacts on the local highway network". What would the "appropriate mitigation" be. How can passing spaces be made in the already narrow lanes and what would happen if two large HFVs meet on these roads? There are numerous blind bends and increased traffic at school times. Would these lorries clear the Kingway bridge? The Parish Council does not believe that the construction traffic can operate without causing access problems to local residents.

Local businesses and tourism
The report states “The assessment evaluates potential effects on the use, enjoyment and desirability of nearly tourist destinations. It also considers whether changes to landscape character or visual amenity could influence visitor behaviour”

The Parish Council strongly believes that local businesses and tourism will be affected. No one will be coming to visit the Solar Farm!!

Walkers and riders
The Applicant confirms that the majority of significant adverse effects can be mitigated, however understands that some significant adverse effects to users of PROWs and unsurfaced roads in Lime Down E cannot be mitigated further during construction. The Parish Council believes that the construction will take a considerable amount of time and no-one will be able to walk during this time.

The Parish Council awaits the assessment on these impacts from the Wiltshire Council’s Countryside Access Team.

Ref SSQPC-003 – Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation
“The development could also have a detrimental impact on the property prices”

There is no answer to this in the report and there will obviously be an impact when people are trying to sell properties.

Ref SSQPC-004 – Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage

“The rain storm run-off from the panels would cause severe flooding”

Again there is no clear answer. There is already flooding which runs into the river as there is no adequate drainage. More information is needed on how Lime Down will deal with this

Ref SSQPC-005 – Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation

“*The huge number of workers on the site would impact on all the local residents which could impact on the already overstretched doctors and other local services.”*

The Parish Council disagrees with the applicant’s response.

Ref SSQPC-006 – Ecology and Biodiversity

“The environmental impact on the local countryside is unacceptable with potential impact on local wildlife, heritage features and the scale of the infrastructure.”

There is bound to be a massive impact on the local wildlife. There will be a severe loss of farming as Lime Down are not making any more land available and this will result in loss of food production.

Heritage features
No definite answer is given

In summary, the Stanton St Quintin Parish Council feels that the mitigation is not explained fully anywhere and has no idea what this will look like. This needs to be set out in full with more in-depth information. There is continuing improvements in technology for plug in solar panels. Do we really need a 60 year commitment for a development of this immense scale? By the time this is connected it will already be out of date.

7. Speed Indicator Devices

Notification received from Wiltshire Council that the engineers putting in the post will not be installing or connecting the SID unit. It was agreed to look at a local electrician to carry out this work and it was suggested that the Parish Forum may be able to help with this. Depending on the work involved this could be undertaken by Parish Council volunteers.

8. Items of report and future Agenda items:

No items of report.

Next Agenda – Public access to the airfield from SSQ to be discussed.

9. Date of next meeting:

Annual Parish Meeting – 13th May at 7.00 pm followed by Annual Council Meeting.

Chair

Meeting closed at 8.05pm