

FULL COUNCIL MEETING **MINUTES**

A meeting of **Broadclyst Parish Council** was held in the Green Room, Victory Hall, Broadclyst on **Monday 6th January 2014 commencing at 7.00pm.**
Press and public were welcome to attend.

Present: Clls Harrow, Jackson, Massey, Morshead, Pepper(chairman), Rylance, Wollacott

In Attendance: Clerk, Acting RFO, Philip Smart (National Trust)

The following business was transacted:

14/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Arthurs, Button, Gent, Smith and Staddon
It is with regret we accept Cllr Lancaster's resignation as of last month and Council wish to thank her for all her hard work during her time with us. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Monitoring Officer and take steps to find a replacement Councillor.

14/02 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Pepper declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14/09f, neighbouring property of family member.

14/03 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December 2013 were proposed by Cllr Morshead, seconded by Cllr Wollacott and resolved as a correct record of the meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended:

14/04 POLICE REPORT

The Police report had been received from WPC Buffie

14/05 DISTRICT AND COUNTY REPORTS

No report was received from the District Ward member Cllr. Button who sent his apologies for this evenings meeting.

Cllr. Bowden joined the meeting at 20.15hrs. Water has been a concern; Westwood is on the programme and has already had some work done. Funds have been found for the wall and bank to be rebuilt.

The flood on the B3181 between Budlake and Beare has now been dealt with as the blockage has been cleared. There has been a major problem at Stoke Cannon with water coming up through the Victorian drains, which is being dealt with. In many cases where dual sewers are used taking rainwater/road surface runoff as well as household waste and sewerage, the pipes become overloaded and cannot cope with the volume.

14/06 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

A verbal report was given by Philip Smith from the National Trust

Busy with Christmas 6 weeks, 18,000 visitors to Killerton. House now closed and will re-open 15th Feb; rest of the grounds/café/shop remain open.

Killerton hosted a cross-country run event yesterday despite muddy and very wet conditions, which attracted 750 runners. The extreme wet and stormy weather has proven challenging to the estate, but overall 2013 was a good year with steady visitor numbers and events proving popular to a wide audience.

14/07 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no members of the Public in attendance.

The meeting reconvened under Standing Orders

14/08 CRANBROOK REPORT

A report was received from Cllr Paul Smith on developments in Cranbrook.

Cllr Morshead stated he has questions regarding Cllr Smith's comments before Christmas regarding the Rockbeare/Cranbrook boundary, which will be raised at a future Council meeting attended by Cllr Smith.

14/09 PLANNING

To discuss and summarise Council's comment on the following Planning applications:

- a) 13/0845/FUL Swallows Barn, Sandy lane, Broadclyst. Rear extension
Supported
- b) 13/2604/ADV Eagle House 1 Babbage Way Science Park. Signage
Supported
- c) 13/1639/OUT Ivy Cottage Kerswell. Garage conversion + new build to form single storey dwelling
Supported
- d) 13/2568/MFUL Land At Francis Court farm
Council remains concerned about the cumulative effect of yet another solar farm in this vicinity, and we note the concerns of the Highways Agency relating to the one field's proximity to the M5.
It is felt that desk-based assessments do not reveal every nuance of local issues and long-standing agreements, which causes friction within the community when an application is submitted. Although not a planning consideration, the complication of shooting rights on the surrounding land should be resolved as a courtesy before continuing further with this development.
The location of this solar farm is not in direct view of Broadclyst village; however within 7 miles of Broadclyst, to the South and East, a massive acreage of land has already been lost to solar farms, with some **500 acres** of good agricultural land either already under panels, or being the subject of live planning applications for solar farms. Following the recent refusal of a similar application on land to the rear of Jarvishayes farm, to permit this application would set a precedent for solar farms to the West of Broadclyst and open the way for future such development.
Furthermore, we believe the installation of a solar park will be in direct conflict with the inherent character of the beautiful surrounding countryside and its proximity to Killerton could potentially be detrimental to our thriving tourist industry which could lead to loss of local employment opportunities.
Given the site will only produce a MAXIMUM of 4MW and weighing that against the massive amount of visual pollution which will be caused to the surrounding area, we do not agree the minimal/negligible amount of CO2 saved will even begin to recompense for the potential impact on our historic Parishes.
We echo a recent comment that the view that grazing will take place on grass which has not been exposed to the sun is mistaken: as photosynthesis – the process used by plants and other organisms to convert light energy, normally from the sun, into chemical energy that can be used to fuel the organisms' activities – will be adversely affected by the panels.
Solar is not "dispatchable power"; it is intermittent and unpredictable and cannot be turned on or off on demand and cannot be controlled by the power grid operator. Mains electricity cannot be stored. Large solar PV farms cause instability in the National Grid
We therefore conclude that for all the reasons above, we are **UNABLE TO SUPPORT** this application

- e. 13/2087/FUL Little Brock Brockhill
Supported
- f. 13/2679/VAR Solar farm on Land North East Of Crannaford House, Broadclyst
Supported
- g. 13/2663/FUL6 Parkside Crescent West Clyst. Rear extension
Supported
- h. 13/2760/ADV Marketing signage at Cranbrook
Withdrawn
- i. 13/2762/ADV Marketing signage at Cranbrook
Supported

It was noted that comment had already been submitted on the following applications:

- j. 13/2685/AGR Martinsfield farm, Broadclyst (**Supported**)
- k. 13/2573/MRES Neighbourhood centre Cranbrook (**feedback from parishioners given**)

14/10 FINANCE

A report was received from the Responsible Finance Officer including the following:

a) Cheque list

It was resolved to approve the list of cheques which had been raised for December 2013

14/11 REPORTS

The Clerks Report was received; there were no matters arising from items contained within.

14/12 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no matters arising to action from the Correspondence list

14/13 AGENDA 3 FEB 14

The following Agenda Items were listed for 3rd February 2014

- Cranbrook report
- Possible relocation of full council meeting premises
- Installation of Wi-Fi at the Pavilions.

The Chairman proposed that the meeting go into Part B session to discuss matters of a confidential nature. The press and public were asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point due to the nature of the business to be transacted.

14/14 CONTRACT/PENSION

Cllr Harrow circulated a copy of the joint Staffing and Finance Committee meeting minutes of 3rd January. This document outlined the decisions that had been taken by this meeting under delegated powers concerning the Clerk's salary, benefits and pension package. It was explained that the Clerk's salary and benefits package will be restructured, and this will be at a higher cost to the Council than the current package.

Cllr Pepper informed the meeting that the contract terms were not an issue, other than minor changes agreed at a meeting with the Clerk. It was only the salary, benefits & pension that remained to be finalised with the Clerk.

The cost of offering the Local Government Pension Scheme could not be afforded, with the Council contributing 19.5% of salary, and the employee 6.5%. It would also mean that all employees could potentially join, as if this was offered as a benefit to full timers, then it must also be offered to part timers as discrimination is illegal. It had therefore been decided to make available a Stakeholder Pension scheme to all staff, where the Council would contribute 2% of salary, and the employee would need to match or exceed that contribution. This would be offered to the Clerk as part of the revised package. It was noted that in years to come the contributions would rise to between 3% and 8%

The temporary RFO had produced figures to assist Cllrs Pepper and Harrow when they meet the Clerk in the coming few days to make the final offer, which would be backdated to 1 September 2013, the end of the Clerk's probation period. Assuming the Clerk accepted the package offered the Temporary RFO would work with the Clerk to adjust salary in the current financial year, to correct some errors in the year to date payments, by the end of the financial year.

14/15 PRECEPT ADJUSTMENT

There were no changes to the 14/15 precept as a consequence of item 14

14/16 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed (Chair).....

3rd February 2014