

Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 14th July, 2010, at the Parish Room, Throckmorton.

Members and Officers present: Mr D Cheetham (chairman), Mr M Argyle, Mr G Day and Mrs C Morris (Clerk).

In attendance: Jenny Maturi, qualified clerk and CALC officer.

The meeting opened at 1.05pm.

1. To receive apologies and to approve the reason for absence.

Cllrs Hodgkins, Rimell and Baldwin had sent apologies, which were approved.

2. To record: a) Declarations of Interest (Personal & Prejudicial) and b) Any changes to be notified to the Register of Interest and Gifts & Hospitality.

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 5th 2010.

Approval of the minutes were deferred to the next properly scheduled meeting of the parish council.

4. To confirm that all the conditions have been met to formally adopt the Power of Wellbeing and put it into practice.

The clerk had prepared and circulated and published on the website, a Statement of Community Engagement, as agreed, (attached), which along with the council's newsletters and public meetings, satisfied Ms Maturi that all criteria had been met for the Power of Wellbeing – including the certified number of trained councillors and elected councillors. The council formally adopted the power and expressed its intention to put it into use to purchase the village shop property.

5. To receive reports from councillors, items for future agendas and items of correspondence.

- It was noted that the clerk had handed in her notice and agreed that the position would be advertised over the summer.
- The clerk reported the response to the Wind Farm planning application and the summary of the council's objections which had been prepared, in consultation with Cllr Argyle, as requested by the planning officers:-

Re: Planning Application W/10/01074/PP – Proposed Lenchwick Windfarm

Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council has voted unanimously to register its objection to this proposal.

While appreciating and supporting the search for alternative power sources, the council believes that this is not a suitable place to position wind turbines of this size.

The council has, with five other local parish councils, been studying the proposal and the potential impact on the local environment and fully endorses the report prepared by Peter Scott of Parkinson Wright LLP, (published with this council's comments online) and urges the planning committee members to study it carefully.

It concludes: "The selection of a site of high landscape and nature conservation value for this wind farm development is significantly damaging to the landscape habitat and species referred to. The reliance of the applicants on regional policy has been spectacularly undercut by the revocation of that guidance. The applicants cannot justify the development by reference to adopted local plan policy, and determination of the application in accordance with local plan policy requires that the

application is rejected."

The council believes a wind farm on this scale and in this position has the potential for unacceptable harm to an ecologically sensitive area and for adverse effects on the local population, with its close proximity to people's homes.

Its physical and visual impact would be out of character and scale for this site. Thus, the proposal would be in opposition to planning policy (namely PPS9, EN2 of the Structure Plan, Landscape Character Policy CTC.1, CTC.2, CTC.5, CTC.12, CTC.14, ENV1, ENV2, ENV5, ENV6, ENV7, ENV8) which aim to encourage sustainable development while protecting local people, the environment and the local landscape from harm.

- The councillors agreed cheques should be signed to settle accounts with Essential Tree Services (for work on Stanton Fields drains) - £240, UBM Information Ltd (Daltons Weekly ad) and for the clerk's August salary - £407.06, dated August 1st.
- The clerk reported on a road gritting consultation and Cllr Day said he would investigate whether his family could offer help with snow clearing.

6. To affirm the dates of the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The next meeting of the council was confirmed as Monday, September 6th, at Bishampton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm

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Chairman

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Date

Power of Wellbeing

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council has completed training and is adopting the Power of Wellbeing.

At this stage, the council plans to use the power specifically in order to purchase the Bishampton Stores and Post Office building in order to maintain its future in the parish.

The current shop-keeper is closing his business and the landlords are selling the property.

This is the only convenience store in the village – it is the only shop in the parish apart from a hairdressing salon – and councillors believe it is vital to the wellbeing of the community. They appreciate how difficult it is to run such a business in a rural location and hope that in buying the building, they can offer a new shop-keeper better business prospects, by offering reduced rent.

The council plans to retain ownership of the shop building, on behalf of the parish, in order to keep some control over the future of the service and to maintain a relationship with the shop-keeper. This will also directly engage the community with their own shop – parishioners will all be involved in paying for the shop via their council tax and will have a common interest in its future success.

The parish council has produced newsletters, held parish meetings and attracted publicity to gather opinion, share information and encourage prospective shop-keepers to come forward.

The council believes the success of a village shop is vital for a rural community in terms not merely quantified by practical need – it is a service which offers a meeting place, a centre of community; a place where people can engage with each other on a regular basis. It brings together all the threads of the community in a neutral setting while also offering opportunities for promotion and communication between all sectors and groups in the parish and wider locality.

The parish council has no intention of getting involved in the running of a shop and post office – just taking a role it will hope better enables community spirit to continue to flourish.

Carolyn Morris, Clerk, on behalf of Bishampton & Throckmorton Parish Council. July 2010.