

Minutes of a meeting of West Crewkerne Parish Council held at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall on Tuesday 8th January 2013.

Present:- Mrs J Borland (Chairman), Mr J Wyatt, Mr F Broom, Mr H Ploszek, Mrs S Swaffield, District Councillor Mrs S Osborne and Mrs A Ploszek, co-opted to take the Minutes. There were 35 members of the public.

Apologies:- Mr S Wetherall, and the Clerk Mr C D Payne

Absent:- Mrs K Turner

Public Open Forum:-

There were 40 members of the public present. First to speak, regarding the wind turbine planned at Highlands Dairy Farm was Brian Follett who is very concerned that as the turbine will be sited only 600 meters from his house it will have a visual impact on him and he will also suffer from noise levels. He already has some noise pollution from the generators at Highlands Farm and thinks it most likely that he will have increased levels should the turbine be built.

Mr. Roger Franklin was also worried about the visual impact stating that the turbine would be twice as high as Hardy's monument. He wanted to know what colour it would be painted and said that it would be a distraction to users of the B3165. He thought that solar panels would be a good alternative as the turbine is expensive.

Mrs. Jean Ellis agreed with the visual impact worries and that the carbon footprint of building the turbine, considering it would be manufactured in Holland, would be substantial. She said that Denmark and Scotland had serious doubts about the economics of land turbines and that as the life expectancy was approximately 10 years this did not seem to be a good enough reason for 50 dwellings and over 112 persons to have the inconvenience that this project would bring. She stated she was all for sustainable energy but could smaller, less intrusive installations be considered.

Mr John Griffith had two points. 1: If the structure was erected, there would be a 35% reduction in property values and 2: If installation only lasts 10 years what are the plans for decommission and are these two points considered when planning permission is being assessed.

Mrs Heather Griffith was concerned that the distance between turbines and houses was going to be lengthened from 1 kilometre to 1.4 miles.

Mr Ian Redding said that a book by Professor David McKay – which is available to be read on line – stated that permitted noise levels from wind farms have been breached.

Mr. Tim Belton said that at a height of 66 meters there were no positive reasons for the turbine to be built.

Mr. Andrew Hutchings was concerned about the beauty of the landscape being desecrated and if one is built there will almost certainly be more.

Mr. Don Yeomans wanted to know how the Parish Council came to its decisions re planning and the Chairman and District Councillor explained the criteria.

Mrs Mandy Doble was unclear as to be exact position of the turbine (a bollard in the field shows position) and although she had been informed the noise level would be about 31.01 decibels could someone please explain how loud that was.

Mr Bob Archibald said that although he likes renewable forms of energy he thinks that the proposed turbine is not right for this area. Also that if approved, this would be the thin end of the wedge.

District Councillor Mrs. Sue Osborne suggested that all who had objections to this proposal should put their objections in writing, by e-mail if possible, to the planning authority and then the matter would be discussed by Area West at an open meeting. All objectors would have three minutes to state their case and every one would be considered before a decision was made.

Declarations of Interest:-

Mrs S Swaffield – Planning – Highlands Dairy Farm Hewish– Erection of a 40 metre wind turbine
Mr J Wyatt– Planning – Highlands Dairy Farm Hewish– Erection of a 40 metre wind turbine

Approve the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2012, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising:-

The Neighbourhood planning meeting was attended by three councillors and all found it enlightening.

The Equestrian Centre at Purtington planning application has been withdrawn.

A site meeting about the flooding at Dunsham Lane has still to be arranged. There has been more serious flooding throughout Somerset and it will take some time for matters to be sorted out.

Traffic Speed Through Clapton:-

The latest speed check through Clapton has confirmed an average of 37 mph, a significant reduction, possibly caused by the two bungalows building site.

Planning Applications:-

A) 12/04648/FUL – Highlands Dairy Farm Hewish TA18 8QY– Erection of a 40 metre wind turbine, a temporary access track and extension to form permanent access. No Planning Objections

B) 12/04542/ADV – Land at junction of Liddon Hill and the A30, Mangle Cave Hill, West Crewkerne.-. The display of 2 No. non illuminated directional signs. No Planning Objections

C) 12/04439/S73 – Land at Watery Lane Clapton, Clapton Road, Crewkerne. – Application to vary condition 02 (approved plans and 03 (materials of 12/0248/FUL to change roof materials (GR 342092/107882). Application permitted with conditions.

D) 12/03934/FUL – Hillview Riding Stables, Cathole Bridge Road, Crewkerne.TA18 8PA. – Formation of stone surface track (Part retrospective). (GR 343407/108734 Application permitted with conditions.

E) 12/03885/FUL – Fuzzy Ground Land, Clapton Road, Crewkerne.TA18 8PW-. Replacement of mobile home with the erection of 1 No Gypsy Lodge (GR 343956/107675) Application permitted with conditions.

Highway Matters:-

Mr Craig Taylor commented that the resurfacing done last year on the B3165 was appalling and that not a deep enough layer of tar was put down resulting in the chippings not adhering properly. Therefore most of the chippings had been washed down into drains making flooding worse.

D.C. Sue Osborne said that she would report to the Chairman on anything she could ascertain about flooding difficulties.

The Chairman would arrange a site meeting as soon as possible.

Web Site Progress

Mr Ploszek explained the state of progress and asked for an expenditure of £30 per annum to cover the cost of a Domain name and hosting facility. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Broom. Motion carried.

Review of Standing Orders:-

In accordance with regulations the Standing Orders were reviewed and accepted. To be reviewed in 3 Years. They have been inserted in the new web site.

Reports from Councillors:-

There was nothing to report.

Finance:-

A) To pay any accounts due.
No accounts were payable.

B) To agree the draft 2013/2014 Precept.

The Chairman explained the new Government Legislation replacing existing Council Tax Benefits Scheme with a Local Council Tax Support Scheme, starting 1st April 2013, whereby Town & Parish councils increase their Precepts to cover a 10% government grant reduction or accept a deduction from their precept to cover this cost if the precept was not increased. The council agreed to maintain the Precept at £5000 pending a SSDC briefing on 24 January 2013, for a final decision at an emergency meeting on 28 January 2013.

Correspondence:-

Sgt. Ashley Jones of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary, had passed to us a copy of the Senior Siren for information.

An Emergency Meeting was arranged for Monday 28th January 2013 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00 pm to approve the 2013/14 Precept

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 12th March 2013 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.