

## WASHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### The minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th March 2013 in Washfield Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr's R Arnold (Chair), M Balment, J Boundy and R Webber.

**In attendance:** County & District Cllr Mrs P Colthorpe, the Clerk Mrs J Larcombe and two members of the public.

**64/03/13. Public Questions.** It was agreed to bring this item forward to the start of the meeting. Two members of the public representing "Save Bampton Down" informed the Parish Council about their concerns that planning application 13/00185/MFUL would allow 25,000 photovoltaic panels covering 37 acres. There would be a mile long surrounding fence on one of the highest points of Devon and it would be highly visible. Because of the position of the site there would have to be security cameras and possibly lights. They advised that planning grounds for refusal include visual impact and change of character of the landscape and area. The revenue from this development will go out of the area and it will not bring any employment. There is no capacity to store the electricity produced. This application was submitted following the withdrawal of an application for wind turbines on this site.

**65/03/13. To receive apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr's P Crease, Mrs G Bicknell and J Burton. Apologies were received from District Cllr R Stanley.

**66/03/13. Disclosure of interest in item on the Agenda.** None.

**67/03/13. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 as a true record of the meeting.** The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

**68/03/13. Matters arising from the minutes.** The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April. The pothole at Courtney was filled in but the water leak above this wasn't dealt with before the pothole was repaired.

#### **69/03/13. Planning**

**a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received before the meeting.** There were no applications for the parish.

Planning Application in a Neighbouring Parish

13/00185/MFUL Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar array to generate up to 6MW of power (15.16Ha), power inverter system, transformer station, sub-station, internal access track, security fencing, landscaping and associated access gate. Land at Grid reference 297705 120536 (Buckhayes Farm), Cove. It was agreed that the application would be noted but no comment would be sent to MDDC.

**b) To note any decisions on planning applications made by MDDC.** None.

Councillors asked whether a decision had been made for application

12/01114/Full Conversion of redundant agrarian building to dwelling. Land and at NGR 294546 114739 (adjacent Cotleigh Cottage), Washfield Lane, Washfield. The Clerk will investigate.

**c) Any other planning matters.** None.

**70/03/13. Highways: To report on any highways work carried out in the parish and to note any highways work needed.** It was reported that the edge of the road opposite Stagstile Cottage has become dangerous because a piece of the road was taken away by a lorry removing timber. The pool of water on Rackenford Road, by Farleigh Meadows, that appears when it rains is getting worse again. The planning application for the development of housing at Farleigh Meadows has been approved. It was considered that there wouldn't be enough traffic from Washfield to justify a change in the planned road priority. There will be a controlled crossing on Rackenford Road and a roundabout at Prescott.

**71/03/13. Finance**

**a) To approve any payments.** It was resolved to make the following payments: Cllr Balment declared a prejudicial interest in the first payment and left the room whilst it was discussed.

F C S Balment & Sons Ltd - £1319.70 work on the Village Green (chq no 441)

Mrs J Larcombe - £74.10 Clerk's salary and expenses (chq no 442)

Washfield Memorial Hall - £54.00 room hire (chq no 443)

**b) To note successful TAP Fund Grant Application and to agree payment to Village Hall Committee.** A grant of £293 has been received from the TAP Fund towards the cost of new chairs at the village hall. A cheque for this amount was made payable to Washfield Village Hall (chq no 444)

**72/03/13. County & District Cllr Reports.** Cllr Mrs Colthorpe said DCC was winding gently down to the elections. The DCC budget has been agreed with no increase but the Fire Authority has increased theirs. She told the council she had been chairing two task groups about carers. Five recommendations have come out of this work and will go forward to the new Council. Cllr Mrs Colthorpe also sits on the Standards Committee and they have wrapped up any outstanding matters. There is now a new Code of Conduct. DCC are trying to use up the Highways budget. MDDC has been asked if they would like trained officers and members from other authorities to come and have a broad brush look to see if things are being done properly. This Peer Challenge will be carried out. The Leader of MDDC is recommending that there are apostrophes on street signs.

**73/03/13. To discuss concerns about the footpath from the Village Green to the Church.**

Cllr Burton and Mr Hansford have carried out the access audit for the church and this has brought up the issue of the pathway to the church from the hall car park. Cllr Mrs Bicknell has previously discussed her worries about the vegetation along the pavement by the green/playground but it was noted that nearly everyone finds the pavement from the postbox down to the Weeches path far too narrow to walk along, let alone negotiate in a wheelchair. It is dangerous because one has to walk out in the road and then step up to the pathway by 5 The Weeches and traffic coming in the opposite direction has little time to stop. Cllr Burton, in an email, has proposed that the pavement is widened. The bank, hedge and retaining wall would have to be cut back by a couple of feet all the way from the postbox. It is believed the bank and hedge are part of 5 The Weeches and the owners might have to be compensated. The Highways Department will be contacted and asked for a meeting to look at this. It would be too costly for the Parish Council to do and it would be for DCC to carry out.

**74/03/13. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting 2013.** The meeting will begin with the Chairman's Report and the annual accounts. Gill Juleff will then give a talk about her visit to China and answer any questions. There will then be a discussion about

the possibility of a community website. The Clerk will bring tea, coffee etc.

**75/03/13. Chairman's Announcements and Correspondence.** The following correspondence was noted:  
Came & Co – Newsletter  
MDDC – Parish Matters March 2013  
Cullompton Town Council – Annual Parish Meeting notice and information about street markets.

**76/03/13. Date of next meeting.** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2013 at 7.30pm  
The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April