

MINUTES OF SHERIFFHALES PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 10th JUNE 2025 AT 7.00PM AT SHERIFFHALES VILLAGE HALL

Present Councillors: Mrs P Hodgetts (Chairman), Mr J Horne (Vice-Chairman); N Pulker,

Also, in attendance Clerk to the Council – Mrs Jennifer Cree, and 14 members of the public.

Unitary Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Barker

74/25. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L Edwards, Mrs S Whittam; Mr Alan Edwards, Mrs A Sutcliffe.

75/25. Declaration of Councillors' Pecuniary Interests.

None were declared.

76/25. Public Participation

Standing Orders were raised to enable members of the public to speak

The following points were raised by members of the public:-

- We all have the opinion to voice our opinions, they were concerned about the pig unit, that had to be moved due to ancient relics. The chicken farm impact on the village, the operating company has mired its reputation with the original pigs on the farm, and there were court proceedings and a cessation order. Principal design poorly considered by the village up wind, and we have not got faith in the operators.
- I hope we support agricultural activity in a rural location, that means sometimes that agricultural activity generates environmental impact in an area. There are 2 chicken units in the area, and one did cause issues with fly infestation. The past history people know what it is like to have them nearby. The proposed chicken unit is a big unit, and the PC needs to be aware of the Sensitivity of this in the area. The application environmental impact submitted, it was asked if we think this is sufficient to not cause issues as previously. We need to support agricultural, this is why we choose to live here, and understand that smells are part of that. Is the PC happy with the information provided. Is the ventilation enough, location and winds etc, if the Council has concerns can the council ask that this is looked at by Shropshire Council. If this is safe they would not have a problem with it.
- With the impact assessment it is hard for a lay person to read and fully understand it. Have the Planning authority got this understanding? This is a big worry. The size is bigger than the pig unit, and its huge, and that was a previous worry. The Biomass boiler will issue particulates / odour, the manure /waste needs to be taken to Oswestry how often will this happen.
- The wind would come from the south west.
- He goes around a lot of farms and he comes across a lot of Poultry units and once they are settled, you do not notice they are there. There are 4 sheds, they are usually cleaned straight into the lorries and send it away. The biosecurity around these sites is second to none. The margins of profit are very low, so its key to manage the site correctly.
- Confidence in the community was raised, and they went into the pig farm and supported the importance of that, they were let down by the numbers processed, and it was running it is then harder to comment. The community want reassurance they wont be

impacted in the same way. The main issues are smell, family wedding in the garden that was cancelled due to the smell. The other thing is the flies, they already suffering from this and this will increase. We need to be sure that the Impact assessments are robust.

- The unit will cost a lot of funds to build the site.
- Could the stakeholders funding the farm come forward and reassure the community. Could this be explored with the applicant. Could there be an invitation to another one of their poultry unit.
- As PC we can ask but have no powers to make them come forward.
- From a technical prospective, there are significant unknowns in the drainage strategy. An offer of help to raise concerns was offered to the Council.
- What about the distance for residential living should this be so close.
- The key is the stewardship of the running of the site, to give confidence to the community.

Former Unitary Councillor K Turley reported that the new Shropshire Councillor sits on the Planning Committee (she was invited to attend this meeting and also agreed to attend). It should go to Committee and ask for verification that the environmental health department that have undertaken a formal assessment to confirm the facts. Shropshire Councils with other chicken farms near the River Severn, and there is effluent running into the river. Resulting in Court Cases to enforce. Have Shropshire Council got the staff to undertake regular checks? Are DEFRA involved due to the size of the unit?

From a planning perspective there are few reasons for objection, the Environmental Impact / drainage issues on the area, calling it in is key and this would delay any decisions. If it could go to Committee would they want to pay for experts to make sure all the reasons are looked.

What should the Parish Council be highlighting in their response is Environmental concern:-

The report produced needs to be checked as it has been produced by the applicant – are the levels of staff to check this site from Environmental health. If there are issues how long would it take to be resolved via DEFRA. The pig farm, the previous unit caused issues and this was shut down giving concern over the applicants being capable of running the chicken farm as required. What guarantees can we have?

Members of the Southern Planning Committee - Andy Boddington Chair of Planning, contact details are below:-

Andy.boddington@shropshire.gov.uk
Thomas.clayton@shropshire.gov.uk
Nick.hidnet@shropshire.gov.uk
Elizabeth.barker@shropshire.gov.uk

All members present need to contact the above members of the planning committee with their comments to show the support of the community against this development. These will be put on the Whatsapp group for members to make their comments directly to them.

If it is approved, the SUDS and the Highways changes should be in place before anything else starts on the site.

Standing orders were reinstated.

77/25. To discuss and make a recommendation in response to Shropshire Council Planning Application Consultation for 25/01501/EIA - Proposed Poultry Farm South West Of Manor Farms

25/01501/EIA Proposed Poultry Farm South West Of Manor Farm, Sheriffhales
Erection of a poultry farm including 4no linked poultry houses with linked amenity building and associated concrete apron, feed bins, feed blending room, dead bird shed, dirty water tanks, biomass boiler house, hardstanding yard area and drainage attenuation pond.

As a community and a Parish Council we want assurances if the application is approved that the site is run as it should be, due to previous issues with the former pig unit. We understand we are in farming community and understand progress and farming needs.

We have concerns which are listed below and we need the application to go to Committee so it is discussed in full, the following needs to be addressed:-

- The Environmental Impact Assessment report produced needs to be checked as it has been produced by the applicant – are there the levels of staff at Shropshire Council to check this site from Environmental health .
- If there are issues how long would it take to be resolved via DEFRA.
- The pig farm, the previous unit caused issues and this was shut down giving concern over the applicants being capable of running the chicken farm as required. What guarantees can we have?
- It should be built to the current environmental standards.
- Is there a need to have staff on site 24/7 to operate the unit.
- The speed of how Shropshire Council will react to concerns.
- How quickly is the site cleaned, what happens to the deceased animals on site?

It was noted that if the application should be approved:-

- Regular checks on the site via Environmental Health / Defra / Environment Agency.
- The junction to the A5 should be improved before works start to the site.
- The SUDS should be agreed and in place before any site work starts.

76/25. Next meeting date – July 8th 2025