

Minutes of a meeting of the PC held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 8th October, 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Mrs N.A. Brooks (Chair), M. Walker (Vice-Chair), Mrs E. Mawle, M. Wilson and G. Soame. The clerk, Ken Brooks, was in attendance. Apologies were received from Nick Kelaher, Carl Rylett and Charles Mathew.

1. Non-specific declarations of interest relating to land in the Parish were made by M. Walker and Mrs E. Mawle.
2. The Minutes for the previous PC meeting held on 7th August were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign the same as being a true record of such proceedings. The Clerk was authorised to publish the Minutes on the website.
3. Five members of the public were present and raised issues with the PC, viz:-
4. Eleven members of the public were present and two then four representatives of the Low Carbon - Aurora Solar Farm proposed development. Low Carbon outlined the development and distributed a development brochure with a selection of current and projected images from selected viewpoints.

The statutory consultation ends on 24th October and Low Carbon hoped for a planning decision in December. The build programme once started would take about 18 months.

Concerns were expressed about any development enabling more development though Low Carbon emphasised that the solar farm wouldn't change the designation of the site as agricultural.

Low Carbon said they had already taken on board the concerns of the Parish to date as already notified to them and their plans had been modified to include more tree and hedge screening as shown on the plans they distributed at the meeting. However, the height of the panels and their reflexology were concerns with particular regard to the view from the south of the site. Low Carbon emphasised they were willing to listen to requests to soften the visual impact of the solar farm but it would be impossible to mitigate it fully.

Low Carbon offered to produce more image modelling from other viewpoints and the Chair said she would collate and advise. Whilst nothing should prevent anyone contacting WODC directly nonetheless the Chair also offered to collate any concerns to pass on to Low Carbon. It was agreed that a meeting would be organised for late October whereby Low Carbon would meet the PC and anyone interested to walk the site with particular regard to the views and mitigation and also to consider further the layout of the pathways through the site.

Concern was also expressed over traffic during the build programme and afterwards but Low carbon emphasised the essential temporary nature of the fixing. The panels would not be embedded in concrete but in effect would be staked. Once constructed there would be one movement a week or thereabouts as all the cabling would run to the A40. Low Carbon did concede that the batteries on site would make a noise but again emphasised that it wouldn't be unduly intrusive. Low Carbon said that concern about the Brize Norton flightpath wasn't an issue.

Low Carbon explained what they had done for other communities asking what we might want for the site or for our community? They said they would consider providing

solar panels for the village hall and even providing a cycle path through the site. It was agreed that the Chair would seek and collate the views of the Parish with a view to seeing what might be agreed.

Most members of the public departed but four remained.

The Chair raised a point of concern notified to her by M. Barrett concerning the development of Bantam Lodge with particular regard to the boundary and fencing at the front. The Chair said she was aware that a complaint had been made to WODC and that WODC was investigating. She had contacted WODC herself and took the view that we should let matters take their proper course. WODC being a higher authority than the PC, she didn't think there was anything the PC should do at this stage though she was quite prepared to chase WODC if nothing had been done by the next meeting. K. Lazarov invited the Chair to read out the complaint made to the PC. The Chair declined to do so saying all the councillors had had a copy and that she had personally met with both parties. Her view was that matters were now in the hands of the proper authorities and we should wait. In the meantime the PC would monitor the situation. The other members of PC concurred.

5. No District or County Councillors were present.

6. It was agreed there were no matters arising from the Minutes that would not be covered elsewhere in the Meeting.

7. Constitutional

a. The Clerk's Training Day has yet to be fixed. The Chair has this in hand.

b. The Schematic proposed by the Clerk was unanimously agreed. The Clerk will finalise with a view to publishing this on the village website.

8. Financial Report

The Clerk had previously distributed Forecast Accounts and advised that the half year Village Hall loan repayment had been made in between meetings (we had been chased by WODC)

The Clerk advised that authority was required for cheques as follows:

John Ashwell £120 being a refund of the last Newsletter invoice which he had paid personally.

Moore (previously Moore Stephens) £240 being the final audit cost for last year cost.

The PC approved these cheques.

The Chair referred to an email request from the PCC for a contribution to the grass cutting of the Churchyard and it was unanimously agreed to contribute £450. A cheque was signed for this amount which the Clerk confirmed was already in the Forecast Accounts.

9. Facilities

a. Village Hall. The Clerk confirmed he had the new Insurance certificate which he put up on the Hall noticeboard after the meeting. The Chair mentioned the works now planned by the VHC at the front of the site and in particular the issue of piping the ditch saying these matters were in the hands of Richard Law and the VHC.

b. Village Green. The Chair reported on the inaugural meeting of the Village Green sub-committee and Dick Pears being present said he was investigating the cost of a disclaimer sign to be placed on the green.

c. Playground. Martin Wilson said the Playgrounds inspection had raised some minor matters but nothing serious. He would pass a copy of the Report to the Clerk as a matter of record. The Chair said there was a maintenance day planned for 13th October and invited anyone that could to attend and help.

d. Football Pitch. Martin Wilson advised that he had heard nothing and would chase Savills.

- e. Telephone Box. Graham Soame advised that the Pub was seriously interested. Mark Walker said that he had a suitable box. It was agreed that Graham Soame would report back on progress at the next meeting.
- f. Bus Shelter. Mark Walker had been absent at the last meeting when the issue of the Shores Green Bus shelter was raised by Anne Peake. She repeated her concerns that the present shelter wasn't fit for purpose. It offered little protection from the weather and no protection from a vehicle.. It was also ugly. Just an eyesore. Mark Walker explained the origin of the shelter. It had been free. He also outlined the cost of making it more robust though Anne Peake felt that just adding panelling wasn't enough to address the issues she had raised. Graham Soame expressed concern over limited funds available to the PC though Anne Peake said she would consider making a contribution herself. Martin Wilson wondered whether this was all potentially irrelevant given the intended Shores Green development. The Chair concluded by accepting Graham Soame's offer to investigate the relative cost of repair and replacement and to report back to the next meeting. Eileen Mawle wondered whether a new shelter might now be something we should ask of Low Carbon by way of community benefit.

10. Planning matters

a. Applications

The Clerk reported on applications received since the last meeting being Tar Lakes Fisheries, Gravel extraction hopper and Cholsey Farm holiday units.

We had already noted the Aurora Solar Farm proposal in the presentation mentioned above.

The Chair reported on the designation of a site opposite the High Cogges turn for the possible use as an anaerobic digester. The Chair said how she had learnt of this by a convoluted route. When faced by general incredulity, Eileen Mawle said that that the PC wouldn't have been officially advised. The Chair said she would find out more. It had been agreed at the last meeting that Dick Pears would revisit the issue of a conservation area at the November meeting.

The Chair reported on the latest Garden Village consultation and generally on the county wide planning environment with points being taken on the A40, the Park and Ride, Shores Green and traffic flows through Bridge Street, Witney.

b. Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported on the proposed meeting between the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plan Alliance and the Growth Board which was pertinent given the current attitude of SODC and the knock-on effect on WODC and ourselves.

- 11. The Chair said there was nothing to report from our Footpath Officers.
- 12. The meeting having over-run, the Chair proposed that the remaining items be deferred to the next meeting when, in any event, we expect a further traffic report from Lysette Nichols. Mark Walker did observe that he wasn't getting far with the issue of a salt spreader and that probably we'd just have to buy one.

13. Parish events

- 14. The Chair reported on a very successful Macmillan Coffee morning at the pub on 5th September 2019.
- 15. The date for next meeting was fixed as 19th November 2019. The Clerk had passed on the VHC request that the PC change the day of the week going forward so as not to clash with other bookings. It was agreed that we would fix next years' prospective dates at the next meeting.

16. AOB

No further matters were raised.