

MINUTES OF COOKLEY & WALPOLE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE PAVILION 23 SEPTEMBER 2013

Present: Cllrs. David Cask (Chairman) (DC), Zoé Mair (ZM), David Whitwood (DW), Anne Thomas (AT), Mike Porter (MP), John Winter (JW), Bill Camplin (BC). In attendance: PCSO 3195 Julie Hinton (JH), Raymond Catchpole (Clerk). 20 public were present.

Apologies: District & County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes.

13/121 Appointment of new councillor: The candidate had withdrawn his application.

13/122 Declarations of Interest: AT, MP & ZM declared pecuniary interests in CEA, but are permitted to discuss and vote on these matters by clerk and members through a previous vote. BC declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Sizewell C and nuclear related items. ZM declared a non-pecuniary interest in Marsh View matters. MP declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application for a wind turbine, to be discussed later in the agenda, as the applicant. The ability to debate this matter and vote was carried by the vote of a majority of members, but was declined by MP. He would however speak during the public participation session.

13/123 Public Participation: The chairman invited PCSO Julie Hinton to present her Police Report. JH is based at Framlingham Safer Neighbourhood Team. Local Officers are: PC1410 Burt, PCSO3034 Hassler, PCSO3051 Mann, PCSO3195 Hinton. Phone 101. framlingham.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk. 01986835497. www.suffolk.police.uk.

There have been no reported crimes in the period 01/08/13 to 31/08/13. Police Direct is a valuable service which all can sign up to, leaflets were available.

PC Mark Bryant has moved on to become Rural Crime Officer, involved amongst other things in stemming the rise in hare coursing. Registration numbers of all suspicious vehicles should be passed to the police.

DC mentioned speeding. JH recognised this was a big issue; the SNT (Safer Neighbourhoods Team) covers speeding matters. JH could use a speed gun in a suitable area. Speedwatch was a scheme involving parish volunteers on a rota with a £2,500 gun. MP said the parish council was moving towards installing a permanent SID. JH could arrange a month long hire so as to ascertain the best location; it would collect data on traffic count, times, speeds, etc. This could happen within the next couple of months. DC said he had spoken to Dr Therese Coffey MP about speeding. There were not many young people to take on Speedwatch and the elderly were possibly too worried. JH pointed out it needs three people to form a Speedwatch group. DC said there had been several near misses on driveway exits.

Tony Redman, a member of the public, said he hadn't seen any police patrols in the three years he has lived in Walpole and automatic speed signs were needed. He also asked who to ring if JH was covering 12 separate villages. JH said always ring 999 for emergencies and 101 for non-emergencies. Framlingham, Saxmundham and Halesworth community policing was always ready to respond.

BC suggested a Speedwatch gun at the end of Salters Lane. MP said Neighbourhood Watch seemed to be non-existent. JH pointed out it had been replaced by Police Direct.

DC thanked JH who then left.

13/124 Public Participation continued: Proposed erection of Wind Turbine at Packway Farm House. The chairman invited members of the public present to comment on this planning application, beginning with Stuart Adolph (SA) representing Heveningham all.H Hall.

SA was against the application on a number of grounds. First was noise. Real noise and nuisance could easily be greater than that anticipated by desktop studies, as witnessed by the

Earlsway Farm turbine. BC asked what the noise was specifically. SA said it was the whoosh of the blades and the whir of the turbine. Quality of noise varied all the time depending upon the wind.

ZM asked how many households would be affected; SA did not know. SA said households within one km would be affected. A member of the public commented that he lived close to Earlsway turbine and heard no noise. Another member of the public pointed out that noise and nuisance was even produced from Heveningham Hall from time to time.

SA considered the size of the turbine had been understated photographically by virtue of the equipment used, as had been the case with the Earlsway turbine. He said the National Planning Policy Framework required an applicant to demonstrate no harm arising from the application. SA went on to suggest some pressure had been applied to signatories in favour of the application and the applicant had refused opportunities to discuss the application with Heveningham Hall. SA went into very detailed comparative figures on national CO2 emissions and electricity production and asked the parish council not to support the application.

BC asked if SA's objection was against turbines generally. SA believes they should be offshore and BC remarked that this would be more costly. A member of the public commented that there was confusion between a wind turbine and a wind farm.

The chairman invited MP to present his application: *The proposed turbine would be used to produce a clean renewable and sustainable form of electricity for the landowner. The client is keen to make a contribution to offsetting his and the community's carbon emissions and to maintain the long term sustainability, especially as the family have farmed at Walpole for over 100 years. The location has been chosen in order to maximise the operational efficiency of the proposed turbine whilst ensuring that the turbine is located away from neighbouring buildings and trees to meet required separation distances and minimise residential and ecological impacts.*

We are proposing the Vergnet turbine because it is less use of natural products as it will be a guyed mast allowing smaller quantities of concrete to be used (between 12cum and 20cum) this is estimated that only 2 to 3 lorry loads of concrete will be required at the construction phase of the turbine.

The proposed turbine would be connected direct into the National Grid to minimise potential electrical losses. The development would also support the growth of renewable energy as required by the present government, and assist in achieving regional and national targets for zero carbon energy.

From the farms perspective the overall objectives of the proposed development are as follows:-

- 1 To generate "green" electricity to offset the fossil fuel energy used at Hillhouse Farm*
- 2 To meet the increasing demand of from suppliers to reduce overall carbon footprints and maintain a market advantage. LEAF Marque, Carbon neutral beer).*
- 3 To support the continued viability of the farm through diversification for a sustainable agricultural business.*
- 4 To assist the farm in becoming carbon neutral through directly offsetting energy usage.*
- 5 To promote the use of renewable energy generation in the area.*

Caroline Drummond, Chief Executive of LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) had supported the application as follows:

"Porters Farms have been a member of LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) since 2001. They have been committed to LEAF's practices and principles of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) that ensure sustainability of farming businesses as a whole farm approach. LEAF's mission is simple but compelling, "...to inspire and enable sustainable

farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities". LEAF is committed to the efficient use of fuels and energy on farms, in particular the improvement of the on-farm energy balance, for both environmental and economic reasons. We encourage all our farmers to look for ways of saving finite resources as well as other ways of sourcing additional revenue in innovative ways as well as reducing their carbon footprint. Porters farms are also part of the LEAF Marque environmental assurance standard system; they are inspected by a third party and receive a certificate that states they have met the exacting standards of the scheme.

Please see <http://www.leafuk.org/leaf/farmers/LEAFmarquecertification/whatis.eb>.

Amongst other requirements, all LEAF Marque farms must complete an audit covering fuel, heating, cooling and lighting use, and identify ways of reducing dependency on nonrenewable energy sources. The audit must be reviewed every year.

An energy audit identifies and evaluates energy management opportunities on the farm. During an audit, a baseline is developed to characterise and record energy use. Individual unit operations, processes, and major energy-consuming equipment are evaluated to identify energy management opportunities and high-return-on-investment projects. Typically an action report is produced that describes the baseline, each conservation opportunity area, an estimate of the cost to implement the changes, the savings that will be generated, and an estimation of the payback period.

As stated in Porters Farms 'Demonstration of Need' they have researched the options of a wind turbine with careful consideration using LEAF's IFM principles. They have also sought a new market for LEAF Marque beer which will not only add to their own sustainability as a farming business; aid the local rural economy, but also communicate their commitment to sustainable practices to a wider audience.

Therefore, we support the appropriate placement of alternative energy sources"

The proposed development will be undertaken by Porters Farms (Walpole) Ltd (a small family company, based at Hillhouse Farm Walpole, where the family have farmed for over 100 years), using land owned by Porters Farms Ltd. Hillhouse Farm is a working, productive arable farm of 800 acres. The activity on the farm includes arable land used to produce wheat, oilseed Rape, naked oats, freezing peas, and linseed for animal feed together with over 32 acres set-aside for the Natural England Environmental Scheme (HLS), together with other habitat conservation.

The overall aim of the farm is to produce products and services for people in an integrated and responsible, yet commercial manner. This farm cares for a landscape with a history as a wildlife habitat, a home, a place of public and personal enjoyment, and the site of commercial business.

We are also members of Anglian business green 100 which shows the achievements and commitment of Suffolk's most environmentally-aware companies in 2012. The farm hosts a number of visits, for children and other members of the public, each year we try to improve the public image of farming.

Modern management techniques are used to maximise returns and minimise environmental impact from arable cropping. Labour and machinery costs are kept low by sharing with neighbours. The least efficient arable land is in a variety of stewardship (HLS) to benefit the wildlife. Reduction of carbon footprint and production of green energy is seen as part of farming. Grain drying is carried out using heat from straw, and the domestic heating is supplied from Biomass boiler. We also have 47 kw of PV panels on the roof of the grain store which is supplying the excess electricity back into the National Grid. Growing crops purely for energy has been ruled out as it is considered a morally bad use of good arable land.

We are in the process of completing an energy audit and greenhouse analysis using the CALM calculator. The indirect sources of energy are significant as well as well as emissions of greenhouse gases from Fertiliser use, manure and crop land. These activities are offset by active woodland management and the establishment of conservation areas. It is anticipated that the installation of a Vergnet 275 Kw wind turbine will generate around 612 Kwh of

electricity each year, equivalent to a saving of approximately 120 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

MP took questions. SA asked if the turbine manufacturers would have new sound proofing technology available before erection. MP said this was unknown, but he would undertake to retrofit this technology as and when it became available.

MP spoke about the effects upon households. There were eight properties within 700ms of Earlsway and only two at Packway. MP displayed a map showing the microwave transmissions radiating from the Home Office tower. No landowner can erect above ground on those paths.

Dr Simon Weeks, member of the public, said he supported wind energy on principle, including on shore, but according to situation. He considered MP had taken advice and done what was needed prior to making his application, so he would support the application. Some of the issues raised here are more rightly the concern of SCDC who have the technical ability to deal them. As an application by a local farmer with green credentials, it deserves support.

Nicholas Summers, member of the public and Sibton Parish Councillor, said he lived 780ms away, but was in support. He would object only on grounds of noise. SCDC should ensure that the noise issue is properly looked into. He hears no noise from Earlsway. MP replied that a full noise survey had been carried out and balanced against ambient noise.

SA said while objecting on noise grounds he was also objecting to the application on heritage grounds. ZM asked if the arguments introducing disruptive noise from other sites were like for like.

A member of the public asked how much electricity the farm would use. MP said all goes into the grid and lowers farm costs.

JW asked if there had been any official complaints from Sibton to SCDC regarding Earlsway. MR confirmed there had been only two.

A member of the public who was not against the application other than noise said he was 900ms from Packway and 600ms from Earlsway. This type of turbine was new and all 12 existing models had noise problems which the manufacturers were working on. MP said they were modifying some units now.

A member of the public suggested withdrawing the application until sound proofing technology was available. DC said we could not hold up the application, the only other route is to object direct to SCDC. Clerk explained the SCDC planning process leading to the actual decision meeting. Tony Redman said he was unimpressed with SDCDC planning processes.

Dr Simon Weeks referred to noise. Ambient noise would need to be assessed first before turbine noise and SCDC would need to focus on guidelines.

The chairman invited more questions, but there none. All bar one of the public left.

Questions on other public participation matters were invited. Clerk brought Tony Redman up to date on Marsh View matters, namely the whole matter being caught up in legal and planning drafting on which eventually the parish council will be invited to express a view.

The chairman took the meeting into Council mode.

13/125 Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the council meeting of 15 July and planning meeting of 22 August 2013 were approved to be signed by the chairman, carried by a unanimous show of hands.

13/126 Matters arising: (a) MP reminded clerk he should be looking into why the SCC Education Centre in Walpole appeared to enjoy fibre optic broadband communication which was not available to the rest of the village. Clerk will follow up.

13/127 Planning: (a) DC/13/2515/FUL: Wind Turbine, Packway Farm, Hibbs Road, Walpole: Erection of 1 x 275 Vergnet wind turbine, 55m to hub, 71m to tip and associated infrastructure. MP waived his right to debate and vote in the matter. DC invited each councillor to express their views in turn. BC said we were dealing largely with intangible feelings, but he had not heard any community dissent so it should be supported. ZM considered it well researched and thoughtfully presented. There was concern as to noise, but given an offer to undertake retrofitting of new technology she could see no reason not to support it. JW was happy with the application. DW hadn't heard the noise yet, but would support the application in principle. AT endorsed all that had been said and would support the application.

DC summed up and clerk read a letter of objection from a Cookley resident appearing to threaten community disturbance if the project went ahead. A vote was taken by show of hands and the clerk was authorised unanimously to advise the planners that the parish council approved the application subject to some concern as to noise, mitigated by an undertaking to retrofit sound proofing technology as it becomes available.

(b) Marsh View: ZM expressed sorrow that Cllr Stephen Burroughes had been subject to appallingly intemperate emails from a local resident. Clerk will pass this on.

13/128 SCDC Review of Electoral Boundaries: it was decided unanimously not to become involved in this consultation and to accept boundaries being left as they are.

13/129 Finance: (a) RFO Report: clerk presented his report and financial statement. The following payments had been made since 15 July 2013 RFO Report:

LJ Sutton Internal Auditor £ 40.00
Walpole & Cookley Playing Fields Trust Hall £ 144.00
Ladywell Accountancy Services PAYE £ 28.00
Clerk's Salary £ 525.00
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The following had been received:

Cemetery: Memorial Fee Jack Fleet £ 60.00
Loan repayment instalment W&CPFT £ 70.00

Balances to carry forward were submitted as under, taking into account the above:

Community Account £6,502.22
Business Saver £1,092.81 £7,595.03

Financial statement was approved unanimously by show of hands.

13/130 Highways: (a) MP will follow up the non-surfacing at the main village junction. If this is bad now it will be even worse in three years' time when it is scheduled for dressing. Winter water is likely to get underneath, freeze and become a dangerous hazard. **(b)** Boundary lines to the lay-by had been missed, but MP was advised that work would be completed within a week. **(c)** DC had raised speeding issues with Therese Coffey. There was general approval to placement of a SID and commencing some other action on speeding. MP reported a speeding incident which had involved an agritrailer Salters Lane/Cemetery were cited as possible locations for anti-speeding action. Clerk will approach Cllr Stephen Burroughes regarding getting a SID. MP prefers a permanent location; ZM suggested using a

temporary one first to sort out the best location. Clerk will contact PCSO Julie Hinton regarding a temporary loan.

13/131 Footpaths: nothing to report.

13/132 Environment Agency: clerk reported on the private action proposed by a local resident following inaction on the part of EA after submission of clerk's detailed report on the state of the river at Walpole Bridge. It is proposed to take out a bend, level a sand bank and remove vegetation so as to improve water flow. Spoil will be deposited responsibly on the village green by prior agreement with the parish council.

13/133 Trees: AT reported a dead tree; ZM will deal with it.

13/134 Damaged Notice Board: it was agreed to accept a proposal from Jez Hawes to renovate the existing notice board to professional standard and reinstall it in its existing location, in the sum of £450. Clerk will accept, and advise insurers accordingly, checking any likely effect on future premiums in the event of a claim also.

pt a proposal from Jez Hawes to rebovate the existing notice board to professional standard and reinstall i**13/135 Cemetery: (a)** MP reported that grave diggers were depositing soil heaps on land adjacent to the cemetery instead of compacting it or removing it. Clerk will advise all undertakers to monitor their workforce. **(b)** There was general discussion on the location of a Fido bin. The bin had already been purchased and was held by JW pending erection. It was unanimously agreed to locate it at the cemetery end of the adjacent footpath in a manner respectful of the cemetery and visitors, but obvious enough to be used and emptied by SCS Ltd.

13/136 CEA: ZM reported everything was moving forward on all fronts.

13/137 Allotments: AT reported that allotments matters were moving forwards. Clerk reported planning application for change of use would be before North Area Development Management Committee on 9 October and he would attend.

13/138 Flagship Housing Association: clerk reminded members of recent meeting with CEO and Operations Director of Flagship. Things did appear to be moving forwards now with a stronger relationship between parish council and Flagship. Clerk will follow up why 5 Halesworth Road is empty.

13/139 External Meetings: (a) Huntingfield Villages Together Meetings: Clerk still to agree basis of quarterly meetings.

13/140 Correspondence: none

13/141 Future Agenda: Locality Budget requests.

13/142 Next Meeting: 21 October 2013: Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

Chairman Date