

BLISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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Mrs V. Hartley, Clerk to the Council,
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Minutes of the Meeting 23rd February 2015

Held in the downstairs room of Blisworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr C Jeffery	Chairman
Cllr J Hawkins	
Cllr C Gardner	
Cllr A Anderson	
Cllr Burgoyne	
Cllr M Field	
Cllr P Kennedy	
Cllr P Masterman	

Cllr S Clarke	SNC Cllr (observer)
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13 members of the public

8 representatives of Howdens:

Mr G Rawlingson – Head of Industrial Relations

Mr S Johnstone – Traffic Management

Mr S Harley – Planning

Mr N Munroe – Warehousing and Transport

Mr G Mellor – Communications

Mr J Burbage – Property Consultants

Mr J MacManus – Property Director

PUBLIC QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS:

In the item on the agenda of meeting residents were invited to give their views and question the issues on this agenda, at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself.

171. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McKeown, Cllr Billing, Cllr Kirkbride

172. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any items under

Signed -----

Date-----

consideration at this meeting – None was declared

**173. This meeting was called to discuss the PLANNING APPLICATIONS
DETAILED BELOW:**

S/2014/2468/EIA – proposal by Howdens for 248,200 square metres of employment (B1 & B8) development to accommodate a new 'campus' facility with off-site highway improvements, landscaping and earthworks.

Location : land west of M1, J 15 and west of A508, south of Collingtree.

Plans were available at the meeting for circulation but they were none on display.

Mr Rawlingson introduced the meeting with an explanation behind the application, covering details of employment by the company, and their requirement for more space than is available at Brackmills. He stated that Junction 15 is the only place where the requirements are met being the special circumstances, care of design and benefits to the community re employment and traffic.

Cllr Jeffery responded stating that the Parish Council had objected to the application due to concerns over the precedent of land being developed which is south of the M1, the increase in traffic at J 15 and through the village of Blisworth.

A question and answer session and comments followed and the notes taken are below.

- Q – Why the development could not be at Crick and be linked to rail transport?
- A – this would not be economically viable as the company has to transport more than a single product. Lorries are generally only on the road fully laden so that greater efficiency results.
- Q - Why is company pursuing the application when it contravenes the Joint Core Strategy?
- A – no other sites are large enough. The ultimate decision will be made by using planning policy.
- Q – How large are the lorries which will be used?
- A – the largest allowed in current legislation.
- Q – The improvements to J 15 will cost a considerable sum and is the aim to attract more businesses to the area – Howdens will not use the whole site – Roxhill are the developers.
- A – the land not used by Howdens would be under the control of SNC Planning Authority.
- Q – there will be traffic monitoring at the entrance to the site but what about at the exiting traffic?
- A – It is quite possible to monitor traffic both ways. Times for employees entering the site will be 6am, 2pm and 10pm and lorries will leave the premises at 4pm and 5.30/6 pm. Fines will be imposed on offenders.
- Q - Are the fines substantial enough to act as a deterrent?
- Q – was other land offered by Courteenhall Estates?
- A – no other land was offered

Signed -----

Date-----

- Q – has land come up before?
- A – Don't know.
- Q – Are the jobs permanent or temporary?
- A – Many will be permanent.

Some further questions and discussion ensued.

Various statistics were discussed – numbers of vehicles using the site a day was estimated at 40 lorries in and 30 out. 900 vehicles use the A508 in one hour.

Members of the public repeated some of the previous questions.

A member of the public asked the Parish Council to address the following:

- If planning permission is granted some of the Business Rates which SNC would receive should be spent on traffic calming in the village.
- Consideration of the banning of some lorries should be considered.
- Request that SNC looks at the junction of the A508 with Courteenhall Road, a dangerous junction which Blisworth residents often need to use – possible round about?
- Consider the volume of traffic using Stoke Road with a view to calming.

The Howden representatives agreed to carry out a traffic census in the village. The Parish Council agreed and will confirm.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed -----

Date-----