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Preliminary Meeting 1

Created on: 2023-09-07 11:37:17

Project Length: 01:49:57

Account Holder: Ryan Ross

File Name: Prelim Pt3.mp3

File Length: 00:08:19

FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:04:15 - 00:00:15:26

The time is now 1012, and I will restart this preliminary meeting. Can a member of the case team please confirm can be clearly heard and that live streaming has started?

00:00:20:07 - 00:00:20:28

It seems so.

00:00:22:15 - 00:00:38:19

So now on agenda item six, any other matters, and we're obviously reaching the end of the agenda. Um, before we start to draw the meeting to a close, does anybody in the room have anything further to raise within the scope of this preliminary meeting?

00:00:43:15 - 00:00:50:25

Does anybody taking part via Microsoft teams have anything further to raise within the scope of this preliminary meeting?

00:00:56:21 - 00:01:11:13

All right. Thank you. So we have listened very carefully to everything that's been said here. We've also read the written comments about the examination and the timetable.

00:01:13:15 - 00:01:29:14

We've carefully consider the points made about timetabling, particularly the difficulty some parties may face in achieving the current deadlines and noting, as has been said, the close alignment of some events and deadlines with those of other projects.

00:01:31:18 - 00:01:41:17

We've also noted the importance of having a face to face element to hearings and the issues and challenges associated with identifying suitable venues within a reasonable timescale.

00:01:44:00 - 00:01:52:06

We've already set out that we've sort to set deadlines and events well into and towards the end of the prescribed six month examination period.

00:01:54:01 - 00:02:03:19

Even so, the issues identified above suggests that the examining authority may face challenges in gathering the information it requires to conduct the examination efficiently and effectively.

00:02:06:19 - 00:02:20:18

An effective examination is critical to ensuring that the examining authority can adequately assess the the impacts of the application so that our recommendations to the Secretary of State can be fully informed and lawful.

00:02:23:09 - 00:02:51:28

So for this reason, we've made the procedural decision to adjourn rather than close this preliminary meeting. And we'll confirm this in a procedural decision letter to be issued early next week. So this means that the examination will not start as planned. Rather, we will adjourn until the Rule eight letter. Setting out the timetable for the Cottam Solar project has been finalised.

00:02:55:05 - 00:03:06:26

After that time, we will issue a Rule six letter to resume this preliminary meeting. And this will also set out a revised draft timetable.

00:03:10:10 - 00:03:36:18

This will give all parties the required minimum 21 days notice of the resumed preliminary meeting. And in practice, this means that the start of the examination will be delayed by at least one month. We will aim to ensure that it's not delayed by more than two months. And we say this recognising the importance of balancing the resource issues identified with conducting a timely examination.

00:03:41:04 - 00:03:57:03

So as the examination will not commence today, the open floor hearing will not take place this afternoon. And we do apologize for any inconvenience this will cause to you. But just you understand why we've taken this procedural decision today.

00:04:00:14 - 00:04:08:22

So I'll pause there to ask whether there are any comments or questions from participants either in the room or virtually.

00:04:13:02 - 00:04:13:17

So.

00:04:15:17 - 00:04:17:01

Sorry. Thank you. Yes.

00:04:19:01 - 00:04:46:12

Thank you, madam. This is greatly appreciated on our behalf. In terms of the open floor hearing this afternoon. We'll explain to our, um, the interested parties. I'm sure they will understand. And so I'd be more than happy to delay. And so they can gather their own minds together about the other projects and allow that allow those to continue and then revisit this when the time comes. But thank you.

00:04:47:03 - 00:04:50:17

Thank you. Your comments or observations?

00:04:52:17 - 00:05:11:01

Chairman, Westland District Council. Just a thank you for considering all of the points raised. It's very much appreciated and obviously will help significantly in relation to the number of cumulative projects that that we have to consider. So we're very grateful for that and I'm sure that will help enormously in due course. All right.

00:05:11:03 - 00:05:14:01

Thank you for that. Yes. Mr. McBride.

00:05:15:09 - 00:05:20:28

Can the council. Yeah, I'll just echo those comments and that's very appreciated to taking that.

00:05:21:03 - 00:05:21:18

Thank you.

00:05:24:13 - 00:05:31:20

This perfect project, the applicant will see the applicants disappointed that there will be further delay to the commencement.

00:05:31:22 - 00:05:32:07

Of the.

00:05:32:09 - 00:06:08:12

Examination of this particular project, which, as you noted earlier in today's meeting, has already been delayed longer than is typical for these types of projects, in addition to cotton being also delayed. We appreciate that. You've obviously already made the procedural decision, but I guess we would just flag that. We have highlighted the need for collaboration on these timetables many times with the Planning Inspectorate. And one point we would raise is perhaps the need for a full month delay, obviously for the starting.

00:06:08:14 - 00:06:10:01

So did you say a four months delay then.

00:06:10:03 - 00:06:53:07

At one month delay? Sorry to resuming the preliminary meeting. Um, appreciate obviously you need to to notify of that and I wonder whether we can work with the with the case team to trying to identify a date for that resumed preliminary meeting as soon as possible so that we can make best use of of the time available and whether that needs to be done in person or whether that preliminary meeting could be resumed virtually in light of venue availability and so forth, if it is really to resume to inform us of the decisions that have been made on the timetable.

00:06:53:09 - 00:06:57:24

Yes, I'm not sure whether there's necessarily a need for that to be in person. Okay.

00:06:58:00 - 00:07:27:13

We'll take that into as we've already discussed, there are challenges with with venues or challenges with working with the timetables of other events. So we will we will certainly look at the most practical way forward so that the examination and that can commence resume and within 1 to 2 months at the time frame, that we're quite clear that we need to we need to manage this process within. So thank you for that. Yes.

00:07:27:25 - 00:07:41:21

And Gilbert. I'll go stone by Stone Parish Council. I'd just like to echo the sentiments that have already been said and say thank you. Um. It is appreciated.

00:07:42:20 - 00:07:43:05

Thank you.

00:07:46:00 - 00:07:47:16

Any other comments?

00:07:53:03 - 00:08:09:01

Okay, so all that remains is me. For me to say thank you for all of your your contributions and and your assistance during this meeting and to wish you all very best until we we meet again and this preliminary meeting is adjourned. Thank you.