

Whitstone Parish Council

Minutes for the Extraordinary Meeting Monday 27th July 2015

All meetings are open to the press and public unless the Council decides otherwise

1. The Opening, Councillors present

The meeting was opened by Cllr Furse, with 2 Councillors present, Cllrs Adamson, Sutton. Esther Greig - Clerk

2. To receive Apologies for absence with reasons

Cllr Horn – Business.

Proposed: Cllr Furse Seconded: Cllr Sutton, unan 15/052

3. To receive Declarations of Interest & Approve Dispensations

None

4. Public question time (15 minutes allowed for this)

****Standing Orders suspended****

Jeremy Ward spoke regarding CASE. WT Application refused and appeal on its way – will probably go all the way to public enquiry. CASE important as CC have few resources to deal with this themselves – to get maximum advantage from the appeal. CC not employing outside experts. CASE will be applying to be a 'Rule 6' party in order to be involved in the appeal. Experts are being commissioned, CC can only defend the refusal on the grounds on which they refused it, i.e. effect on heritage, landscape and one cottage. Good energy has purchased this cottage. Rule 6 not limited to these reasons. If the experts think there are other grounds for refusal, CASE can add others in. New planning guidance notes that any wind farm has to be in an area designated by the local plan (but this one is already in the planning process), but also all community issues need have been addressed and have full local backing. Categorically this does not have full local backing. Having Parish Councils on board adds weight to the whole thing – WSM, Marhamchurch, North Tamerton, (not heard from Warbstow). WSM Clerk did research on the financial risk – slim. CARE are properly constituted, and have an elected management committee. They would be happy for a representative of the PC to attend and minutes will be sent out. No contribution required but gratefully received. Bill for the appeal is likely to be around £36,000. On application for rule 6 – they have to put in a statement of case' – the grounds on which they will fight the case. They already have a report, it is now historical but remains a good base, but they didn't do much on heritage. Won't be fighting the environmental issue, community impact assessment. They can introduce more things – but in theory they are not meant to put in new evidence. Another barn conversion - tTefursden barn – granted planning in March 2014 – nearly as materially impacted as Little Exe cottage. In regards to financial security, any fundraised funds left over at the end will be distributed to community organisations and charities. Donations (or a proportion of) will be returned. Only had £53.20 left after the initial campaign. Fundraising activity is happening over the summer and a pledge/donation system. Will/have been targeting local people and requests will be going through letterboxes. The fundraised funds will be used first, then the donations. Now have about 50% of the total. Can pay for the reports now. What does the Rule 6 commit PC to? Only as a formal partner to the appeal – PC could ask for the planning inspectorate to speak as a Parish Council in its own right. It is an adversarial process evidence will be cross examined by the barristers. Their Case manager Bob Barfoot has worked on at least 28 wind farm cases – he is organising what's happening.

**** Standing Orders reinstated****

5. Agenda Items

1. It was **resolved** to join with CASE and other Parish Council for the 'Rule 6' appeal against the Big Field Wind Farm. Low financial risk, strength of feeling.

Proposed: Cllr Furse Seconded: Cllr Adamsom, unan 15/053

2. To discuss and resolve upon any funds to be donated to CASE for the appeal case. Looked at all the objections – not that many objecting from Whitstone – S137 requires any donation to have with commensurate benefit for the Parish. Parishioners can donate on an individual basis if they feel strongly. The 5km radius for Community Benefit didn't cover much of Whitstone. CASE seem to need the moral support from the PC as an elected body.

It was **resolved** not to pledge or donate any funds at this moment. If they are struggling with financial resources later on, then PC could consider a request in the future..

Proposed: Cllr Adamson Seconded: Cllr Furse, unan 15/054

The meeting closed at 2005.