Application Number: F/YR14/0325/F Minor Parish/Ward: Parson Drove/Wisbech St Mary Date Received: 16 April 2014 Expiry Date: 11 June 2014 Applicant: Mr M A Goat Agent: Mr D Broker, David Broker Design Services

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural storage building, 4no polytunnels and formation of hardstanding Location: Land south of Oaklands, Willock Lane, Wisbech St Mary

Site Area/Density: 0.11ha

Reason before Committee: This application is before committee given that an elected Member is acting as agent for the scheme. Should this not have been the case it would have been determined under delegated powers by Officers.

1. **HISTORY** No planning history

2. PLANNING POLICIES

2.1 National Planning Policy Framework:

Paragraph 2: Planning law requires that application for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan.

Paragraph 14: Presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Paragraph 28: Support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas.

2.2 Fenland Local Plan 2014:

LP1: A Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development LP16: Delivering and Protecting High Quality Environments

3. CONSULTATIONS

3.1 Parish/Town Council: Cor

Comments awaited

3.2 **North Level Internal Drainage Board:** No objections in principle, formal Land Drainage Consent will be required to alter the existing access culvert onto Willock Lane. Concerned that the combined run off from the polytunnels in addition to the new agricultural storage building and hardstanding will not be best served by soakaways and that problems will be experienced with surface water disposal during any heavy rainfall events.

- 3.3 CCC Highways: Comments awaited
- 3.4 *Neighbours:* None received

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 The site is located on the western side of Willock Lane, approximately 120m from the junction with Gall's Drove. The site positioned towards the south eastern corner of a wider field and the current use of the land is agricultural. The site boundaries are open however there is a belt of landscaping within 20m of the southern boundary of the site.

5. PLANNING ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The key considerations for this application are:
 - Policy implications
 - Design, layout and amenities
 - Other matters

(a) Policy implications

The proposal is for an agricultural building, polytunnels and associated hardstanding located within a rural location and on agricultural land. In principle the development complies with the aspirations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in that it seeks to expand a rural enterprise.

The building will be used for storage purposes and the hardstanding will allow for the parking of vehicles. Permitted development rights for proposals such as this do exist however this scheme fails to satisfy the requirements of the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 1995 (GDPO) as the size of the holding falls below the 5ha specified in the GPDO.

(b) Design, layout and amenities

The proposal is of a typical scale, design and construction for its intended use. The storage building has a dual pitched roof which has a maximum height of 5.6m and it will be finished in profiled sheeting. The polytunnels will have a maximum height of 2.1m. The structures will be positioned in close proximity to each other thereby reducing the spread of built form within the open countryside. The proposal will be prominent within its setting due to the open nature of the surroundings. However the impact of the development is not considered to be harmful to the character and appearance of the area as it is of a scale which is commensurate with the land and it is of an appearance which would typically be associated with the rural location.

There are some sporadic residential dwellings within the locality however their distance from the site, over 80m, is such that the impact of the proposal on the residential amenities associated with these dwellings is considered to be negligible.

(c) Other matters

Comments have been received from the North Level Internal Drainage Board (NLIDB) which raise no objections to the proposal however note that consent will be required to alter the existing access culvert. This consent would need to be sought by the applicant from the (NLIDB). Their comments with regard to soakaways have been noted and these have been passed to the applicant to address.

CCC Highways have been consulted and their comments with regard to access, parking and turning are awaited.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The proposal is considered to comply with policies of the Development Plan and it is therefore recommended that planning permission is granted.

7. RECOMMENDATION

Grant

1. The development permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

Reason

To ensure compliance with Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.





