

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **THE ROOKERY SOUTH (RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY) COMMITTEE** held in the Room 15a, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 13 December 2011.

PRESENT

CLlr K C Matthews (Chairman)
CLlr R C Stay (Vice-Chairman)
CLlrs Mrs C Hegley

Members in Attendance: Cllrs Mrs A Barker Cllrs Mrs S Clark
A R Bastable

Officers in Attendance Mr A Emerton Managing Solicitor Planning,
Property, Highways & Transportation
Mrs S Hobbs Committee Services Officer
Mr R Romans Minerals and Waste Team Leader
Mr T Saunders Assistant Director, Planning

RPSC/11/1 **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED

that Councillor K Matthews be elected Chairman of The Rookery South (Resource Recovery Facility) Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

RPSC/11/2 **Election of Vice-Chairman**

RESOLVED

that Councillor R Stay be elected Vice-Chairman of The Rookery South (Resource Recovery Facility) Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

RPSC/11/3 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

None.

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

RPSC/11/4 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

RPSC/11/5 **Public Participation**

No members of the public had registered to speak.

RPSC/11/6 **Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) Decision to Approve Covanta Waste to Energy Plant at Rookery South Pit, Stewartby**

The Committee considered a report from the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development on the Infrastructure Planning Commission's (IPC) decision to approve the Covanta proposal for a 'Waste to Energy' plant at Rookery South Pit, Stewartby.

Bedford Borough Council had decided to petition Parliament against the Development Consent Order (DCO). Members considered whether Central Bedfordshire Council should object to the DCO jointly petitioning Parliament with Bedford Borough Council by sharing the estimated cost of £120,000 on a 50/50 basis.

The Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development responded to questions from Members including considering the principle reasons for objecting to the development.

The Committee acknowledged that due to their membership on this Committee they would not take part in any decisions relating to the BEaR Project.

An additional recommendation was proposed and duly seconded as follows:

'that the estimated cost in the region of £120,000 be shared on a 50/50 basis with Bedford Borough Council and if costs exceed this amount a report be brought back to The Rookery South (Resource Recovery Facility) Committee.'

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to formally consider the IPC decision to approve the Covanta proposal for a Waste to Energy plant at Rookery South Pit, Stewartby and determine whether or not it wishes to petition against the Development Consent Order now laid before Parliament, through the processes available to it.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the decision of the Infrastructure Planning Committee to approve the Waste to Energy Plant at Rookery South Pit, Stewartby, be noted;**

- 2. to petition against the Order and:**
- (a) to agree that there should be a call on the Council's contingency reserve to cover the cost putting forward the Council's case;**
 - (b) that delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director Planning, in consultation with the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development to approve the final content of any petitions; and**
 - (c) that the estimated cost in the region of £120,000 be shared on a 50/50 basis with Bedford Borough Council and if costs exceed this amount a report be brought back to The Rookery South (Resource Recovery Facility) Committee.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. and concluded at 9.45 a.m.)

Chairman

Dated

This page is intentionally left blank