

**At the Extra-ordinary Meeting of Grimley Parish Council held on  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 7.05pm**

**Present:** B R Woodhouse (Chairman) Mrs P Ayers Mrs A Davies S R Haslewood  
B Jones D Lewis\* G Rowberry Mrs M Weston

**In Attendance:** WCCllr P Grove (in part) DCllr D Clarke (in part) 26 parishioners  
Mrs S Hughes - Clerk 2 representatives from Aardvark

**Apologies:** D Arr (accepted)

**01/15 Declarations of Interest**

**a) Register of Interests:** There were none.

**b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** Cllr Davies declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as a near neighbour in planning application MH14/1663/FUL and took no part in the discussions.

**c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** There were none.

**d) To declare any changes to Register of Gifts & Hospitality:** There were none.

**02/15 To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011): NB** Cllrs Ayers & Lewis had previously been granted dispensations as home owners adjacent to the SSSI on Monkwood Green (Min /15).

***Closure of the meeting to allow the public present to speak on any matters relating to Grimley Parish.***

In view of the significance of the matters to be discussed the chairman invited public participation for the items relating to Monkwood Green.

**03/15 Monkwood Green**

**a) To Receive a Presentation on the possible planning application for a Solar Farm at Green Farm:** The chairman thanked the two officers for the exhibition materials and answering early queries. He then invited parishioners to raise any further queries/matters with the officers. Matters raised included:

- bat foraging and feeding corridor along the central hedgerow;
- ecological survey – completed report but not yet published;
- visual landscape assessment – in progress;
- preferred use of brownfield sites for such projects;
- restoration at end of period of use to current use;
- once approved, would sell on to a 'developer'?
- use of good agricultural land, currently grazed by sheep;
- agricultural grade of soil in the area – advised by officers grade 3b;
- impact on listed buildings;
- access to the site for all vehicles;
- noise levels, particularly during construction;
- use of fencing, lighting and CCTV cameras;
- net wildlife loss – the officers stated that the intention was to leave more than was there at present;
- alternative sources of natural power.

**b) To Consider & Agree Works to be undertaken by Volunteers:** The chairman spoke to the previously circulated details from Natural England of general maintenance which could be undertaken by the volunteers. It was also noted that a resident had written kindly offering the practical expertise and use of his company.

The clerk advised that volunteer groups were covered under the required sections of the insurance policy subject to due care and attention, allocation of work as appropriate to the health of volunteers and no heavy lifting. All mechanical machinery to be used only by qualified to do so.

The chairman signed both copies of the Agreement to return to Natural England.

NB The Parish council had previously agreed to re-imburse the costs of the required herbicide on production of a receipt.

**c) To Consider & Agree Works in the Area of the Pond adjacent to Green Farmhouse:** A neighbouring landowner had written objecting to trespass on his land by persons, including councillors at a site meeting to consider the drainage problems in the area. The chairman apologised once again; he had also done so at the site meeting.

Following discussions at that site meeting, it was agreed that the new drainage pipe should be lowered by approximately 4" to be nearer to the depth of the original pipe which had been removed (not by the Parish Council) to allow the water level to reduce and thus avoid flooding a neighbouring property and seeping through onto the Highway. Additionally, local authority approved bollards to be placed on the grass adjacent to the highway to prevent any further erosion by vehicles turning.

Although historical photographs showed no water in the pond and in later years only two willow trees surrounded by water, several parishioners were adamant that water levels had always been as now and that the problem was caused by the over-population of wildfowl.

As the water from the pond, the responsibility of the Parish Council was at times flooding onto a domestic property and a public highway, it was agreed that advice be sought from officers at Natural England at a site meeting to include the local landowner.

**d) Property Signage on the Green:** Parishioners requested further consideration of additional signage on The Green to indicate the position of each property and thus avoid excessive use of heavy traffic on the tracks.

Members agreed to reconsider the matter at the meeting in February.

\* All members of the public and Cllr Lewis left the meeting at this point.

**04/15 Planning: a) To Consider Planning Applications for Comment to MHDC**

14/01663/FUL	Partial conversion of vacant part of an existing public house with extension to form two-bedroomed dwelling with parking. New Inn, Sinton Green
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Members raised strong objections to this application and noted very little

favourable change indeed to the previous application refused by the LPA in April 2014 and by the Planning Inspector on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014.

The overall mass of the two buildings would amount to an incongruous form of development which would harm the character of the area and very possibly harm the business of the only local public house within the settlement.

**b) To Consider the Possibilities of requesting 'Community Asset Status' for The New Inn, Sinton Green:** Following discussions, members unanimously **agreed** to pursue the possibilities within the scheme.

**c) To Consider Under the Scheme of Delegation any Planning Applications received between publication of this agenda and the Meeting:** There were none.

Chairman .....  
(2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015)