

Brassington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Brassington Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday June 3rd 2014 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall, Brassington.

Present: Cllrs Horrocks, Jackson , Brown, Allsop, Hampson, Cllr Rose 10 members of the public.

6/14/1 Apologies for absence

Cllr Wilson, Cllr Ede.

Any Variation in the Order of Business

None

6/14/2 Declaration of Interests

None

6/14/3 Public Speaking

Highways issues raised: Longcliffe Road where electric cables have been laid is subsiding and causing a dip in the road from the end of the Green Lane as far as the electricity substation.

Town Street: a collision between 2 cars occurred at the junction of Greenway and Town Street (See clerk's correspondence), also another outside Somerville Cottage, Town Street where cars were parked on both sides of the road.

A representative of Ible village raised their objections to Griffie Grange wind farm on the basis of the development failing the "Lavender Test" and the adverse impact on the Peak District National Park. A question was raised regarding the influence of the £300k that has been offered to Brassington village by the wind farm developers.

Brassington Parish Council were urged to consider the visual impact on the village of Ible and to object to the planning application.

6/14/4 Approval and ratification of Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting dated 6th May 2014 were APPROVED

6/14/5 DCC Highways Matters

a) Church Street "pinch point"- Cllr Horrocks confirmed that DDDC will not be doing anything regarding footpath creation here. Cllrs agreed that the piece of land may be let to the owner of the Manor for a peppercorn rent.

b) Speed camera results- Clerk to request electronic version of the results for Cllr Hampson.

c) Drain on junction of Town Street and Bowling Green – water is coming up- Clerk to report to DDDC.

d) Cllr Allsop reported that articulated lorries have been coming into Brassington village when their drivers have not been able to understand the signs on the Ashbourne/Wirksworth Road. Cllrs suggest that a request is made for Highways department request signs directing vehicles TO Hoben and Sibelco.

6/14/6 Parish Matters and Maintenance

a) Parish Council Communication –no update

b) Wirksworth Dale Footpath-Discussions continuing with the landowner and a meeting with the footpaths officer is proposed.

c) Parish Plan- Cllr. Jackson advised that 143 out of 250 questionnaires have been received. Next Steering Group meeting where the raw data is to be discussed is 17/6/2014 in the British Legion. The planning of the business survey is in its early

stages. A draft project plan is hoped to be achieved by early next year. Cllr Jackson wished to thank all those who had helped and taken part.

d) Cemetery gate- Cllr Brown to ask Robinsons if they will supply a metal gate, if not all agreed that a wooden gate could be used.

e) Allotments- Cllr Horrocks advised that entrance is gradually being sorted. Cllr Allsop suggested that the allotment holders should be aware that cattle are currently able to get in without a gate in situ.

f) Litter bin- Clerk to request price from Karl Allsop and Mark Allcock to fit.

g) Village Green Fencing- Cllrs agreed to leave until Recreation Ground is complete.

h) Brassington Recreation Ground- New Trustee appointed – Cllr Allsop . Mr Mason gave an update on progress: work has started and seed should be on the ground prior to the next PC meeting.

i) Brassington Digital Action Group: Mr Mason advised that the group had been formed with 2 workstreams:

1. Getting Brassington into schedule for improved internet speed/access
2. Education- helping people in the village with technology.

6/14/7

Planning

a) T/14/00059/TCA- Mr Grant- Nicholas- works to trees in conservation area, Brassington Hall, West End- no objections

b) Griffie Grange Wind Farm- objection letter from Mr S. McCarthy read out. Also, statements by Cllrs Jackson and Hampson (see appendix 1) abstaining from vote. No objection by rest of Councillors present, carried.

c)13/00312/VCOND. Mr A Maier-withdrawn.

d) 1400340/FUL-Mr P Peake-2 storey extension and detached double garage, The Old Malthouse. No objections.

e)14/00339/FUL-Mr P Peake- 2 storey side extension, The Cottage fronting The Old Malthouse- No objections.

6/14/8

Clerk's Report and Correspondence

a) Clerk vacancy applications- I withdrawn, interview of remaining candidate Tuesday 10th June.

b) Oil Club- Cllrs advised that a link on Rural Action Derbyshire alerts residents to a non-profit making oil purchasing group.

6/14/9

Finance

a) Audit- completed and passed

b) Current financial statement- APPROVED

c) Authorisation and payment of cheques

I. £257.97 Glasdon UK (litter bin)

II. £56.00 B. Wood (Audit)

III. £373.18 Clerk's salary May 2014

IV. £725.00 G Griffiths

V.

6/14/10

Date of Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting- Tuesday July 1st 2014, 7.45 Venue: Brassington Village Hall

Agenda items to be submitted to clerk by Friday June 20th 2014.

Minutes of Brassington Parish Council – 3 June 2014

Statement by Cllr Roger Jackson

Appendix 1

1.Strongly support renewable energy, including onshore wind farms, as an important part of supplying our present and future energy requirements, and as part of our response to the challenges of climate change; in general terms, I have no problem with the technology of wind energy, or the appearance of wind farms in open country, urban fringe areas or offshore, and, given that most forms of large-scale energy generation in developed societies are based on risk sharing between the public and private sector, I don't have a problem with the principle of public sector subsidy;

2.I would also support, in principle, the allocation of funds to Brassington's recreation ground project from a community benefit fund if the Griffie Grange wind farm is finally approved;

3.However, in relation to this particular development, I do have serious reservations in terms of its location on the north-facing slope of the Griffie Grange ridge facing the National Park. I believe that the Landscape and Visual Impact section of the Non-technical Summary understates the impact of the new wind farm on the landscape of the National Park in a number of ways. It argues that the landscape is already a worked landscape, quoting quarrying, associated works and electricity pylons, but in reality all of these are much more low-lying and less visible from a distance than the turbines. It argues that the National Park's valued characteristics would not be significantly undermined, but in my view at least 3 of these would be seriously impacted -

- natural beauty, natural heritage, landscape character and diversity of landscapes;
- sense of wildness and remoteness;
- the flow of landscape character across and beyond the National Park boundary, providing a continuity of landscape and valued setting for the National Park.

It admits that there will be significant landscape effects on a small portion of the National Park but argues that this is restricted to an area within 3.5-4 km. of the proposed turbines, representing 21 sq. km of the National Park. As we all know, the nature of the White Peak is a rolling plateau and because of this I believe that the turbines will be visible from much longer distances and that the impact on the area's natural beauty, sense of wildness and remoteness, and also the setting of the National Park will be more significant than allowed for. The National Park was established to protect and conserve a national asset – a beautiful, wild, historic landscape – in the face of significant development pressures, and to allow this uniqueness to be enjoyed by future generations. I welcome the fact that the Planning Authority has commissioned an independent landscape impact assessment and I look forward to seeing what it says, but my provisional view is that the impact on the unique landscape of the National Park is likely to be significantly greater than the proposers state.

So I can't in all honesty support the development in this location, but because of the potential benefit to the Parish in terms of the achievement of one of the community's main projects, I will not register a formal objection but will instead abstain.