

## COLNBROOK WITH POYLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Colnbrook on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 commencing at commencing at 7.30 pm.

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Members Present: Chairman – Cllr P Hood, Vice Chair – Cllr R Angell, Cllrs Brooks, Bedi, Elum-Smith, Kinane, Jackson, Richardson and Smith.

Officer Present: Mrs K. Jones - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

Members of the Public: 0

Representatives from SBC Renewables – Dr Clive Weatherby  
Stratus Environmental Limited - James Cook and Nick Davies

PC/15/75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs Laxman, Grewal and Bryant.

PC/15/76 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th October 2015 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

PC/15/77 DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None.

PC/15/78 SERVICES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th October 2015 were submitted by the Chairman **RESOLVED:** - that the minutes be received and approved, and that the recommendations made be ratified

PC/15/79 FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

i) The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th October 2015 were submitted by the Chairman **RESOLVED:** - that the minutes be received and approved, and that the recommendations made be ratified

ii) List of Payments:

The list of payments in the sum of £22,852.15 (Inc. VAT) from 16th September to 14th October 2015 was received. **RESOLVED:** - that the list of payments be confirmed and approved.

PC/15/80 PLANNING

The Chairman proposed to take the planning items in reverse order to allow the representatives from SBC Renewables to give their presentation first.

ii. Poyle Park Solar Farm - Community Benefit Scheme.

Dr Clive Weatherby ran through the fact sheet circulated on the proposed Poyle Park Landfill Soar Farm. A copy of which is attached. He said there were a number of limitations as to where new Solar Farms can be sited, access to the national grid network being one factor. Over the last 18 months they had been selecting sites of low quality, specialising in restored landfill sites. Poyle Park had

been identified as such a site and would provide between 3.8 and 4.5 mwh of power.

It was proposed to split the site over two areas with access via the northern corner. There had originally been an objection to the application from the Environment Agency with regard to flood plain capacity but drawings and details had since been amended and their opposition had been withdrawn. No objections had been received from local residents. Although the site is within the Green belt, the Strategic Gap and the Colne Valley Country Park, because the application is for renewable energy, in Planning Policy terms it is seen as a type of permitted development under special circumstances.

However the impact on the Colne Valley Country Park have led SBC Renewables to look into mitigating concerns by establishing a Community Benefit Fund. He asked the Parish Council to consider how such a fund could be administered and what form this would take should planning permission be granted.

The Community Benefit Fund would be based on £3,800 per mwh so should produce £14,000 per annum, for the life of the project which is 25 years (index linked) Part of the Fund should go towards the development of the Colne Valley Country Park. The rest to be used for enhancement elsewhere in the parish not just restricted to the site.

Councillors asked questions on the proposal.

Would there be public access / bridle ways on the site? Not at the moment because of security issues but could be look into.

When would the Fund come on line? – It would commence from when it is connected to the National grid.

How were the plans amended from the EA objection? – Moved back from the brook and solar panels in the S W corner have been put flush into the ground with no concrete beam which would have stopped the flow of flood water. The land will be managed as a grass sward with wildflower mix beneficial for butterflies, insects and reptiles.

How will the residents benefit? – Improve quality of life at any level in any way. Will the site have CCTV? – No but it will be monitored remotely and there will be a response unit if motion sensors are triggered.

Are there any apprenticeship opportunities? – Not really during the construction process as very low key, but the fund could be used to set up training in renewable energy sources.

Will there be a night watchman? – Only during construction.

Is the Community Benefit Fund separate to any section 106 agreement with Slough Borough Council? – The preference is to have a private agreement with the Parish Council rather than a 106 with the Borough.

Will the substation on the northern tip be screened? – It will be green in colour to blend in as part of the planning conditions and there is some infill planting.

How will the site be secured during construction? – Security fencing around the compound and then the site.

Are you obliged to provide the Fund? - There is no obligation to do this it is a 'gift' to the community and would have to be spent geographically in the parish for the environment and social wellbeing. Examples include Nature Reserves, improving accessibility, new community facilities, childrens play.

Could you provide a model 'Heads of Terms' agreement for the parish to consider? - Yes

After the presentation the Chairman asked for comments:

Cllr Jackson thought that it had been very good, clear and concise.

Cllr Kinane felt that with new planting to infill the holes you would not know it was there.

Given that the council had already submitted its comments on the application to the Borough, asking for screening in the form of a mixed broadleaf and evergreen tree/hedge buffer strip be planted along the internal boundaries to the northern and eastern perimeters along Bath Road / Poyle Road to supplement the existing vegetation, all thought that the Community Benefit was a bonus and all were happy to accept the proposal.

Cllr Smith declared an interest as he is on the Borough Planning Panel and took no part in these discussions.

- i. To consider any applications relating to the Parish of Colnbrook with Poyle.  
There were 3 new applications for consideration at the meeting. The outcomes being;

**Planning Application Ref: TPO/2015/20**

Registration Date: 26-Oct-2015

Application Type: Tree Application for Works

Main Location: Old Wood; South of M4 between J5 & J4b, East of Biffa Landfill;, Sutton Lane, West of Sewage Works, Old Slade Lane, Colnbrook, Slough, Berkshire

Proposal: Maintain statutory safety distances of vegetation in proximity to National Grid overhead electricity network

Status: Registered application

**Members noted these details.**

**Planning Application Ref: Y/16371/000**

Registration Date: 27-Oct-2015

Application Type: Permitted Development with Consultation (May 2013)

Main Location: 68, Torridge Road, Slough, SL3 8UR

Proposal: The erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 6m, with a maximum height of 3m, and an eaves height of 2.9m

Status: Registered application

**Members noted these details.**

**Planning Application Ref: TPC/2015/2**

Registration Date: 30-Oct-2015

Application Type: Tree Application for Conservations Area

Main Location: 8, St. Thomas Walk, Colnbrook, Slough, SL3 0RH

Proposal: Fell tree

Status: Registered application

**Members requested that full details be given regarding which tree is to be felled as no plans or description was available for the meeting.**

Members also noted the decisions made by the Borough Council on the pink planning addendum list read out by the Clerk.

PC/15/81 LETTER TO MRS AND MISS CHEEMA RE COST OF AUGUST 2015 BY-ELECTION.

The clerk referred to the letter which had been circulated to all councillors for their comments so a final version could be brought to the meeting tonight for all to sign. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the vice chair that the letters be sent **All AGREED**. Cllr Elum-Smith stated that he could not sign for legal reasons so was asked to strike his name from the list.

The Clerk confirmed that Cllrs Grewal and Laxman had given their authorisation for the letters to be signed on their behalf due to them being absent.

PC/15/82 CHAIRMANS CORRESPONDANCE

The Chairman had received a reply from Slough Labour Party in respect of the letter sent to them regarding the costs of the August By-Election which he summarised to the meeting. The outcome being that they did not consider these costs to be the responsibility of the local Labour Party, and stated that the matter is solely an issue for the candidates and not Slough Labour.

The Chairman felt it was the duty of the Party & Agent to make sure that their candidates were suitable and committed and if elected would follow the correct procedure in taking up office.

Following discussions it was clear that the council agreed with this view. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk draft a response to be signed by parish councillors.

Cllr Kinane thought a copy should go to the Minister for Local Government.

Cllr Jackson felt our MP Adam Afriyie should be made aware of the situation and be asked to lend his support.

Cllr Smith referred to the 'Nolan Principles' of public life which apply to anyone who works as a public office-holder including people who are elected or appointed to public office, nationally and locally. He felt that in this case these had principles had been infringed and it should be brought to some ones attention.

The Clerk advised that NALC were seeking nominations to serve on the NALC Smaller Councils Committee. Cllr Jackson stated he may be interested depending on where the meetings were held. The Clerk to find out.

PC/15/83 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Elum-Smith reported that with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan he was trying to approach the governing body about the conference on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. He was also trying to get the steering group up and running with Cllr Grewal, Smith and Mike Nye. He felt it would be good to go to the village trusts and group meetings to get their input.

The Chairman advised that he look at the funding streams and get an application in as next year these would dry up. This would enable the use of consultants to assist. The clerk to send Cllr Elum-Smith the power point presentation on Neighbourhood planning for a recent conference she had attended. The Chairman also advised that Mike Nye had already done a lot of work and had some useful information.

Cllr Bedi reporting on behalf of the Colnbrook Community Partnership stated that the Pippins Herb Garden had been cleared out and new water butts were being installed. They now had more local people involved.

With regards to the Neighbourhood Action Group Fly Tipping and Street Lighting issues were being targeted.

There was a Flood Action Group meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October and the minutes will be issued shortly. Things are moving positively forward and the group was now working with Datchet's Flood Action Group. The emergency plan was about 98% complete.

Cllr Kinane commented on the land at Vicarage Way which had been illegally taken from Mr Swanson. He asked that Cllr Smith as a Borough Councillor become involved to get the fence line move back to the original boundary line.

Cllr Smith reported that the recent meeting of the SBC Cabinet had considered the recommendation from the scrutiny panel that the A4 at Brands Hill was not fit for purpose. The Cabinet had decided to ask the Highways department to

- Reduce the speed limit from 40 to 30 mph
- Install the No right turn when coming in a westerly direction into the BP garage
- Other minor adjustments

They were to report back before March 16<sup>th</sup>

SBC had also applied to create a bus lane and 3 traffic lanes between the Toby and Upton Court Road. Giving 2 lanes on the northern side when congestion is worse on the southern. In the light of this he thought it unlikely that SBC would change the 3 lane arrangement at Brands Hill as it was following a pattern.

Cllr Smith advised the council have time to have an input before this date and ask Savio De Cruz to include items of concern.

Cllr Angell had a copy of the Safety Traffic Report from November 2014, stating that amongst other things that the bus lay-by should be reinstated and the turning at Laburnum Crescent be remodelled to prevent vehicles mounting the kerb or entering the oncoming traffic lane when turning left out of the road. The Clerk to circulate.

Cllr Brooks stated that trying to come out of Laburnum Crescent was extremely dangerous now as parked cars obscured views.

Cllr Jackson commented the NAG had pointed out obscured and misaligned traffic signs under the complaints procedure and asked for a regional contact but nothing had been done. This had now been taken forward and they were waiting for a reply.

Cllr Hood had attended a Local Focus Forum with Heathrow on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

The results of the Drop-In question and answer session on the future expansion / third runway were on the web site.

Heathrow had been talking to the local private hire taxi firms and were drawing up a charter for surrounding Local Authorities and Private Hire Companies to sign up to so that they all had the same rules and the problem would not be pushed around. They had already had success elsewhere with 3 companies reducing the number of cars parking in residential areas and acting in an anti-social manner.

A site had been identified within the boundary of the airport for private hire taxis to have their own parking area.

Regarding the fly infestation on Vicarage Way he had met with SBC and Thames water and lifted numerous drain covers and found problems. When the ground water had risen in the recent flooding event sewage had been left on the side of the rim of the drains which was a potential breeding ground along with the stagnant water in the ditch. Samples are to be taken away to look for lava. The question was who was responsible for the drains Thames Water or London and Quadrant Housing Association as they needed cleaning now to prevent the

problem from happening again next spring. SBC and Thames Water have committed to fully investigate and help resolve the situation.

A formal Museum Committee is to be set up soon. Coincidentally the chairman had recently been contacted by the Harmonsworth Horse Volunteer Fire Brigade suggesting the possibility of a joint event along with their horse drawn fire tender. He explained this may not be for a while as they had to de-construct the Colnbrook tender the last time it came out. However it was exciting food for thought.

Tickets for the Colnbrook Residents Association Community Christmas Lunch on 6<sup>th</sup> December were selling well – Posters had gone up and he commended the event to all councillors and encouraged them to attend.

He advised that 2 of the village notice boards had been graphited. The costs for 4 new 4 Perspex covers (giving 2 spares) was around £300.00. All agreed to proceed in getting these.

Cllr Kinane asked if the Pump on London Road could be put back into working order The Chairman advised that he had painted it on several occasions but there was no need to have it operating as the roads were now of a standard that didn't need damping down.

In answer to questions received the Clerk advised that it was no longer possible to meet at Westfields Hall in November and March because the hall had been let on Tuesday nights to a religious group who now had a long term booking. She had asked to be advised should this change.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

SIGNED: .....

DATE .....