**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Otterhampton Village Hall on Thursday

4th July 2013 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Mr P. Gripton (Chairman) Mr R. Best

Mr B. Leathwood Mr. M. Brown

Mr T. Jones Mrs E. Sidebotham

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Mr M. Caswell 9 Parishioners

Mr P. M. Shaw (Clerk) 10 Visitors from Cannington

Mr J. Dupre from Wind Direct 2 Visitors from Stockland Bristol

28/13 APOLOGIES

Mr. J. Marriott, Councillors Ms J. Pay, Mr J. Edney

29/13 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th June 2013 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

30/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared personal interests in Agenda Item 5 (i).

Dick Best declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 (ii).

Tim Jones declared a personal interest in Application 13/13/00016.

31/13 PLANNING MATTERS

Application Number:-

13/13/00016 Wind Turbine, Castle Hill Quarry, Cannington.

The Chairman introduced John Dupre, Agent for the Applicants who explained his belief in Wind Energy then referred to the survey work undertaken as included in the Application. The Chairman then invited comments from those present. Considerable researched responses were presented, all opposing the project for reasons including damage to birds, bats and other fauna, noise and visual impact, need in light of existing photovolteric supply. Concern was expressed relating to construction traffic and the impact on local roads.

The Chairman of the Parish Planning Group who had examined the application in detail set out their views in 12 headings. Members then gave their views, all of which were opposed.

Mr Dupre was questioned on several points and attempted to answer the criticism of the application.

The Chairman then called for proposals on responding to the application.

Mervyn Brown proposed that the Council objects on the Application on the following grounds:-

1. No wind speed trial so no proof of adequate wind speed
2. Effect on bird and bat life
3. Other sources of power available
4. Blight on local landscape
5. Noise impact of nearby properties
6. Overdevelopment of a countryside buffer zone
7. Inadequate financial benefit to affected properties.

The following additional grounds were added by the chairman:-

* Effect on Community plan, leisure and tourism, heritage sites, proven wind source.

The proposal was seconded by Tim Jones.

All members then voted unanimously to object.

*District Councillor Caswell had attended but took no part in the debate.*

*All Parishioners and Visitors bar four left.*

**Applications**

39/13/00002-5 no objections raised.

32/13 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Hinkley Point C Development and Hinkley Liaison

Mervyn Brown reported on the group meeting on 28th June (report on file).

The Chairman referred to our response to the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency in which we objected to any importation of nuclear waste to Hinkley. He had also visited EDF offices and is arranging a meeting with Site Manager Nigel Cann.

*Councillor Caswell left the meeting.*

*Two Parishioners re-joined the meeting.*

(ii) Steart Peninsular Project

Dick Best reported on the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy. A meeting has been arranged with the Environment Agency on July 23rd for residents and members, hoping to get explanations of some statements of concern.

It is hoped to get a protection survey of all properties.

33/13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Current Balances Current Account £409.46 Business Call £7011.90

Pension Fund £1602.40

1. Accounts for

Payment Peter Shaw £200 Monthly Salary

HM Revenue and Customs £150 PAYE

Purnells £136.86 Typing etc.

1. Annual Accounts The Account Books are to be tabled

The External Audit Return submitted.

VAT Reclaim – April 2013 - £991.68 received.

Rent for Old Barn £200 – 2 years – received.

34/13 WARD MEMBERS REPORTS

None.

35/13 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS/ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

(i) Children’s Playground Repairs

Gates need attention. ROSPA report awaited.

(ii) Village Gardening/Tree Work

A further copy of the Wild Flower License received for signing.

(iii) Defibrillator Location

Dick Best has identified a source for the cabinet and will examine Cannington before ordering.

(iv) Site for BMX

As last meeting.

(v) Grass Cutting Contract

Recent cut much more satisfactory.

(vi) Signs

It was recommended to delay installing the Track sign pending work by the EA. The new footpath was complimented on, but problems of horse riders and dog fouling need action.

The Wharf Road sign to be installed.

(vii) Footpath

As last meeting.

36/13 CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Requiring Council Decision**
2. 10 June Energy and Climate Change Committee – Tim Yeo MP *- Noted*
3. 17 June Elaine Oliver – Housing Needs Survey – *Proceed to next stage*
4. **To be Noted :** All other correspondence considered by the Chairman and Clerk.
5. **Received after Preparation of Agenda.**
6. **Outgoing List – Available**

37/13 REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. Hinkley Liaison

*See 32/13(i)*

1. Village Hall

Meeting held to elect officers, report awaited.

1. Steart Ward

*See 32/13(ii)*

1. OPRA

Meeting Wednesday 12th

38/13 MATTERS OF REPORT

1. Parish Cluster Group –*Report*
2. SALC -Meeting – *Date Awaited*
3. Misuse of Wharf Road. – *Clerk report. Letter sent to EDF.*
4. Members declaration of interests *– All agreed.*

39/13 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Bus Shelter Light
2. Grit Bin
3. Housing Needs Survey follow up.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 5th September 2013 at 7.30 pm

Signed………………………….. Chairman Date…………………………….