

LUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17th JUNE 2014 AT 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Gist, Heyworth, Thorpe and Jones.

In Attendance: J. Madge (Clerk) County Councillor Horner and District Councillor Vaudry and 2 members of the public

Apologies: Councillor Hegarty

1. Public Participation: Mr and Mrs Kirk of Heathville Luddington Road are directly affected by the proposal for a solar farm on land north of Luddington Road, as their house is directly next to the land and the view from their kitchen window would be directly on to the solar panels. They know the owners of the land well and have tried to contact them to discuss the proposal but the owners are not available. They are concerned that there has been little notice of the public meeting on 25th June, and that the publicity material does not show their property or others on the far side of Luddington Road and could be misleading. They have tried to contact Lightsource, but are still waiting for the Company to return their call. They therefore not only have objections to the proposal but grave reservations about how the Company and the land owners are going about it.
2. Confirmation of Election of Chairman:
Cllr Gist confirmed he is willing to stand and Cllr Heyworth therefore resigned as Chairman and Cllr Gist was unanimously elected as Chairman.
3. Declarations of any Personal or Prejudicial Interests by Members including consideration and decisions upon written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any): Cllr Gist declared a pecuniary interest in that he confirmed that one of his business has acted for Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd but is not involved with the proposal relating to land at Little Luddington Farm. It was agreed that his technical knowledge and expertise would assist the Council in its deliberations concerning the proposal and that a dispensation was appropriate. This Declaration was made at the outset of the Public Participation.
4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20th May 2014 had been circulated. In paragraph 2 Cllr Gist had been seconded by Cllr Hegarty. Subject to this amendment the Minutes were approved and signed.
5. Matters Arising:
 - (a) Removal of trees at Avonvale, The Rushes and in the lock area: Further email from SDC Enforcement Officer Roger Thatcher was circulated.
 - (b) Lock Area: Clerk had contacted Clive Matthews of ANT. He confirmed that work had been scheduled to lay hardcore to improve the access track and prevent pooling, and also to tidy the area in front of the footbridge and re-do the fencing around the lock area. It had been hoped to complete this work before the Stratford River Festival on 5th to 6th July, but this was not going to be achieved, and therefore the current aim is to complete all the work by the autumn.
6. County Councillor's Report: CCllr Horner reported as follows:

- (a) The election has produced a hung Council.
 - (b) Bus Shelter at Dodwell is being erected. The responsibility for its on-going maintenance needs to be checked.
 - (c) Improvements to the stile on the footpath between Dodwell and Luddington can be requested by the landowner.
7. District Councillor's Report: DCllr Vaudry reported as follows:
- (a) At the election the Tories did well and gained 6 seats.
 - (b) Core Strategy – Legal challenges to the Strategy are already coming in. There is still a necessity to locate 52 gypsy and traveller sites, failing which some current temporary sites could become permanent.
 - (c) There has been considerable success in cutting costs and improving management at SDC.
8. Finance:
- (a) The Community Account stood at £7,451.34.
 - (b) Following bill passed for payment: £505.00 for Clerk's Salary for April to June 2014.
9. Specific Agenda Items:
- (a) Conservation Area: Clerk had received no reply to a request for a copy of the Conservation Area document so far.
 - (b) Village Green Lease: The current Lease expires on 28th September 2016. It was agreed to contact the Ragley Estate to ask whether title to the Village Green can be transferred to the Parish Council on or before the expiry of the term of the Lease.
 - (c) Solar Farm Proposal at Little Luddington Farm: Cllr Gist advised that the site is close to a 33kw line for a grid connection to be made, and was therefore geographically a reasonably good site. The Government has recently announced that the level of subsidy support for such projects will be cut if the sites are not up and running by 31st March 2015. There is encouragement for such schemes to be for community benefit, and therefore quite usual for a proposal to be accompanied by targeted community benefit or the provision of a fund for the community. DCllr Vaudry suggested that planning grounds would be necessary to oppose it, the main one possibly being that it uses a green field site. It was agreed to arrange for a site visit and to invite Lightsource to attend the next Council Meeting
10. Correspondence:
- (a) SDC – public consultation on the legal compliance and soundness of SDC proposed Submission Core Strategy from 5th June to 17th July 2014.
 - (b) European Parliamentary Election Result
 - (c) SDC – Administration of information re parish councils passed to WCC and WALC
 - (d) WALC – NALC lobbying on issues re National Policy Planning Framework
 - (e) WCC – Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel Annual Report 2013-14 had been circulated
 - (f) WCC – recruits for public forums re Fire and Rescue Service Public Consultation

- (g) WALC – Open discussion event on 14th July 2014 – opportunities to assist with financial challenges by services being delegated to parishes or volunteers
- (h) WALC – Policy Consultation on Underground Drilling Access and payments for access.
- (i) WALC – Local Government Pension Requirements for Parish and Town Councils – course on 18th September 2014. Clerk agreed to attend.
- (j) Police & Crime Commissioner Warwickshire – Public Scrutiny Meeting on 25th June 2014.
- (k) WALC – Questionnaire on Rural Housing Policy Review
- (l) Clerk to circulate further relevant correspondence

11. Planning:

- (a) Griffiths (14/01417/FUL) Heathcote Luddington – demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a replacement dwelling. No objection, but request for conditions limiting external lighting and advising that there had been no change of use for paddock land to the rear.
- (b) Clerk and Cllrs Heyworth Jones and Thorpe had attended Joint Parish Council Working Group at Long Marston Village Hall and invited to object to planning application 14/01186/OUT relating to 1050 houses at Long Marston. It was agreed that there was no reason to object, but to seek data concerning the historic and current volume of traffic on Evesham Road.

12. Business for Future Consideration:

- (a) Review of Conservation Area.
- (b) Broadband

Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday 15th July 2014 at 7.30pm
Meeting closed at 9.37pm