**BONINGALE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting**

**Wednesday 2nd March 2022**

**Present**

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

County Councillor for Albrighton – N Lumby

Aislinn Dunne and colleague from Low Carbon

Clerk to Boningale Parish Council – M Ward

**Presentation on the proposed Pepperhill Solar Farm by Aislinn Dunne and colleague from Low Carbon.**

Councillors were informed that the proposed Pepperhill Solar Farm was still at the early stages of development by the company Low Carbon and if the proposal receives approval, it would not be likely that the installation would be completed before the summer of 2023.The company was over 10 years old and was currently providing over 800 megawatts to the national grid over the whole of the UK.

The Pepperhill Solar Farm would generate 23 megawatts and would include battery storage and take 14-20 weeks to construct. When operational it would provide power to approximately 7,500 homes. The construction work would necessitate 300-600 HGV loads which would be concentrated at the beginning of the process and the farm would cover up to 52 hectares of agricultural land which would be rented by the company from local farmers. There would also be a substation on the site no larger than 4 metres in height and the project involved no government subsidy. The site would also include beehives and there would be wildflower planting. The boundary fences would be concealed by local hedgerow planting. Any right of way would be protected.

Public consultations would begin in April 2022 and would involve a dedicated website, a public meeting, personal consultations, postal correspondence, and a free telephone line. A full range of technical assessments would be undertaken before a formal planning application was submitted to Shropshire Council. Preliminary discussions had already taken place with Shropshire Council officers.

After all questions and discussion were completed, the Chairman thanked the company representatives for their time and for the informative presentation. Ms Aislinn Dunne agreed to keep in touch with the clerk as the process got under way, particularly regarding the public consultation in the spring.

1. **Apologies.**

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

None.

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 meeting held on 7th December 2021.

Cllr. Gilson-Caldwell proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Burgess 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.

There was no outstanding correspondence for members to consider.

1. **To approve accounts for payment.**
* Staffing January – March 2022 - £250.00.
* Grant to St Chad’s Church for churchyard maintenance - £300.00

Councillors approved the honorarium payment and noted the grant payment which had been agreed in the previous meeting. The chairman reported that the response from church officers had been very positive regarding the churchyard maintenance grant, but he had made it clear that this was not a long-standing commitment and repeat payments were not guaranteed.

1. **Financial Statement – March 2022, (enclosure)**

The clerk presented the statement of accounts to 2nd March 2022 which showed a balance of £1241.22 after all payments were presented. He suggested that with further transactions unlikely this was likely to be the end of year figure with the 2022/23 precept usually received in mid-April.

The clerk informed councillors that the current church treasurer had resigned her post and the new treasurer was Ms Pauline Hill.

Members agreed that the auditors employed to review the accounts in 2020/21 should be asked to repeat the process for 2021/22.

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

Several items were suggested for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 22nd June as follows:

* Road safety;
* Fly tipping;
* Council marketing;
* Pepperhill solar farm;
* Planning applications.
1. **Discussion on possible involvement of the parish council in the Queen’s platinum jubilee celebrations.**

Councillors had asked residents about a possible Queen’s platinum jubilee celebration and reviewed arrangements that had been made on the occasion of her diamond jubilee . Members reported that there was only moderate interest in the possibility of an event to mark the jubilee and noted that the three local churches were considering combining to produce a celebration of some kind. Members agreed that a council-led event was not necessary.

1. **Update on the renovation of the former BT phone box and any further action required.**

Cllr. Keeton reported that no work to the phone box had been undertaken since Christmas, but the external refurbishment was complete although there was still some work to be completed on the inside which could not be finalised until the exact purpose of the facility had been determined. Slabs had been laid and the notice board had been moved but a yellow grit bin had still to be relocated.

The chairman asked that the thanks of the council to all who had given of their time to refurbish the new information centre should be recorded in the council minutes.

1. **Any matters relating to road safety in the area and possible involvement of Shropshire Council**

Cllr. Burgess reported that there had been no response of any kind from Shropshire Council to his email relating to problems with local roads. He was very disappointed in the lack of interest displayed by Shropshire Council, and he knew that this dissatisfaction was felt by others although he knew that the number of requests the county received was very large and that the budget available was limited and reducing in total.

The Chairman reported that he had met a different response from West Mercia Police regarding speeding and other offences on local roads and he is due to attend a meeting in the coming week to discuss a possible grant to help combat these problems.

Members noted that the scheduled work in Burnhill Green Road had been delayed and a new start date had been circulated.

1. **Update on fly-tipping in the area and any further action needed by the parish council.**

Members reported that there had been no examples of fly tipping in public areas in the locality since the last meeting. The possibility of some signage in the area had still to be resolved.

1. **Further discussion on marketing the parish council and suggestions for raising the council’s profile.**

The chairman had not yet spoken to a representative of the Parish Magazine in Albrighton although he would find the time to do so. It was felt that the on-going discussions with Low Carbon regarding the proposed solar farm would be a good opportunity for the council to realise a higher public profile and Cllr. Keeton reported that some improvements had been made to the council website although many suggested developments were not appropriate as they related to commercial sites with very different objectives.

1. **Any outstanding planning applications.**
* 22/00666, Fairway Cottage, Patshull Gardens.

Members discussed the issue of adding a further ground floor bedroom to this barn conversion and gave the application their unqualified support.

* 21/05942 Old Farm House Church Lane, Boningale

Councillors noted that the installation of an external air pump and related electric and plumbing works at Old Farm House had been granted permission by Shropshire Council.

1. **Time and date of the next meeting and throughout the 2022/23 financial year.**

Members agreed the following Dates for council meetings throughout 2022/23 as follows:

* 22nd June 2022 – Annual Public Meeting to be followed by a council meeting at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room.
* 7th September 2022 – Council Meeting at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room.
* 13th December 2022 – Council meeting at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room.
* 1st March 2023 – Council meeting at 7.00 pm in the Old School Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.21 pm

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

Chairman of Boningale Parish Council