**BONINGALE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting**

**Thursday 29th September 2022**

**Present**

Cllrs. D Slatcher (Chairman), C Keeton (Vice Chair), S Burgess,

A Gilson-Caldwell.

Clerk to Boningale Parish Council – M Ward.

Two representatives from Low Carbon.

**Update on the Pepperhill Solar Farm planning application.**

The two representatives from Low Carbon displayed the comments received on their planning application for a new solar farm at Pepperhill Farm, Boningale. They also provided diagrams showing a revised plan which reduced the land use and the amount of top-quality agricultural land that would be lost to farming. Although the number of panels would be reduced the output from the proposed farm would be broadly the same. Members were also informed that new bridal ways were being considered which would aid ramblers, education packs had been made available to schools, the scouts had been contacted in relation to the effects on the nearby scout camp and the landowner had agreed to use some of the rental money as a heritage asset. Investigations into possible archaeological remains in the area had proved negative. Councillors were also informed that there would be a community benefit to the parish council if the application was approved which could be paid as a one-off lump sum or an annual payment over the duration of the project on an inflationary or non-inflationary basis. Members stressed that the loss of high-quality agricultural land was still a major issue and clarification was sought regarding the possible route of new bridleways and footpaths.

The Low Carbon representatives informed councillors that a meeting was due to take place with the Shropshire case officer on Monday 3rd. October and it was most unlikely that a final decision would be reached by October and was likely to require further consideration into November/December.

The chairman thanked the Low Carbon representatives for their input and the significant alterations to the planning application which would require further consideration. Both staff members then left the meeting.

1. **Apologies.**

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Members are asked to give their apologies direct to the clerk.

Cllr, Vilton presented her 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 (enclosure).**

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 4th May 2022 and 10th August 2022.

Cllr. Keeton proposed that the minutes of 4th May 2022 were a true and accurate record which seconded by Cllr. Slatcher and unanimously agreed by council.

Cllr. Burgess proposed that the minutes of 10th August 2022 were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Gilson-Caldwell and unanimously agreed by council.

1. **Matters arising.**

To consider any issues arising from the minutes that are not included on the agenda.

There were no matters arising.

1. **Correspondence.**

To review any outstanding correspondence that has been received since the last meeting.

Members considered an email from PCSO Sam Newbrook from West Mercia Police asking for the council’s top three priorities for police action for 2022/23. Councillors agreed that fly tipping and speeding were still the areas of most concern and asked the clerk to inform the police that the council’s priorities were unchanged. It was also agreed that PCSO Newbrook should be invited to the next council meeting on 13th December.

A request for financial support from Hope House children hospice was rejected by council.

Cllr Slatcher proposed that a donation of £100 should be made towards the cost of a book outlining the history and background of Boningale village which had been produced locally and was now ready for publication. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Gilson-Caldwell and unanimously agreed.

1. **To approve accounts for payment.**

* Staffing - £250.00.

The single staffing payment was approved by council.

1. **Financial Statement – September 2022.**

Members considered the financial statement that showed a balance of £2,932.35 after latest staffing costs had been deducted. There had been no other expenses or deposits since the last meeting in August 2022.

Cllr. Keeton proposed that the financial statement of accounts should be approved which was seconded by Cllr. Slatcher and unanimously agreed by council.

1. **Items for inclusion on the next agenda.**

Councillors asked that consideration should be given to the 2023/24 precept, a 2023/24 draft budget, and the Low Carbon solar farm proposal at the next council meeting on 13th December.

1. **Any further business regarding the planning application by Low Carbon for a solar farm south of the Holyhead Road ((planning application 22/03068/FUL).**

Members agreed that the changes to the original proposal were significant and an entry on the local on-line site should be made drawing residents attention to the changes and referring them to the revised application on the Shropshire Council planning website.

Councillors considered the possibility of a relatively large sum being made available if the application was successful and there was tentative agreement that something should be provided for the Boningale village and avoid the money being absorbed into the general Albrighton funding in the event of local council reorganisation. It was agreed that this important issue should be deferred until a decision was reached on the proposed solar farm.

1. **To further consider road safety in the Boningale area and any further measures that the council should consider taking.**

Members agreed that this issue should be deferred until 13th December when it could be discussed with PCSO Sam Newbrook of West Mercia Police.

1. **Report on the development of the former telephone box and agreement regarding the use of this new facility.**

Cllr. Keeton informed members that work on the former telephone box was completed apart from some minor work and the grass in the surrounding area had been recently mowed and tidied. Tentative plans had been made by residents regarding its use and it was agreed that the council’s contribution was virtually complete, and it no longer needed to appear on future agendas unless circumstances changed.

1. **Any outstanding planning applications**

Members considered planning application 22/04196/FUL, the erection of a roof over a livestock handling area at Upper Pepperhill Farm. The clerk was asked to forward the detailed planning application to council members as soon as it was received.

1. **Time and date of the next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of Boningale Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 13th December at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room, Church Lane, Boningale.

Signed……………………………………………………. Date……………………………………………

Chairman of Boningale Parish Council