

SHEBBEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday October 14th 2014 in the Church Room. Shebbear.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor E Haste.

Councillors: Vice Chairman J Dungate. M A Wells. R Clark. P Mingham. J Stupple. J Curtis. K Dymond.

(From 8-45 pm) County Councillor B Parsons. District Councillor D Hurley.

Approx 45 members of the public. Clerk. D Walker.

AGENDA. 2014. Commenced at 7-30 pm.

Chairman E Haste opened the Meeting, and welcomed all present.

120. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor R Gliddon (Away). PCSO M Baker (Off duty).

Before the next agenda item, with Chairman's approval, **Councillor Dymond** stated that she wished to declare a prejudicial interest in Item 129(a) Planning, and, as the public speakers were to speak on the same topic, she would leave the room during the Public Participation Period.

121. Public Participation Period. (Councillor Dymond left the room).

Richard Tiner, who was listed to speak, sent apologies, as a family bereavement had caused him to be away at the last minute.

(1) Anita Maidment. Subject- Planning application 0947/2014. Wind turbine at Battledown Farm. Shebbear. Government has already stated that there are enough wind turbines to meet stated needs, the targets have been met. The consultation period has not been carried out properly and has given residents no time to object, meaning that the application should be void. The noise assessments are inadequate, especially given the close proximity to the village. There will be a serious visual impact particularly as it will increase the cumulative effect with turbines already approved. Strongly object to proposal.

(2) Deb Simpson. Subject- Planning application 0947/2014. Wind turbine at Battledown Farm. Shebbear. Speaking on behalf of all those who are unable to represent themselves, the old, and the children. This turbine will be in the centre of the community and is bound to affect the vulnerable elderly and the young. Health problems are already proven to be caused by turbines and there many people within a 1 mile radius of the site. There will be a great visual detriment and hazard to wildlife. No more new turbines are needed, targets have already been met. Tonight for instance, no turbines are turning due to lack of wind. Urge Councillors to oppose the application.

Chairman thanked both speakers for their contributions.

122. Declarations of any Councillors Interests in Items on the Agenda.

(a) Discloseable pecuniary interests (Prejudicial).

As noted earlier, **Councillor Dymond** declared a prejudicial interest in Item 129(a) Planning, as her family firm is involved with the planning application.

(b) Registerable interests. None received.

(c) Any variations to Members Registration of Interests. None received.

123. Draft Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday September 9th 2014, having been previously circulated, to be approved and signed.

All in favour, that the September 9th Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

Draft Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday September 30th, to be approved and signed.

All in favour, that the September 30th Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Dymond returned to the room.

124. Any matters arising from the Minutes. Clerks Report.

Clerk reported that the process of installing a defibrillator was proceeding. Mike Darby had been away during the Summer period and Bob Barnes has been liaising with SW Ambulance Trust instead.

No further progress has been made regarding the lease of land at New Inn for allotments. Superintendent Morgan of the Bideford Methodist Circuit informed Clerk that the Circuit were still all in favour of the project going ahead, but they were awaiting a response from Manchester Methodist HQ.

No recent update available regarding the flood warning monitor.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor. TDC had not received any nominations for the current vacancy following the resignation of Tony Carr. The Parish Council has now to co-opt a new Member and posters are on the notice boards advertising the vacancy.

125. To Agree any items to be dealt with in Part 2, closed session, of the Meeting.

None.

126. Any urgent Agenda business or correspondence brought forward with the approval of the Chairman.

Chairman proposed, with all in favour, that agenda item **129(a) New Planning Applications**, be brought forward, and Item **1/0947/2014/FUL**, an application for the erection of a 67m wind turbine with associated works at Battledown Farm, Shebbear, be dealt with at this point for the benefit of members of the public in attendance.

Councillor Dymond left the room.

Chairman began by reminding Members that, although the applicant's address is in Shebbear, the actual site for the proposed turbine is a short distance inside Buckland Filleigh parish.

Councillor Mingham spoke about the number of locally sited operational turbines and their output, which already exceeds our needs, without including solar panels. There cannot be a requirement for any more.

Councillor Wells agreed that we already have more than our share, as the map showing sites within a 10km radius indicates. The noise assessment procedures may be inaccurate as the test sites are unsuitable.

There is concern about several properties in close proximity as the measured distances are not consistent and are therefore unreliable.

Councillor Dungate pointed out that Shebbear Parish Council has a policy in place to object to any proposal that will have a significant negative impact on Shebbear parish. It is quite clear that the policy is valid on this occasion.

Councillor Clark said that the way the evidence in the application is presented is verging on being fraudulent. We say enough is enough, the Government say there is already enough onshore capacity to meet requirements, 15 gigawatts when only 13 gigawatts is required. Also, in relation to this application, the proposed turbine is stated as a 500kw device when in fact it is a downrated 900kw larger turbine. Why would they want to do that?

All agreed that a response be sent to TDC objecting to the application and recommending that it be refused.

8-08pm. Councillor Dymond reentered the Room. Most members of the public left the Meeting.

A further Planning item, received after the issue of the agenda, application **1/0756/2014/FUL**, proposed stable block at 11 Meadow Park, Shebbear - Permission Granted. Details, and conditions attached, received by Councillors.

127. Agenda items for Discussion and Resolution.

(1) *Agree policy for the retention and disposal of any recorded audio or video material.*

Councillors agreed that, as the legislation allowing recording of meetings is still relatively recent there are no indicators or guidance available yet, and that the matter be put on hold. In the meantime to monitor what impact the changes will make and the precautions that may be necessary.

(2) *Remedial work to fixed assets.*

Clerk reported that following the annual inspection of the fixed assets, the only problems noted were that the notice board at New Inn needed renewal and the lettering on the war memorial needs refreshing at some stage. Councillors agreed that Clerk obtain quotations for both matters for consideration at the November Meeting.

128. District Councillors Report.

David Hurley not yet present.

130. Finance.

(1) *Approval of items for payment.* Proposed by Councillor Curtis, seconded by Councillor Mingham, with all in favour, that agenda items 130(1) (a) to (e) inclusive be paid.

(2) *Administration expenses for the Devilstone Inn Action Group.* Councillor Dugate reported that the campaign was progressing well with the Committees getting on with their various tasks. Help is needed with incremental expenses and Councillors were all in favour that the sum of £150 be set aside for this purpose and that a recently received invoice from Shebbear Village Hall (£24.50) for two DSIAG meetings, be paid from the set aside amount.

(3) *TAP Fund.* Councillors received letter from Holsworthy Town Council stating that the total raised from the 10 parishes, including Shebbear, that have so far pledged their TAP Fund allocations towards the Hospice Long House project at Holsworthy Hospital has reached £4,349-00.

Bank Balances to September 30th 2014.

Current a/c £8,343.61 Reserve a/c £14,043.68 - Received by the Councillors.

131. Correspondence.

(1) *PCSO Baker - September crime statistics for Shebbear.* 2 Crimes reported (1 improper use of communication/ 1 Burglary). Received by Councillors.

(2) *TDC Electoral Services.* Proceed to fill vacancy by Co-option. Received by Councillors.

Councillors Circulation

Rural Community Energy Fund. Devon Senior Voice mag. Healthwatch mag.

8-45pm. County Councillor Barry Parsons and District Councillor David Hurley entered the room with apologies for late arrival due to their previous engagement having gone on for longer than expected.

District Councillors Report.

David Hurley reported that measures to "Transform Torridge" are going ahead with consultants engaged to identify ways to save £2 million by 2017. Three options have been put forward, all of which carry risks. At full Council Meeting on Oct 9th the decision was taken to adopt Option B.

The issue of voluntary redundancies has already been addressed during the ongoing Review of Services.

Two new Officers have been recruited on October 13th, both Strategic Managers. They will work between the Head of Paid Services (Jenny Wallace) and the rest of the Management Team and the Staff.

The background noise report re the Badworthy turbine application is now published on the Planning Portal. The figures are being analysed by a local resident. David will take the resulting analysis to Lewis Andrews (Planning Officer), and Mathew Millichope (Environment Officer), and request that the figures be taken into account before any final decision is taken regarding the application.

Regarding Torrington Community Hospital, TDC is writing to the Clinical Commissioner Group and Torrington Community Cares Oversight Group to state that they are unhappy with the present situation. The publicity that all is well is thought not to be the case.

Chairman thanked David for his attendance and report.

County Councillors Report.

Barry Parsons spoke about the Community Care Group and concerns about matters relating to Holsworthy Hospital, particularly funding.

Devon County Council Leader John Hart has been off sick recently and has returned after 2 weeks away in resolute mood to tackle the problem of massive savings to be made and the difficulty of meeting obligations. There is less than half of the money needed to carry out essential maintenance on the huge road network in the County particularly the rural roads of which there are many. Things are going to get harder before they get better.

Chairman thanked Barry for attending and keeping us up to date.

132. Items for the next Council Meeting Agenda which will be held on Tuesday November 11th 2014 at 7-30 pm, and any other matters, for discussion only, at the Chairman's discretion.

There being no other Business Chairman closed the Meeting at 9-06pm.