

ENFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of 16th September 2015

Held in Enford Village Hall

Present:	Cllr Richard Roberts	Chairman
	Cllr Nigel Murray	Vice Chairman
	Cllr Patricia Holdway, Cllr Jane Young	Councillors
	Cllr Keron Taylor, Cllr Michael Fay	Councillors
	Cllr David Harbottle, Cllr Bruce Waight	Councillors
	Cllr Anthony D’Arcy-Irvine, Cllr Gareth Holden	Councillors
	Mrs Elizabeth Harrison	Clerk
	PCTim Bunt	Police Liaison
	WO2 Tony Broadbent	MOD Liaison
	Cllr Charles Howard	Wiltshire Council

Approximately 30 members of the public attended the meeting including Mr Terry Mundy (Coombe resident) Steve & Tanya Becker (Coombe residents), Graham & Carol Chandler (Coombe residents), Mr Alan Wood (Chairman, Fittleton Parish Council), Mr Marc Read (Community Engagement Manager, Tidworth Area Board)

Cllr Roberts gave a brief explanation of the evening’s Agenda due to the topic of the Solar Park planning application so all present would understand how the evening would progress. Those members of the public who wished to leave after the Solar Park discussion had taken place were free to do so.

The meeting was opened at 7.34pm by Cllr Roberts, Chairman

15/387 Apologies

- Received from Cllr Richard Petitt

15/388 Verification of the Minutes

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th July were proposed as a true record by Cllr Harbottle and seconded by Cllr Fay.

15/389 Declarations of Interest

- There were no declarations of interest.

15/390 Public Questions/ Matters Arising (i) Enford Solar Park Application 15/07235

- The original application was lodged with Wiltshire Council by British Solar Renewables (BSR) on 22nd July however it is still not correctly registered as there are some half dozen assessments to be completed. Enford Parish Council has set up a sub-committee to handle this matter which consists of Cllr Roberts, Cllr Murray, Cllr D’Arcy-Irvine and Mr Terry Mundy (resident of Coombe Lane whose property runs adjacent to the Solar Park site). They have regular Monday meetings and have so far attended other Parish Councils where similar matters have arisen. All the sub-committee members have been researching not just BSR’s application but also County Strategic targets, precedent etc and from this base they are focussing on relevant key issues such as the landscape, the heritage, listed buildings and history rather than the more mundane issues of access to the site and property values which a County Council Planning Committee would not see as relevant.

Terry Mundy said of the proposal and location, it is in the Avon Landscape area sandwiched between SSSIs and almost entirely surrounded by MOD property. The build period would take c19 weeks, there would be

the nuisance value (traffic problems), noise pollution and de-valuing of property. It is believed that there are Roman remains just below ground level and the Wiltshire Council had already reached its targets for renewable energy for 2020.

Alan Wood (Chairman, Fittleton Parish Council) told the 'assembly' of a situation in Fittleton where an application had been made for a chicken farm which was very much against the general public's wishes. They gained local support, raised a 'fighting fund' and employed experts to assist. The upshot was that the application was withdrawn. He felt Enford P.C. could look along the same lines under the current circumstances.

Graham Chandler (resident on Coombe Lane) raised major concerns about the traffic issues it would create. Cllr Murray explained that this is not high on the list of Planners' objections to a project. Carol Chandler (Graham's wife) raised two points – the continued presence of Army vehicles when they are not allowed in Coombe Lane and also the fact that on the website it states 25 years (the Lease from the land owner) is not a finite period to live with a solar park, the lease of the land can be extended.

It is known that Wiltshire Council is pre-disposed to approval of such projects with the Govt. looking more towards brownfield sites.

Cllr Charles Howard explained how the planning process works when approving a project and that there must be some serious reasons for it to be turned down. Cllr Taylor mentioned the site was surrounded by MOD land, there is also the fact that the site is close to an active airfield/runway (1 mile away) and the possible dangers from glare to pilots as well as to parachutists. She thinks there may be other Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who may need notifying. Cllr Howard said the Landscape and Visual Assessment would be done by Wiltshire Council, possibly as well as by BSR.

Tony Broadbent (MOD) said that in March a survey of the whole of the south was requested. Their concerns were with the loss of training area due to the re-basing of thousands of troops in the coming years who need more housing – not necessarily looking for sites for solar parks! Revie Farm (the application site) is private land, not Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO). If planning permission goes ahead, he would speak directly to the airfield. Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine is already dealing with Netheravon Airfield.

Cllr Murray asked if anyone had heard anything from the land owner – the answer was 'no'.

Alan Wood said that in all this discussion, we should make sure that Cllr Howard is not put in an awkward position as he is the Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee and has to remain neutral on all matters.

At this point Cllr Roberts closed the 'Public Questions' meeting allowing people to leave if they so wished.

Cllr Holden asked about the issue of 'glare' for the residents – the panels do reflect. He also asked about the grounds for rejection on other solar farms. If the site can be designated a Category 3a (good agriculturally) then this would be considered an acceptable reason to turn it down, it is currently listed as 3b. Cllr Taylor also mentioned the glare factor for the residents even with screening in place.

Cllr Taylor suggested we look at archaeological grounds for a rejection. Tony Broadbent said he could contact the MOD Archaeologist, Richard Osgood and Cllr Howard said Wiltshire Council also has Archaeologists who could come and inspect the site. Cllr Roberts asked how the application gets to committee (once the application is registered) and Cllr Howard explained the process. There is a 21 day consultation period where objections can be lodged and an extension period could be granted but we must first wait and see if the application is accepted or turned down. Cllr Taylor asked if the VTC cameras (on 5 metre poles in a flying zone) would contravene MOD training and safety regulations however these are only set on the inside of the site and record body heat rather than visual records. The connection point to the National Grid is on A345 by B crossing.

Cllr Roberts asked the Council whether they supported or opposed the application, there was a unanimous vote against it. He then asked if the Parish Council was happy with the four members of the sub-committee and again, there was unanimous support.

Alan Wood's mention of fund-raising for the cause was mentioned. Cllr Murray stated that a detailed, legal letter would cost between £1 and 2 thousand pounds. Cllr Howard reiterated that Wiltshire Council has its own archaeologists and suggested we do not spend money 'up front' but and see if the application is first accepted. Specialist letters do not carry much weight with Wiltshire Council.

Alan Wood said they had used an expert in Planning Law and agreed it was best to get one's ducks in a row beforehand and be prepared. He had managed to raise £5,000 in about 2 weeks. Of this they used about £3,000 for the cause with the remainder being voted to go into community beneficial projects rather than being returned. The Newsletter is due for publishing next week and Tanya Becker (editor) has offered to hold it as long as possible and give this issue some space. Cllr Holden proposed we create the fund regardless as the money could always be returned if necessary. The Parish Council has c£1,000 of unallocated funds at present. Monies raised could be paid into the PC's bank account and ring fenced, accurate records would obviously be kept as to each donation. The funds would not be 'needed' until late September /early October. It was suggested that not only Enford should be contacted but also Fittleton and Netheravon may wish to donate. The proposal was seconded by Cllr D'Arcy-Irvine and has the unanimous support of the Parish Council.

Cllr Roberts called for a short break to allow members of the public to leave if they wished.

15/391 Matters Arising

i. Enford Solar Park Application 15/07235

This was dealt with as above.

ii. Introduction from Marc Read

Marc Read is the new 'Community Engagement Manager' who has taken over the main role that Mary Cullen had previously held at the Tidworth Area Board. He is to be more out and about with various communities assisting with projects and finding funding for them. Cllr Taylor asked about PRow's and extra funding to help maintain them and also the Playpark area maintenance. He will look at ways he can help in this area and suggested she attend a specific meeting to be held in Netheravon in November. Cllr Harbottle asked where the information printed and distributed at the recent Transport meeting had come from as their Speedwatch info for Enford was completely incorrect. Marc said all these matters can be looked into and asked for everyone to get in touch with him when issues arise.

iii. Tidworth Area Board, Emergency Planning Workshop

Marc Read is organising a workshop which will advise on this, offering 'templates' and advice. Cllr Roberts asked who would be able to attend this on October 14th 5.30pm to 8.00pm at the Tidworth Community Centre, Wylve Road Tidworth SP9 7QQ. Cllr Young and Cllr Roberts plan to do so as well as Cllr Waight if he is able to get away from work. The Clerk also will try to attend.

Marc Read then left the meeting at 20.50hrs

15/392 Finance

The Clerk gave the Council's current financial situation starting with the August bank reconciliation, this gave a total of £5,678.76. The known spend for September could include the cost of the Playpark inspection (c £80, though this may not happen until October) as well as the Clerk's monthly pay (£205). There are still two un-cleared donation cheques from May totalling £600.00.

15/393 Police Matters

PC Tim Bunt said there had only been two crimes and two incidents reported for Enford since July. All the batteries from the previously mentioned theft (see July 29th Minutes, ref: 15/376) had been recovered.

Cllr Roberts linked Neighbourhood Watch at this point, reporting that he will attend a Task Group meeting on 22nd September.

Tim also mentioned that there had been a spate of staddle stone thefts in the area as well as quad bikes which are quite popular at this time of year. Cllr Roberts asked about the EnfordSpeedwatch camera which has vanished since going for re-calibration. Tim will chase this again and has said he is happy to use his camera for doing a 'session' with Cllrs Harbottle and Fay.

15/394 Army Matters

Tony Broadbent reported that there had been:

6 'incursions' – 3 for hare coursing (one of which had been reported by Landmarc) and 3 for dog walkers crossing a flagged area – two members of the public and one Lt Col!

4 incidents of fly-tipping – including a dozen wooden pallets, bin bags of household waste and a fridge

5 cases of loose livestock – he has requested that farmers use double stranded pens, not single

1 thunderflash. If anyone should find further military debris could they please cordon it off, mark it and report it – do not touch it.

He also requested that he is kept up to date with the progress of the Solar farm application.

15/395 Unitary Council Matters

Cllr Charles Howard reported that the leader of Wiltshire Council, Jane Scott, had been made a Life Peer and would be taking her seat in the House of Lords early next year. This gives Wiltshire/us an increased access to Government at high level.

The contract with Balfour Beatty has been terminated. Two thirds of their work is now sub-contracted under the direct control of Wiltshire Council. The remaining third is still with them until April of next year. W.C. are carrying out the procurement procedures at present to appoint a new Highways contractor to start next April. There has been no financial loss or additional cost to the Council throughout this termination.

Cllr Howard also mentioned the proposed closure of the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) at Everleigh which had been on the radio. He and other local councillors mounted a strong and successful lobbying campaign and had it removed from the Cabinet's agenda. There will now be a proper consultation about all the HRCs in Wiltshire.

Cllr Howard finished by reminding the Council that there was a fund £45,000 for community projects which needs to be used fully by March 2016. Grants of up to £1,000.00 would be considered on their own and anything over that amount and up to £5,000.000 would require match funding.

15/396 Neighbourhood Watch

See the Police report above (15/393)

15/397 Planning Applications

15/06355/LBC 512 East Chisenbury. 2x new doors, 1x new window

15/07936/FUL Silver Sedge. Replace & enlarge existing ground floor extension

15/08235/FUL Kimble House, Long Street. Garage extension by addition of carport

15/08782/TCA Bonnets, Long Street. Reduction and felling of hedge adjacent to river

15/08855/TCA Riverside Cottages. 2 Tree reductions and two felling

All the above applications were previously circulated to Councillors, there were no objections raised.

[The Clerk has since returned all completed forms to Wiltshire Council]

15/398 Parish Plan

Steve Becker, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Committee had produced an up to date progress report. He had also produced a small questionnaire to find out what the village felt were the priority projects. It was pointed out that the Parish Plan should make use of the £45,000 worth of grant funding mentioned by Cllr Howard. Cllr Murray proposed the Parish Council adopt the Plan, this was seconded by Cllr Harbottle and unanimously agreed. It will become a regular part of Parish Council business in future with various projects being taken on.

15/399 Roads and Highways

Cllr Harbottle reported that:

The grips in Water Lane and Enford Farm Road had been cleared, ready for the winter rains.

The Metro Count Speed Survey on the A345 between 14th and 21st -Aug-15 showed 21,216 vehicles over 7 days recording an average speed of 38.7mph in a 30mph limit. The report from Wiltshire Council states that Enford needs a Community Speed Watch (CSW) team and wanted to know who would pay for training. Cllr Harbottle raised this at the recent Tidworth Transport meeting pointing out that Enford has had a CSW team for at least 7 years and was the first one in the county. It was currently unable to operate as the Police have 'lost' our camera. The meeting was not impressed with the W.C. response and the matter is being pursued.

The Community Day Scheme has been cancelled. In future any work required in the village must be registered by way of an App. Please still continue to report road matters to Cllr Harbottle.

In 2016 the A345 will be closed from 18th January to 15th February between Hackthorne Road and Durrington Cemetery for the installation of a footpath. The alternative route is A345 (unaffected length) – A303-A338 Salisbury Road – A342-A345 (unaffected length). This means going from Amesbury to Tidworth to Everleigh and on to Upavon and NOT down the C32 due to the sign at the Swan!

The resurfacing of the A345 from Enford Hill to north of Compton is still scheduled for October but Cllr Harbottle has been told not to hold his breath.

He has raised the matter of the A345 crash barrier replacement yet again and W.C. are going back through their records to check for a possible insurance claim. The point has been made that the insurance would not be available until the work has been completed therefore the delay in re-instatement may be that there is no insurance money.

At the Tidworth meeting Cllr Harbottle again raised the matter of the high numbers of HGVs on the A345 – highlighted by the Metro Count. Since the diversion signs were put up in Devizes some 3 years ago, we have been swamped. It is further aggravated by the fact that the A360 is closed at Shrewton. The problem is known by W.C. but there is little chance of it being resolved despite the damage it is causing to the road edges.

There is an underspend of £11,267 in the Tidworth Community Area Transport Group for 2015-16 funds. Cllr Harbottle asked for any ideas on where we might use some of this bearing mind we would have to find 50% of any grant over £1,000.

Both Cllr Harbottle and Nick Bancroft are chasing the missing sign for Coombe Lane. It is in the hands of Balfour Beatty and they have a large backlog of signing.

15/400 Public Rights of Way (PROWs)

Cllr Taylor reported that she is still struggling to get a better maintenance service out of Wiltshire Council and is continuing to send in reports. Mr Rob Young is using his tractor to keep the Chisenbury path clear and Cllr Fay has thanked him via the Newsletter. Cllr Roberts, on behalf of the Parish Council, wishes to thank all the volunteers who have helped the Parish Council in keeping the village assets clean, clear and in good condition.

15/401 Correspondence

Cllr Roberts reported that he had received a complaint about the parking in Longstreet. (This problem does mean that the traffic is slower through the village). He has mentioned this to Pete in The Swan who apparently has rights to use the Church car parking area

15/402 Any Other Business

Cllr Fay has been asked about metal gates for the Playpark area to ensure the smalls can't get out.

Cllr Taylor pointed out that the Playpark is no longer fit for purpose – capability wise – and the children have been playing football in the enclosed area around the equipment. Cllr Roberts said the Parish Plan would encompass that type of capability. Thought - Possibly a small astro-turf area to accommodate both basketball and football?

Cllr Harbottle suggested the Parish Council write to Wiltshire Council to try and stop HGVs coming through when the A345 is closed in January. He has agreed to draft such a letter.

Cllr Holdway has been asked by a resident about getting the hedge cut on the opposite side of Water Lane. The resident also thought it would be nice to have a seat there. Cllr Roberts asked the Council's opinion on this and it was agreed a seat was not necessary. Cllr Young said the hedge was MOD owned and was cut once a year.

15/403 Date of Next Meeting

This will be on **Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall .**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.50hrs.

Elizabeth Harrison, Clerk – Enford Parish Council.