

ROXWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Lorraine Green

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NOTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2010 AT ROXWELL MEMORIAL HALL, THE STREET, ROXWELL AT 7.30PM.

Present: *Cllrs. Wallace, Page, Howlett, and Chambers*
In The Chair: *Cllr. Pavitt*
Minute Secretary: *Lorraine Green*
Also Present: *46 Members of the Public*

		ACTION
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.</p> <p>There were no apologies.</p>	
2.	<p>MINERALS SITE.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Gordon Ingram, Chairman of Heritage Writtle, and advised that Mr Ingram had been dealing with archeological matters around the parish. Current surveys had been carried out and there was the possibility of carrying out surveys on the land earmarked for development.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the final paper consultation was not out yet and the consultation period would be 9th December to the 17th February. He advised that an extra six points had been added onto the proposed site.</p> <p>A public meeting will be held on 14th December where Planning Officers will be on hand to answer questions. An Exhibition will be held on 31st January which will be an open drop in session.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that Peter Aldridge had set up a working party called Roxwell Residents Against Gravel Extraction (RRAGE) and the Chairman had invited him to this meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman had contacted Sir Alan Hazlehurst MP.</p> <p>Gordon Ingram advised that a 5m wide roman road had been discovered at Cow Watering Lane in Writtle. Quite a bit of the road had been traced and it comes out at Roxwell and out to Shallows Cross. Roman villas and workshops have also been found. Heritage Writtle have been working on the area for about 6 years and have discovered 56 items. This is a similar location as to where they are digging at the moment. A lot of things have been found in Writtle. The metal detectorists are willing to go over the area where they may be possible interest. The Parish Council would have to liaise with the landowners and Heritage Writtle will give as much support as they can. Mr Ingram advised that Heritage Writtle were prepared to do field walking. Mr Ingram advised that right on the Writtle/Roxwell border there is a possible roman village and there is every chance there is stuff in Roxwell. A parishioner advised that about 10 – 15 years ago roman coins had been found going out towards Elms Farm.</p> <p>Peter Aldridge of RRAGE stated that they only have 8 weeks to make impact and it is very important that this is done. He had spoken to a Planning Consultant and he was prepared to put together objections in a professional way. It was agreed that this needs to be done and a professional view submitted. There are costs involved in the region of £10k to £15k to get advice. RRAGE were asking for donations and had asked Roxwell and Willingale to contribute a small amount of funds to the cause. Anyone with areas of expertise should contact Mr Aldridge. There had been an enormous amount of support in the village. Mr Aldridge had spoken with CBC and professional help was also being sought from CBC.</p> <p>CBC Cllr. Nicolette Chambers advised that CBC are totally against the application. They have not seen the document yet but advised that the site is dependent on A1060 and surrounding roads which is subject to heavy traffic. HGV's will exacerbate the situation. Cllr. Chambers read out CBC's views and expressed their concern over the Chelmsford</p>	

water table and loss of greenbelt.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to the residents.

A parishioner enquired as to whether CBC had approved any housing developments locally as they cannot be built without minerals.

Another parishioner asked whether we could stop infill after gravel has been extracted. The parishioner was advised that the majority will be replaced once excavation has taken place. A parishioner stated that they would make big noises about waste that went into the site. The Chairman stated that it would be selective rubbish but the parishioner said they did not want rubbish at all.

Penny Chambers of Chalk End stated that the site seems to be aimed at Harlow to help building from Harlow to Roxwell. The Chairman advised that one of the Parish Councillor's is looking at Herts Minerals Development document. A parishioner stated that Harlow is surrounded by mineral sites and have trains bringing it in. Harlow import from Scotland to go to Heathrow.

Liz Brearton thought a consultant was a good idea and asked what the plans for raising the money were. Mr Aldridge advised that there would be a meeting on Thursday to see how to get funds together. Mr Aldridge stated that he would like a Planning Consultant to be working on the document by Friday.

Martin Shaw, the Chairman of Willingale Parish Council, advised that Epping and Ongar Council had submitted a strong negative case originally and enquired whether anyone had spoken to them. The Chairman agreed to get in contact with them to see what support they can give. Mr Aldridge said that he would talk to them. Cllr. Aldridge gave the Parish Council areas to look at to fight. Cllr. Chambers advised that she was totally behind the village supporting them in their fight.

Cllr. McEwen was supporting Willingale in fighting the case.

A parishioner advised that The Environment Agency in Chester were already aware of the Roxwell Mineral Extraction and suggested that the Parish Council contact them to see the feedback. Cllr. Chambers agreed to do this.

A parishioner, Richard Wooley, said that CBC had two areas of technical data – housing demand and location. He said it would be helpful to know if justification of demand and need is there. Methodology – no-one has expertise and hoped that CBC Planning Officers can look in detail in regard to weighting and examine in detail. The Chairman said that he would do a calculation on the scoring system and show it to CBC Planners. Mr Wooley said that from the conclusions of ECC the site is not suitable but have made it suitable and the Parish Council have got to prove that it is not suitable.

A resident of Roxwell and Willingale asked that the Parish Council look at the mature trees that will be lost if extraction takes place as it will completely change the landscape. People should walk North of A1060 and look at the quality of land and lack of wildlife there will be.

A parishioner, Helen Aldridge, of Elm Lane advised that Scouts come to Skreens Park to do their Duke of Edinburgh awards. What will they think of a quarry in front of their park? Mrs Aldridge felt that the Chairman should write to the Duke of Edinburgh. The Chairman advised that the scouts had made their objections on the first consultation and agreed to contact and talk to them.

It was reported that Roxwell had made the most objections and yet the site had been put in. Arguments did not stand up. Technical comments need to be made that ECC cannot say they got it right. Solid arguments are needed that have technically solid evidence.

A parishioner asked whether the Professional Consultant will give residents help and pointers to make their own objections. Does the area need gravel what is the demand? What is the environmental factor? Mr Aldridge said that fund raising ideas needed to be discussed and enough pledges needed to be received to get help.

Mr Ingram had spoken to people re dowsing and using metal detectors. He advised that the

	<p>water tables had been affected tremendously by the couple of temporary mineral sites in Writtle. Streams would dry up in Roxwell and there would be a change in the whole environment if this site went ahead.</p> <p>A resident from Chalk End asked what commitment and resource is CBC going to provide to help build the case. Cllr. Chambers advised that they strongly oppose and will follow it through and support Roxwell. CBC quotes many policies that this goes against.</p> <p>A resident stated that the developers have already put down the tonnage which was 3½ million tonnes a year.</p> <p>A parishioner enquired as to what the purpose of the meeting is on 14th December. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council and RRAGE will have done more homework and have facts and figures ready. The public will have the chance to show their distain of the proposal to ECC and let the planners know the village's true feelings and tell them where they are wrong.</p> <p>Cllr. Wallace was concerned regarding the finances and that it would affect the facilities for the village. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would hold an emergency meeting with the Finance Sub-Committee and discuss giving a grant. A lot of villagers were happy to donate.</p> <p>A parishioner suggested putting up a banner advertising the meeting and felt that the village should not waste money on a small report when CBC may do a more thorough report.</p> <p>A parishioner stated that there is a possibility it may not go through. Mr Ingram suggested that the village get the Essex Chronicle and Essex Radio involved and even invite them to the meeting to get maximum impact.</p> <p>Chairman to contact CPRE, ECC Scout Council and ECC Recreational Department who had all objected to the previous consultation.</p>	
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The Chairman thanked everyone for coming; the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed (CHAIRMAN).....DATE.....