



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 19th September, 2012 at 8.00 p.m. in
Bridgerule Village Hall**

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. K. James
Councillors: Cllrs. J. McDougall, C. Seymour-Smith, P. Haydon, J. Giles, J. Medland, G. Abbott, A. Johnston
and K. Davey

In Attendance: Parish Clerk (PC)
PCSO Bray
County Cllr. Barry Parsons
Members of the Public
S. Assiratti and G. Wardell representing Camborne Energy

800. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies

801. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

802. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MS. ASSIRATTI AND MR. WARDELL, ON BEHALF OF CAMBORNE ENERGY, REGARDING POSSIBLE PLANS FOR A SOLAR FARM AT LODGEWORTHY FARM.

Mr. Wardell explained the work that he and Ms. Assiratti undertake for Camborne Energy, a very small company, who has been asked to prepare a planning application regarding a solar farm to be located at Lodgeworthy Farm. He circulated details of frequently asked questions, with the answers, regarding solar farms. (**Attachment 1**).

He explained that the company looks at different locations for the site; south facing is ideal, best irrigation levels and closeness to a grid connection. A landscape surveyor will look at the site and produce a report; the land owner's requirements are taken into account and the local Planning Officer is asked what information he/she requires. Mr. Wardell explained that the purpose of this presentation is to enable the Council to ask any questions, and to open communications for future enquiries. He said that the application is likely to be submitted to TDC at the end of October.

Mr. Wardell confirmed that in terms of megawattage the minimum level is about 5 megawatts, which is not a very large solar farm; the maximum life of a solar farm is 25 years and then it is removed; that the location of the solar farm can still be used for grazing. He confirmed that a visual impact survey has not yet been undertaken, but will be undertaken between now and the end of October and that he is available should the Council or residents have any queries at all – he suggested any queries go via Cllr. James or the PC. He also confirmed that there is no legal requirement for an environmental impact assessment, but this will be undertaken and will be sent to the PC.

Cllr. James confirmed that the Council will look at any planning application received with an open mind. He thanked Mr. Wardell and Ms. Assiratti for attending and they left the Meeting, as did Members of the Public.

803. PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

No questions.

804. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Bray reported that there was nothing major to report on crime figures over the last three months. She went on to explain that Sgt. Channing is now 'looking after' Gt. Torrington as well as Holsworthy. This means that Holsworthy is now down to 5.5 Officers; PC's Brown and Moakes and 3 PCSOs (the .5 being Sgt. Channing); this could be reduced to 4.5 in the future. The PC confirmed that representation to the Chief Constable is being made by Holsworthy Town Council regarding the lack of an adequate

Police presence in the area. Cllr. Parsons confirmed that the cross-party Police Panel for Devon were concerned and representation at District Council level was also being undertaken.

PCSO Bray confirmed that children in Bridgerule, who have been causing some problems, have been spoken to and are being monitored. She confirmed that the Police are working closely with the school; the children have been warned about the dangers of playing near or in the river. She left the Meeting at 8.40 p.m.

805. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr. Parsons reported as follows:

- that lack of funding at DCC is a depressing subject – the Police levels being one example. He said it will be interesting to see what, when elected, the new Police Commissioner will do.
- Solar Farms – he said that Torridge has been targeted as an 'ideal' area for alternative energy, particularly wind turbines. There are 60 applications in the system in Torridge at the moment. He commented that wind energy is a very serious issue. Cllr. McDougall commented that it isn't helpful that planning applications are no longer put in the local papers. Cllr. Parsons said that this had been due to the cost involved, but that a review of this is being undertaken at the moment.
- The Broadband issue is progressing. He also mentioned the Highways' Surgeries that he is undertaking, with Highways' Officers, held at Holsworthy Town Council's offices. The PC will circulate details of these to Cllrs.
- He has money he can grant to local councils/organisations and asked the Council to let him know of any local projects that could benefit from applying to him for help. Councillors were asked to let the PC have any suggestions and she will liaise with Cllr. Parsons. She reminded Cllr. Parsons that he had indicated he would give a grant to the Bridgerule Council Playing Field Project and he confirmed that he would be granting £900 to this Project. The PC will liaise with him regarding the completion of the required application form.

Cllr. James asked Cllr. Parsons if he had an update on the Holsworthy Viaduct/cycle path. He did not, but said he would be talking further to Graham Cornish. Cllr. Seymour-Smith asked if there might be a S106 Agreement in relation to solar farms. Both Cllrs. James and Parsons thought it might be possible.

Cllr. Parsons left the Meeting.

806. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

It was noted that Cllr. Johnston's arrival at the Meeting should be altered to 8.50 p.m.

Cllr. James proposed the Minutes be approved. Cllr. Giles seconded the proposal which was carried. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

807. MATTERS ARISING

Item 777 – Potholes – The PC asked Cllr. James if the pothole in question had been repaired. It had not. The PC will chase up.

Item 786 – Village Shop/Post Office – Cllr. James reported that he had undertaken conversations with Mr. & Mrs. Pearcey and e-mails with Mr. Marsh who had confirmed discussions are on-going to try and come to a compromise. Mr. Marsh also indicated that he had received 2 other enquiries from local people interested in taking over the lease.

Item 790 – Seat at Vinnicombe Park – The PC confirmed that Cllr. Giles had provided her with details of seats and she will contact Mr. McCormack at TDC to find out if it can supply a seat and what the cost would be.

Item 792 – Planning – Council's observations re. Wind Turbine - The PC confirmed that she had e-mailed Mr. Webster regarding the observations sent to him on 16th September. She has not received a reply to date. Cllr. James said he would pursue this as well.

Item 795 – Dog Bins – The PC had contacted Carl Caswell, Animal Warden, who has visited the area Cllr. McDougall mentioned. Mr. Caswell has confirmed that he had put new signage up and stencilled dog warning on the path and will continue to monitor the area.

808. ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were presented for payment, with the two grants awarded added at the Meeting (see 808 below):

BRIDGERULE PARISH COUNCIL - INVOICES PAID IN SEPTEMBER 2012							
COUNCIL EXPENDITURE							
Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Net	VAT	Reason	
19.09.12	Short & Abbott Ltd.	487	£243.33	£202.78	£40.55	Maintenance to football/playing field equip.	
19.09.12	Audit Commission	488	£144.00	£120.00	£24.00	Annual Return fee 2011/12	
19.09.12	M. Fenner	489	£156.43	£156.43		Salary - September	
19.09.12	HM Revenue & Customs	490	£117.20	£117.20		PAYE	
21.09.12	St. Bridget's PCC	491	£500.00	£500.00		Grant	
21.09.12	Torrige,N.Devon,Mid Devon & Bude cAB	492	£100.00	£100.00		Grant	
	Total		£1,260.96	1196.41	£64.55		

Bank Accounts	Reserve Account			
<u>Current Account</u> Balance at 19th July <table style="margin-left: 200px;"> <tr><td>£4,168.10</td></tr> <tr><td>-----</td></tr> <tr><td>£4,168.10</td></tr> </table>	£4,168.10	-----	£4,168.10	5000.35
£4,168.10				

£4,168.10				
	2000 Transfer from Current Account			
	£0.50 Interest - June			
485 £156.43	7000.85 Available to Council as Reserves			
	£70 being residue of Parish Plan			
Balance at 19th August	£4,011.67			
<u>Paid into Current Account re. Bridgerule Playingfield Project</u>				
Pennon				
Group PLC	£250			
Viscount Amory's Charitable Trust				
Trust	£500.00			
Bridgerule Football Club (Cllr. James)	£750			
Viscountess Boyd Charitable Trust	£500			
<u>Transferred to Playing Field Project Account</u>	<u>£2,000</u>			

Cllr. James proposed the payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Giles and unanimously agreed. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

The PC reported that an amount of £500 had been received, donation to the Playing Field Project, from the Viscountess Boyd Charitable Trust. She had prepared a letter to request the transfer of this amount from the Council's Current Account (the cheque having been paid into this account) to the Bridgerule

Council Playing Field Project Account. Cllr. James proposed that, as Council signatories, he and Cllr. McDougall sign the letter. Cllr. Davey seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

809. TO DISCUSS GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, BRIDGERULE AND THE TORRIDGE, NORTH DEVON AND MID DEVON CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The PC informed the Meeting of requests from both St. Bridget's PCC and Mr. Ken Chilton (on behalf of the CAB) – items 7 and 8 of correspondence received. After discussion Cllr. James proposed that St. Bridget's PCC be granted £500 and that both the PCC and Mr. Barry Williams be thanked for the work they carry out. Cllr. Medland seconded the proposal which was carried unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

Cllr. James proposed that the Torridge, North and Mid Devon Citizens Advice Bureau be granted £100. This was seconded by Cllr. McDougall and agreed unanimously. (Vote 9 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions)

810. TO DISCUSS VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/2014

The PC had prepared, and circulated to Cllrs., a draft and alternative draft of the Budget for the year 2013/2014. She emphasised that neither draft is set in stone, and asked that Cllrs. go through the drafts and if any Cllr. feels a project should be added to let her know before the next Meeting of the Full Council.

She went through the drafts and after discussion she was asked to allocate £1K to the Parish Hall Maintenance, taking out the £500 allocated to the 'New Parish Hall Expenses' and to also change the amount of £500, for Playing Field/Football Pitch Maintenance, to £1K. The PC agreed to do this, and reiterated her request that Cllrs. go through the draft and let her know of anything they wish to be added for discussion at the next Meeting. She explained that the Budget would be presented to the Council at the October Meeting and, as legally required, brought to the November Meeting for formal ratification.

811. PLANNING

The PC brought to Cllrs'. attention the following:

Permission

1/0430/2012/FUL Erection of an agricultural building to cover existing cattle gathering/
Highlands feeding area
Bridgerule

812. HIGHWAYS

Cllr. McDougall reported that the signpost, on the Derril/Pyworthy Road is missing. The PC will report this. Cllr. James reported detached wing mirrors on the road near Newacott Cross, presumably from striking a telegraph pole. Cllr. James will forward the number of the pole to the PC for reporting.

813. PARISH HALL

Cllr. Seymour-Smith reported that he had attended a Meeting at Okehampton, where he had been informed that it was becoming more and more difficult to obtain grants. At a Meeting of the Hall Committee it was felt that the amount of work involved to expedite a new hall is beyond the scope of Members of the Committee. It was therefore decided to maintain and carry out work on the Hall, as it stands. The immediate work would be a new roof and external asbestos work. It was felt an article in The Buzz would be beneficial to keep residents updated. A general discussion then took place regarding the land, a possible sports hall, the location, etc.

814. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Received 15th August – 18th September 2012

1. C. Caswell Animal Warden – confirming visit re. complaint re. dog waste. (see sent item 2)
2. MCTi – minutes of May meeting.
3. TDC – Hls Area Advisory Group – Special Meeting Localism Act Monday 24th Sept. 7.00 p.m. Memorial Hall. Next meeting of Advisory Group 22 October 7.00 p.m. Memorial Hall
4. Audit Commission – Certified Annual Return 2011/2012 returned.
5. Devon & Cornwall Rough Sleepers Partnership – 0800 151 3441 – 24 hr. phone line
6. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (circulated to cllrs)
7. K. Chilton – request for grant for CAB
8. V. Harris – request for grant for S. Bridget's Church

9. Audit Commission – appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP as external auditor 2012/2013 & scale of fees
10. Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge/Fields in Trust (FIT) – protecting playing fields etc.
11. J. Chapman – FIT – reply re. possible grant re. playing field project
12. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (**circulated to cllrs**)
13. Torridge Area Local Community Partnerships & TAP Fund
14. DALC – newsletter Sept/Oct
15. P. Hunter Elections officer – enquiry from resident re. vacancy
16. P. Hunter – no election requested – to co-option
17. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (**circulated to cllrs**)
18. Clerks & Councils Direct – newsletter
19. B. Williams – confirmation of rates for grass cutting 2013/2014 (**in file**)
20. Coast Communications – update on Broadband project (**circulated to cllrs**)
21. A. Boyd DCC – details of workshops re. Localism etc. (Holsworthy 29 September Mem. Hall 10am – 1 p.m.)
22. Viscountess Boyd Charitable Trust - £500 donation to Playing field project.
23. Rural Services – weekly newsletter (**circulated to cllrs**)

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

Correspondence Sent – 15th August – 18th September 2012

1. R. Webster RDC – observations re. wind turbine Thorne Farm
2. C. Caswell Animal Warden TDC – complaint re. dog waste
3. B. Williams – request for budget info. re. grass cutting
4. K. Miles – completed register of interest forms
5. J. Chapman Fields in Trust – request re. possible grant re. playing field project
6. South West Water – report re. complaint from Cllr. McDougall/T. Martyn re. sewer cover Littlebridge Meadows open space
7. B. Williams – acknowledgement re. rates for grass cutting
8. Viscountess Boyd Charitable Trust – thank you for donation
9. R. Webster – requesting reply to letter sent re. observations re wind turbine (in e-mails)

The Highlighted items were brought to Councillors' attention.

815. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman had nothing to report.

816. CLERK'S REPORT

The PC reported as follows:

- An election was not called for and the PC has circulated posters regarding co-option. This item will be placed on the Agenda for the October Meeting.
- She had contacted SW Water regarding concerns from Cllr. McDougall that a cover was not fixed securely at the open space at Littlebridge Meadows. The Waste Water Network Team should be contacting Cllr. McDougall to arrange a meeting on site.
- She asked Cllr. James about the S106 money re. this open space. He believed that a S106 agreement did not apply to this development, and asked the PC to check the files.

817. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

Cllr. Medland asked if there was any progress re. the viaduct cycle path. Cllr. James said there was not. Cllr. Medland asked what the circulation of The Buzz was. Cllr. Seymour-Smith said approximately 350.

818. CLOSE

There being no further items of business the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the Meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Signature Date

