

SEBERGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11th June 2014

PRESENT

Mr AV Rule (Chairman)
Mr P Pearson
Mr A Bell
Mrs M Chesters-Bouma
Mr M Stockdale (from 19:50)
Mrs C Tinnion
Mr K Graham (note taking)

1. APOLOGIES

Mr M Stockdale will be attending, but would be a little delayed.

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr D Fairbairn
One Member of the Public.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Chesters-Bouma to her first meeting as a councillor. The Chairman thanked Mr Graham (a parishioner) for agreeing to take the minutes in the absence of a Clerk.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 28th May 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs C Tinnion declared an interest in item 6 (planning application 2/2014/0383) as she lives close to the proposed site.

4. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The member of the public present asked about the planning application for a wind turbine at Fell Hill, Welton. She wanted to know who would be affected and in what way if the application was approved. The Chairman advised the meeting that after the application was posted on the Allerdale Borough Council website he had asked the planning department why the mandatory process requiring the applicant to consult the nearest properties before submitting the application had not been followed. As a result, Allerdale had cancelled the application while this consultation process is undertaken and it will be resubmitted as a new application with any feedback received from local residents. The Chairman thought this could take at least five weeks. He advised that he had been approached by a number of people wishing to object to the proposal, but in view of the 'cancellation' they had indicated they would not attend or make comment until the revised application had been resubmitted.

In response to a question "How do I find out if I will be affected?" the Chairman advised that people could either contact Allerdale Borough Council planning department, or go to their website and/or the library to examine the proposals.

A general question was raised about how parishioners without transport and internet access could access the plans. The Chairman said he would contact Allerdale Planning Department to ask their advice, but that he or other councillors should be contacted if anyone had problems obtaining information. Mr Pearson asked if a photo montage was available and, although this was confirmed to be the case, a number of local householders were having difficulty viewing these because of very slow internet speeds. In response to a question about the amount of noise the turbine might generate, the Chairman explained that the application shows any one of three possible turbines might be adopted, each with a different noise profile. He had spoken with Allerdale's Environmental Health Officer who would examine the information provided by the applicant in light of the very close proximity of local dwellings.

Mr Fairbairn advised that damage done to the road at Parkhead quarry would be repaired by the 10th July. He also stated that the gated entrance to the quarry had now been moved to allow improved access, particularly for waste collection lorries to turn around without having to reverse down the road.

5. HIGHWAYS

Mr Stockdale joined the meeting. He said that bollards had been placed outside the garage in Churchtown, but these were sited too far from the tarmac to deter vehicle parking. After discussing the issue with CCC Highways, Mr Stockdale informed the council that new bollards would be fitted on Friday 13th June, at 0.5 metres from the tarmac.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2/2014/0377 Stable extension at Yew Croft is cancelled.

2/2014/0383 Erection of a single wind turbine at Fell Hill, Welton. As reported during the adjournment this application had been cancelled, and will be resubmitted after local residents have been consulted by the applicants

and given time to respond. The Chairman advised that householders should submit their views in response to this consultation.

The Chairman identified anomalies in the application which councillors & local residents might wish to consider, including properties close to the site which had not been taken into account in the assessment reports. Mrs Tinnion provided details of the potential for harm to wildlife, including protected species such as Peregrine Falcons resident in the nearby quarry (within 450metres) and Barn Owls, the existence of which had not been identified in the application documentation. The Chairman also reported that a proposal for another wind turbine at nearby Reathwaite had been notified to residents in that area. Although the Allerdale draft Local Plan provides for a setback distance of 800 metres between any residence and a wind turbine, this had not yet been approved by the Planning Inspectorate. However, it was agreed that as a number of properties were well within this distance from the proposed turbine site, it would be inconsistent for the application to be approved as this would be contrary to Allerdale councillors' agreed policy.

The Chairman noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council was 16th July, and that the revised planning application might be expected to be received about that time. Mr Stockdale suggested that the application should follow the normal process, being discussed at the next meeting after receipt, and this was agreed.

The Chairman asked whether the Parish Council should respond to the consultation letter it had received from the applicant's agent, informing him that the council are minded to object to the proposal having taken into account the views of local people. This was agreed.

7. UPDATE

(a) Appointment of a Clerk - The position has been advertised, the Chairman had received interest from two people so far.

(b) Financial and Banking arrangements - Lloyds Bank has confirmed it may take some time before the necessary changes to account signatories could be made.

(c) Insurance – It was approved that the Chairman would write a personal cheque for the outstanding insurance renewal, and seek reimbursement when the signatories issue has been resolved.

(d) Audit - The Chairman advised that the audits have been submitted to the internal Auditor, but he had not received any feedback yet.

(e) Governance arrangements - The Chairman stated that some important documents had not yet been adopted by the council, such as a grievance and complaints procedures, and asked if these should wait until a Clerk was appointed. After some discussion it was agreed that progress should be made on these policies and procedures, and Mrs Chesters-Bouma who has previously served as a Clerk, volunteered to help by researching these. The Chairman will circulate a list of the policies believed to be required. Mrs Chesters-Bouma asked if three hours per week would be sufficient time for the new Clerk given the work necessary to address outstanding issues, and it was agreed that the Council may need to authorise additional hours if that became necessary.

8. ACAS

The Chairman informed the meeting that this item should be discussed without the press and public present because it would not be in the public interest to have an open discussion relating to confidential employment matters. Mr A Bell proposed that the press & public be excluded for this item, and this was seconded by Mr P Pearson and resolved.

The Chairman reported on the settlement reached to conclude the former Clerk's contract of employment in accordance with the terms agreed by the Council at its meeting on 28th May, and payment of the outstanding sum was authorised.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 16th July 2014

AV Rule
Chairman