

r EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST STOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2013

PRESENT Cllr Rebecca Cady, Chairman,
Cllr Tib Axon
Cllr Neill Child
Cllr Christine Evans
Cllr Barry Quinn (District Councillor)

APOLOGIES Cllr Adrian Naylor
PCSO Stuart Hann

IN ATTENDANCE Hugo House (Good Energy)
PCSO Jake Williams
County Cllr Lovell
4 Members of the Public
Julie Wright (Parish Clerk)

1. Presentation from Good Energy's Hugo House

- a) Mr House gave out some handouts of his presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.
- b) The Good Energy Company was set up by Juliet Davenport 15 years ago due to concern over climate change. The climate change problem is principally an energy problem and to solve this was to provide clean sources of energy. They are the only UK energy company that sources its power from renewables. Three years out of the last four been they have been voted top in the Which Customer Satisfaction survey.
- c) The presentation was about the proposed project at Woolbridge for a solar farm.
- d) Today 60% of energy used is imported. The solar farm would contribute 0.5% to Dorset's renewable energy target of 15% by 2020. The current solar farm at Crossways contributes to the target.
- e) The solar farm would be built on 25 acres of agricultural land south of Monkey World this is well screened so would have a low visual impact on residential property and the land is not in the AONB or green belt. The solar farm would cover 10 acres, there would be avenues so there would be no shading from one panel to the next. The panels would be raised 800mm from the ground. The land would be dual use and used for sheep grazing too. Dorset is one of the best solar resources in the country.
- f) The planning application would be submitted in March. Included with the application is the landscape and visual impact assessment, an archaeological survey, an ecological survey and flood risk, although there doesn't appear to be one. The application will use three fields. Woodman's Cross is the most significant point from where the farm could be seen. Photos were shown from this view point in the winter. If the application is successful construction would start in September.
- g) There will be a public meeting on 28th February at the D'Urberville Hall, Wool. Mr House will email the Clerk a poster for the notice boards this will be distributed to all those on the emergency email list.
- h) There would be an increase in traffic movements for the ten weeks during the build due to the construction traffic of two lorries per day and the workforce. The Parish Council informed Mr House that several accidents have happened on this road. It was suggested that the speed limit could be reduced during the time that the solar farm is being constructed. Temporary signage could be used too.

- i) The energy and the time required to offset that used in manufacture of the panels would be two years. The panels have a life of 40 years and the planning application is for 25 years. Depending on the technology in 25 years time another application may be submitted to extend the life of the farm.
- j) The electricity generated would be transferred to the Bovington sub-station – this can take the 5 megawatts capacity produced. This would power 1,100 homes. All the cables from the solar farm to the sub-station would go underground.
- k) To be efficient these panels should tilt to follow the sun but these are fixed. The machinery to this and the moving parts would mean there would be no animal grazing.
- l) There is concern over the reflection of the sun from the solar panels. The aviation authority is a statutory consultee on planning applications of this type.
- m) The perimeter fence would be green and not above the current hedge height of eight feet.
- n) A community fund of £5,000 per annum would be available and this would rise with inflation. Who can apply? A presentation was made to Wool Parish Council on Monday. A meeting is required to consider how the community fund would operate. It would require representatives from various groups for the steering group who would consider how the money is spent from the applications received.
- o) Pre-application advice was given that there is no requirement to do an environmental impact assessment.
- p) Virtually nothing will be seen from outside the site.
- q) Good Energy has an outdoor learning programme for school education.

The Chairman thanked Mr House for his presentation.

2 Public Participation Time

- a) Mrs Topp had contacted Danny Allen at Highways about Bindon Lane they know the culvert is broken but Highways don't have the resources. Mrs Topp also had the same response from PDC about an enquiry about someone's planning permission, however it appears that highways have the resources to tarmac the Sturminster Newton - Blandford Trailway. The meeting was informed that this money has come from funding and not highways.
- b) Mrs Topp had been to check the reported footpath blocked by overgrown vegetation at Rushton and it is clear. However this footpath is very wet.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Naylor. These apologies were not accepted as no reason was given.

4 Grant of Dispensations and Declarations of Interest

a) Grant of Dispensations

No applications had been received.

b) Declarations of interest

None.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 10th January 2013

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10th January were approved as a true account of the meeting and were duly signed.

6 Matters arising from the minutes

- a) 185/6 A litter bin is in position at Woolbridge.

7 Register of Members Interest form

A completed form has not been received from Cllr Naylor.

Action: Cllr Quinn will find out from Mr Fairbairn, PDC Solicitor, what happens if a councillor does not complete a Register of interest form.

8 Planning Applications

- a) **6/2013/0045** - Holme Lane (Luckford Cottage), East Stoke, BH20 6AP. Demolish existing hay and barn shelter and erect new stable block & menage arena.

No objections. A comment would be made about point 15 on the application form as there are trees and hedges on the site based on the photos on the PDC website.

- b) **Appeal Reference: APP/B1225/A/12/21890626/2011/010** - Bindon Lane (Woodlands Lodge), East Stoke, BH20 6AS. Change of use of shower block to form one self contained holiday letting unit. Carry out external alterations and insert additional windows. **Noted.**

9 Update on Previous Planning Applications and/or Enforcement

- a) **E/2011/0001- signs at Freshwater Biological Association.** No further action to be taken. Signs comply with advertising consent

10 Reports from County and District Councillors

- a) County Cllr Lovell

- i) The flooding conference may not happen but Cllr Lovell is pressing for one. Where ditches are flooding County is writing to landowners to clear them.
- ii) There has been a seminar on the budget. There will be nearly a total of £90 million cuts - this will be half of County's original budget. There is also no increase for inflation.

- b) District Cllr Quinn

- i) Following the site meeting on flooding meeting Cllr Quinn had sent out a report. Cllr Quinn is chasing up the actions in the report. Network Rail was to clear the ditch and culvert by the Holmebridge crossing and at Rushton.
- ii) Training session on flooding for councillors.
- iii) Flooding issues across the district. The emergency planning officer was to contact all the district wards for any incidents of flooding. There have not been many responses.
- iv) There was an exercise with the fire and rescue service. Briefing at Dorchester and a live demonstration at West Moors.
- v) The District Council's emergency plan is available online.
- vi) PDC are producing a new matrix for who is responsible for what.
- vii) Binnegar Environmental Park Liaison Committee. Jonathon Halewood has left SITA. Cllr Lovell is the Chairman and Cllr Quinn the Vice-Chairman. The information about the first meeting of the committee should take place in the next few days.
- viii) The budget is in balance for the coming year. Not sure of the settlement in 2015. There is a £320,000 shortfall and this will be dealt with through the council tax.

11 Police Update from PCSO Williams

- a) Brief outline of crime in this area since 15th December there have been nineteen crimes. The thirteen crimes these were thefts from outbuildings/sheds – four, one report of criminal damage. There was commercial theft too which were reported three crimes.

Theft of red diesel – important to keep this secure. Two attempted thefts from motor vehicles. Theft of motor vehicle. There was a fatal accident on B3070 near West Holme Farmhouse.

- b) As far as county and national crime goes this area is low.
- c) It is important to report suspicious vehicles. This helps the police with their intelligence.
- d) Working in partnership with a charity and vulnerable people can get home security for free (window/door locks). A request for an article for the newsletter on this.
- e) Home security – keep windows and doors locked.
- f) Accident on A352. This was caused by ice on the road. The drain cover as you go up the hill is seeping water across the road.

Action: County Cllr Lovell will speak to Highways about this.

- g) It was reported that large vehicles were trying to use Binnegar Lane and this has a 7.5T limit. Some who see the sign have stopped on the A352. Cllr Quinn had spoken to SITA about this and it turns out that the hauliers were using the wrong postcode. If the registration number/company name or telephone number can be obtained of these vehicles then the PCSOs will give a call to the company to let them know that the route that they are trying to use is not suitable for large vehicles. This will be passed onto response.

12 Flooding in the Parish

See minute 186/10 b) i)

13 River Frome Issues

Thanks to Cllr Quinn for all his help on arranging the flooding site meeting.

14 Footpaths/ Bridleways

Nothing further to report.

15 Highways Issues

- a) Dorset Highways Capital Maintenance Programme for financial Year 2013/14.
A352 will be resurfaced from Stokeford.
- b) Highways have been clearing the grips along the A352.
- c) There is still flooding on the bend at Wood Street.
- d) There should be improvements at the A352/B3070 junction.
- e) Following the District and County Highways liaison meeting. Highways have prioritised the list. Following the site meeting with highways a request was made for someone to look at the footpath extension to Binnegar Hall. Need an estimated cost so that a bid can be put in for the Paths for Communities funding.
- f) There are two grounding signs on the A352 opposite Church Lane.
- g) There were no further issues to report.

16 Individual area of responsibilities of Flood Warden, Rights of Way Officer and for the person maintaining the War Memorial Planter

Terms of Reference have been written by Cllr Quinn and circulated prior to the meeting. Thanks were expressed for these. At the Annual Parish Meeting the post holders will be asked if they want to continue with their roles.

Action: The Clerk will circulate these for comment to the Flood Warden, Rights of Way Officer and for the person maintaining the War Memorial Planter.

17 Housing Needs Survey.

The Officer's report should be produced soon.

18 Parish Land

Copies of the certified Deed of inclosure document had been purchased. The cost was £21. This means that the land registry application can be progressed. The land will not be leased until the registration has been completed. The fee for registration will be about £50.00.

19 Local Government Boundary Commission for England Purbeck Further electoral review

The Statutory Instrument debate took place on 14th January. Richard Drax presented and argued the case very well and the LGBCE position was defended by Gary Streeter MP for SW Devon who sits on the Speaker's committee. Annette Brooke turned up for the latter part of the debate (having been chairing another SI Committee) and spoke on behalf of Morden Parish in objecting to that parish being put into Wareham St Martin Ward. Wayne David MP for Caerphilly also made a good speech from the opposition benches expressing concern as a former local Cllr that local views were not being fully taken into account. There was no vote and the changes became law on 15th January 2013 and will be implemented in 2015.

20 Consultations or items for consideration

a) **Dorset County Council** is holding a Bus Service Consultation to review its spending to support the bus services. Invitation to stakeholder workshop 10am – 12noon, Dorchester, 13th February.

b) **DCC statement of Community Involvement on planning applications**
No comments.

c) **Dorset Heathland Joint Development Plan Document (DPD) - Preferred Options.**
Closing Date 28th March.
Action: Cllr Cady will report on this document at the next meeting.

d) **Community Governance Review closing date 30th April 2013.**
Cllr Quinn has attended a briefing and District Cllrs have been advised that they should not be involved in this as they will be making a decision on it.
Anomalies are the houses at the end of Highwood, Copseside in Bindon Lane and the farm cottage at Wood Street. A consideration to take into account would be the precept in the parish that these houses are in already. Under this review Bovington may decide that it wants to be a parish on its own.
A slip will be attached to the newsletter for these properties to see if they would like to be included in the East Stoke parish.
Action: The Clerk will attend the briefing on 15th February.

e) Purbeck District Council Consultations Closing Date 14th February

- i. Housing Strategy
- ii. Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document
Cllr Child stated that the PDC document is a good approach to affordable housing in Purbeck. There may be a couple of schemes for affordable housing in East Stoke. Approximately half of the houses at Middlefield are owned by the housing associations.
- iii. Updated Planning Application Validation List
- iv. Revised Statement of Community Involvement

- f) **Dorset County Council Statement of Community Involvement on County Council Planning Matters.** Closing Date 1st March.

21 Correspondence Received.

- a) Dorset Best Kept Village 2013.
- b) Invitation to a Youth Themed Community Lunch in Purbeck to be held on Wednesday 13th February 2013, 9.30am at Lytchett Minster Rugby Club.
- c) Came and Company winter warning newsletter. Members Advice area on website for councils.
- d) Details of the Dorset County Community Fund – passed on to the Village Hall Committee.
- e) Navitus Bay Wind Park and the changes being made to the proposed wind park. Public Exhibition – poster on notice board
- f) Extraordinary Chief Executive's Circular – Royal Garden Party Nominations of Parish/Town Council Chairman.
Cllr Cady and her partner were nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party.
- g) Temporary closure of Wool Level Crossing.
It will come into operation at 00.01hrs to 10.00hrs on Sunday 10th February 2013 a period of 9 hours and 59 minutes.
- h) Review of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan – invitation to attend an event on 5th March at 5.30pm -8.30pm at Athelhampton House
- i) Purbeck District Council Emergency Plan – available to view online at Dorset for You.
- j) Invitation to the official launch of their democracy handbook called "Today's Youths - Tomorrows Leaders" which is being held at Kingston Maurward House in Dorchester on Friday the 22nd March from 11am to 2.30pm. RSVP by 1st March.
- k) Email from Mr M Barnes regarding overgrown trees/hedges. This email was **noted**.
- l) Briefing Note regarding changes to bus services from 24th March 2013.

22 Finance

a) Receipts

The following was **noted**:

Burial fee for Mrs A Axon	£196.00
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b) Payments

Payee	Amount	Cheque Number
Mrs J Wright (Dec/Jan salary)	£333.11	000374

It was **resolved** that the above payment schedule was paid.

c) Third quarter Bank Reconciliation

The third quarter Bank Reconciliation, Cashbook and bank statements were circulated prior to this meeting. The Receipts and Payments cashbook balance agreed with the reconciled bank statements. The cashbook balance at 30th December 2012 was £16,980.83.

d) Donation request from British Red Cross

This request was noted and will be considered at the next meeting.

e) Risk Assessment year ending 31st March 2013

The risk assessment document was circulated prior to the meeting.

Assets – A query was raised about the grit bins. These are on the asset register and insured.

The risk assessment document was approved and signed by the Chairman.

f) **Bank Signatories**

Cllr Barnes has been removed as a bank signatory.

23 Training Courses

- a) **DAPTC - Legislation Update** , 26th February, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Kingston Maurward, £35

24 Items for information or next agenda

- a) Newsletter items – Police article, Annual Parish Meeting, list of councillors, Historical Society, Community Governance Review.

Action: The Clerk will ask Ros Ham if the Village Hall will have a page of A4 news to go on the back of this newsletter.

25 Speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on the 9th May. Richard Drax MP will be invited to attend.
Mr Brown from the Purbeck Shooting School will be invited too.

26 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on Thursday 14th March 2013 at 7pm.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.43pm.

h)
Chairman:..... Date:.....