**BONINGALE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting**

**Wednesday 10th August 2022**

**Present**

Cllrs. C Keeton (Vice Chair), S Burgess, A Gilson-Caldwell, K Vilton.

Clerk to Boningale Parish Council – M Ward.

1. **Apologies**

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr Slatcher presented his apologies which were accepted by the council.

1. **Declarations of interest.**

To consider declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Where a member indicates that they have a prejudicial interest but wish to make representation regarding the item before leaving the meeting, they must do so under item 4 (D) of Public Participation.

None.

1. **Public Participation.**

**Members of the public**are invited to ask questions, make representations, or submit comments on any item on the agenda. This is **LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON –**at the sole discretion of the Chairman.

No members of the public were present

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting.**

Members agreed to delay consideration of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2022 to the next council meeting to be held on 7th September 2022.

1. **To consider the council response to the Low Carbon planning application for the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm with battery storage and associated infrastructure to the south of Holyhead Road (planning application 22/03068/FUL).**

The views of residents had been considered at public meetings and by other means although there had not been very much time to organise meetings and assess local opinion regarding this planning application. Within the meeting 3 – 1 objected to the application and Cllr. Slatcher had made his opposition to the proposed development known to members before the meeting began. The major concerns voiced by members were:

* The development would be built on green belt land.
* It would entail the use of a large amount of good quality agricultural land which would not be available for food production.

While all councillors recognised that these were serious issues Cllr. Gilson- Caldwell argued that members needed to recognise that the climate crisis, which was already causing serious problems around the world, demanded that changes to current practice were initiated and solar power was a significant contributor to non-fossil fuel energy provision. While recognising that he was in a minority within the council he asked that any formal response to the planning application should make it clear that the council was not opposed to solar power and that the opposition of the council was a majority response and not a unanimous reaction. It was also felt that any official feedback from the council should not refer to public meetings and some members expressed concern regarding the viability of some of the information provided by Low Carbon.

An early draft response regarding the planning application produced by Cllr. Keeton was revised taking into consideration members’ comments and Cllr. Keeton agreed to produce a new version for final comment within a few days. Once this had been agreed by councillors the agreed council comment would be passed to Shropshire Council by the clerk within the 31-day consultation period.