

Minutes of the Heydon Parish Council Meeting on 9th September 2014

Chairman: Diana MacFadyen
Parish Councillors: Livingstone, Janson Jones, Smith
District Councillor: Hales
County Councillor: Susan van de Ven
Clerk: Sarah Scott
Other: Jessica Gittoes – Lightsource Energy
Cairon Dillon – Lightsource Energy

Actual Start: 18:32

Apologies:

Cllr Carroll - previous commitment

Cllr Barrett – previous commitment

These were both accepted by the Council.

1. 6:30 – 6:45pm Opportunity for Public Questions (if required)

Jessica Gittoes gave an overview of the proposed solar farm at Black Peak Farm, Melbourn. She also gave a precis of the ecology and biodiversity plans for the site. Questions from the Parish Council included:

- Has there been a meeting with English Heritage relating to the scheduled monuments and the 20 metre exclusion area? They have spoken with one another and there is some trial trenching taking place and more will be determined after this.
- The owner of the airstrip is happy about the development and there are no safety issues relating to the landing and taking off of airplanes (NATS and the civil aviation authority have been consulted)
- The solar panels are attached to concrete posts which are bored into the ground.
- UK Power Network have granted permission for the scheme to join the network.
- Some sites use the land as pasture for grazing sheep or goats. After 25 years when the site is decommissioned this gives a better crop yield.
- The main investor is the Octopus Investment Group linked to a pension fund.
- Melbourn Parish Council have approved the scheme and said how helpful the company had been in listening to views and opinions.

The decision should be known on 6th November.

The Chairman thanked Jessica and Cairan for coming to the meeting.

2. To receive any declaration of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interests of Councillor's

There were none declared.

3. To Approve the minutes of the meeting on 8th July 2014

These were approved by the Council as an accurate account of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. Finance

The Clerk took the Council through the income and expenditure to date. The chalk pit fencing will commence this autumn and we are awaiting the invoice for the painting of the finger post.

The External Audit has come back and the notice is currently displayed in the noticeboard.

5. Planning

S/1902/14/FL – Solar Farm, Black Peak Farm, Melbourn – it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council recommended approval of this planning application.

Another planning application relating to Heydonbury has been received and this will be discussed at another meeting to be scheduled.

6. Consultation on Cambridgeshire County Council Recycling Service

Cllr Smith was concerned that not everyone knew about this public consultation. The Clerk said that she had put the link on the website, it has been in the local media and she had forwarded the information via a local mailshot list. After discussion it was decided to set up a Heydon Parish Council Database.

Cllr van de Ven took the Council through the reasoning behind the potential cuts / closures of these sites. She recommended that if the Parish Council had not undertaken the consultation, they do so and at best recommend a reduction of opening hours at Thriplow. Royston recycling site also face an uncertain future.

The Parish Council to write a letter (Cllr Smith has already draft one) to send to Cambridgeshire County Council. The Parish Council to review and approve the draft.

7. Heydon Lane

Most of the works are now complete. The road is better, but the landowner has still not rerouted the pipes which currently overflow into the road. Enforcement are to speak to the landowner.

8. Footpaths

The Clerk read out the following report from Cllr Carroll.

Generally footpaths well maintained and useable, and used quite a lot by locals and through traffic.

Concerns continue regarding Ickniel Way opposite village pond Hall Lane as track is rough but useable. A gate was put across this way which would have blocked the path, but it has been removed now. Some slug "pellets" or were found spilled on path, but cleared up.

Cross field reinstatement of paths is sometimes slow but does take place. Cause is usually bad weather.

Trees

A number of garden trees have been pruned or removed, no objections to these applications as they do not have significant detrimental impact on village and are trees in poor condition or overgrown.

9. District and County Councillor's Report

September 2014 - County Councillor Report

16-18 year-old education transport: Every September queries arise about the cost of transport to sixth form and other 16-18 education and training, as this is invariably significant and often comes as a shock. This is not helped by the fact that arrangements are so complex. The council subsidizes transport costs if a child is attending a 'Nearest Designated Education Centre' but even so the subsidy is a fraction of the total cost. In fact the council is not required to provide any subsidy at all, and given the enormous and continuing across the board cuts it is notable that the subsidy plan still exists. Students coming from Melbourn Village College who need help with transport to Comberton Sixth Form have discovered that the college is not within the County Council's catchment for transport subsidy. This is a strange anomaly and I am following it up. Comberton's privately run bus transport costs sixth formers about £1000 per year, compared with £450 for council-subsidized 31 bus travel to Cambridge.

Cambridgeshire Future Transport: Options are now being worked up for future provision. Response is needed by the end of September.

Heydon Lane: The Enforcement Officer has been in touch to say that there is more work to do with the landowner, and I had hoped to catch up with him today on details, but our schedules have clashed.

County Council's Surface Water Management Plan – information sought from parish councils. Please note that the deadline has been extended from an unworkable 7 August to 'September'. The council is trying to map surface water problems using local knowledge – a useful opportunity for us.

Household waste recycling service consultation: Some of the big cuts we are facing will be in household waste recycling/disposal services. Please can people fill out this questionnaire: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentreservice>. It may be that significantly reducing opening hours/days can prevent outright closures, but that message would need to be conveyed via the consultation response. I would not count on Royston's recycling centre providing a secure back-up as other councils are facing similar cuts, and may restrict access to rate payers.

Cllr Hales spoke about the formula used in the 5 year land supply; it has been calculated that there are 1,500 short, which means that at the moment until the Local Development Plan (LDF) is finalized it is leaving potential development land which was not included in the final LDF vulnerable as developers try to get permission for their development.

10. Correspondence

There was none which had not already been circulated.

11. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

Website Statistics will be added to the next agenda.

12. Date and Venue for Next Meeting

11th November at 84 Fowlmere Road.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:05.