Minutes of the Meeting of Walton Parish Council of Tuesday 20th August 2013
That took place at 7.00pm in the Walton Village Hall Lounge

13.14.121 Present

13.14.122 In Attendance
7 Members of the public
H Moore [clerk]

13.14.123 To Accept Apologies for Absence
Cllr. B. Pletts due to personal reasons
Cllr. R. Crossman due to family commitments

13.14.124 Residents declarations of interest in speaking on agenda items
Mr. James, Mr. B. Collins, Ms. L. King, Ms. L. James, Ms. M. Diamond, N. Diamond all expressed an interest in speaking on planning application number 2013/1515

13.14.125 Open Forum for Residents
No new issues raised

13.14.126 Councillor’s Disclosure of any undeclared interests and dispensations granted
Cllr. M. King declared a personal interest in item planning – application 2013/1515 due to being a neighbour.

13.14.127 Planning
a.) To receive any planning decisions reported
2013/0717 19 Hempitts Road proposed single storey extension and conversion of existing garage into home office - APPROVED

b.) To consider any applications received
i.) 2013/1515 Whitley Farm – Construction of solar photovoltaic park and associated equipment.

The Chairman invited the members of the public to speak at this point and the following objections and areas of concern were raised

- Financial viability of the proposal
- Visual impact
- De valuation of surrounding existing properties
- Inappropriate location on good agricultural land
- Unsuitable nature of construction access route
- Impact of low frequency noise and constant low level hum
- Some of surrounding woodland to provide cover not being in the ownership of applicant
- Large size of the area under consideration
- Potential of glare from the proposed installation creating a hazard to users of the A39

The application was then discussed by the parish council
It was Resolved [6/1] that the parish council recommend refusal of the application due to the following concerns and material planning considerations:

- The site location currently under consideration is good agricultural land - a location on poorer quality land would be considered to be more appropriate.
- It was considered that the large size of the site was out of proportion to its rural location. Access - Whitley Road and Whitley Lane consist in part of single track lanes with blind corners and no passing places. Both these lanes are well used by pedestrians [there are no pavements], cyclists, horse riders and horse drawn vehicles. The added use of these lanes by construction traffic could be considered as potentially hazardous.
- The environmental impact assessment was inconclusive as submitted - further information as to the actual wildlife present was required prior to the potential impact on it by the proposed installation could be subject to informed consideration.
• Noise - The potential of noise pollution - further information was required on the low level hum that would be created. Concerns were raised with regard to the possible impact of low frequency noise both on residents and on wildlife.

• Visual Impact - Concerns were raised with regard to the visual impact of a site of this size in this location. Although some consideration of planting for screening had been mentioned it was felt that due to the potential height of structures to be installed in combination with the overall size of the proposed site in this location, it would be insufficient to screen the area from many public locations and residential properties.


The application was discussed by the parish council

*It was Resolved [7-nil] Walton Parish Council recommend approval of this application* as it was considered to be:

- in keeping with the current nature of the reserve
- an enhancement of the reserve
- low visual impact

No other planning consultations had been received for consideration

c.) To consider a report on enforcement

Mr. Ian Glover had provided his mobile number 07977 243 195 For use during working hours on enforcement matters.

d.) Any other planning issues – none raised

THE MEETING THEN CLOSED