

WESTON BEGGARD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council,

Held at Yarkhill Village Hall

On Monday 15th July 2024

At 7:00pm

Present: Councillors: Keith Bayliss (Chairman), John Young, Clare Fenton and Keith Lawrence.

In attendance: Rosie Thomas – Parish Clerk
Jonathan Lester – Ward Councillor

Public: 2

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
None

2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items
All Councillors DECLARED an NPI against item 4.1 and SIGNED the Register of Interest book

3. Public Question Time

Comments were made about item 4.2. The Chair allowed further comments to be made from the public during item 4.2.

4. To consider the following planning application for determination by Herefordshire Council

4.1 241474 - Land at Friars Court, Weston Beggard, Herefordshire, HR1 4BL

Site for proposed 2 no. self-build live-work units and ancillary works

It was RESOLVED to support the application

4.2 241510 - Land at Stoke Edith, Hereford, Herefordshire

Proposed installation and operation of a renewable energy generation station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic, inverter/transformer units, control room, substations, onsite grid connection equipment, site access, access gates, internal access tracks, security measures and other ancillary infrastructure.

Members of the public raised their concerns about the application.

It was RESOLVED to object to this application for the following reasons:

- The application wrongly states that it is not on land within Weston Beggard Parish. It is.
- This application violates NDP point 7.42 – which does not support the delivery of large scale commercially led renewable energy projects due to the impact of these on the local environment.
- The application violates NDP point 7.45 – which states that in terms of the provision of solar, the community seek non ground mounted panels attached to existing or proposed buildings to reduce their impact on the local environment
- The application advises areas at risk of flooding should be avoided however the area is a flood plain.
- Concerns about the traffic generation for 12 months of construction, especially if construction is delayed due to annual flooding.
- Incomplete survey of parishioners was undertaken, those on Shucknall Hill with significant views of the site were not consulted.
- Applications comment that the glare will not affect the railway is void, as the railway has to complete this survey themselves, not the applicant.
- Contradictory points between allowing grazing on the land, and not allowing large mammals into the area.
- All points raised in the application seem to be out of context and more relevant to housing, not to solar developments.
- Application has a significant and detrimental impact on the visual amenity of large number of properties in the parish.
- The application does not clearly state how the panels will be removed after the period of time/ who will be responsible.
- The energy produced is fed into the national grid and does not have an immediate positive return to the parish.
- The photos in the application are misleading as they are taken from behind trees that will not have leaves in the winter and no photos were included from the top of the hill.
- The installation of cabling is not clearly illustrated as to whether this will be over or underground.
- This is not the "green" application it purports to be.

5. Finance

5.1 To consider the following invoices for payment:

5.1.1 – HALC CiLCA Training - £600.00

5.1.2 – CiLCA Qualification Fee - £450.00

5.1.3 – Detertech SmartWater - £567.36

5.1.4 – Clerk's expenses – previously circulated

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

5.2 To note payments made between meetings under clerk's delegated authority:

5.2.1 – Clerk's May and June salary

5.2.2 – Previous Clerk's final salary

5.2.3 – HMRC PAYE – £20.60

NOTED

6. To note the date of next meeting – 23rd September 2024

NOTED

The meeting closed at 19:54