

**Minutes of a Remote Meeting Meeting of St Harmon Community Council held on
Thursday 11th March, 2021**

Present: Cllr D Jenkins, S Jenkins, P Hunt, S Lewis, M Williams
Cty Cllr D Evans

Apologies: Cllr L McPhee, Cllr D Lowde, J Bennion

SH 58/21 The Chair welcomed Cllr Mark Williams to his first meeting.

SH 58/21 **Declarations of Interests**
None.

SH 59/21 **Public Speaking**
Some local residents addressed the council on their objections to planning application – 21/0059/FUL and the applicants clarified that all planning requirement had been met and the application is for 55,000 birds and not 220,000 as stated in the pre planning. The Council was unable to establish this within the documentation on the PCC Planning Portal.

SH 60/21 **Planning Applications**

a) 21/0059/FUL

Grid Ref: **E:** 297755 **N:** 269520

Proposal: Erection of a poultry building and associated works -

Location: Llwyngwilym Poultry Unit, Llwyngwilym , Rhayader Powys,
LD6 5NS.

Some written observations had been submitted from residents prior to the meeting. The Clerk read out a list of these.

Each gave their comments on the application which led to the following objections:

Resolved: to object to the application on the following grounds

1. A previous application for 55,000 was approved some time ago, however no work has commenced as of yet. The Council feel it would be advisable for that building to be built and the operations set in place to assess the impact of the environment, wildlife and other impacts.
2. This is application for 220,000 birds would form a significant over development of the site.
3. There is growing concern surrounding intensive poultry farming regarding river pollution and the boom Algal blooms in rivers. Natural Resources Wales has called have called to suspend all new farms pending investigations.

4. There is also concern over Phosphates reaching the river from the manure in sheds, and extra manure spread on fields, all classed as “diffuse pollution”, are a significant cause of algal blooms and that modelling suggests agricultural phosphates in the Wye have doubled in the last six years. This application will provide great scale of potential pollution.
5. The Welsh Government has announced new Water Pollution Regulations for Agriculture beginning on 01/04/21 with a requirement to limit manure spreading on any farm to 170kg nitrogen/Ha of holding. This regulation will be applied from 01/01/2023. Given the large number of Intensive Poultry Units approved in Powys, there will be a county-wide manure disposal problem for existing and proposed units.
6. Natural Resources Wales had significant concerns about the pre-planning consultation for a unit housing 110,000 birds and note that the full application is for 220,000 birds
7. 220,000 birds will be a very large unit. On looking at an online interactive map of existing Intensive Poultry Units in our local area and most seem to be around 10,000 to 20,000 birds so the planning application would create a site 10 times this scale.
8. There is justifiable anxiety from the public about the burgeoning number of poultry 'farms' because of the release of nitrates into the ground water. The waters of the river Wye have been polluted by poultry farm effluent run off
9. There is a poultry farm a mile from the site and periodically, chicken waste is spread on the fields. The smell is unbearable.
10. Wider concerns of possible harm to the natural environment will be a significant factor and protected by the regulatory authorities in addressing this planning application
11. We understand that Powys is now home to around ten million intensively raised chickens at any one time. We feel this is excessive.
12. Intensive poultry operations have been linked to local biodiversity damage from ammonia emissions.
13. We concur with the recommendations made by PCC Highways if the application is approved are included within the Planning Conditions.
14. There are several inconsistencies within the application which do not lay out clear parameters in the application.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.