

WEEK ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting took place on Monday 12th December 2011 at 7.30pm under the chairmanship of Mr L Davies with 8 Councillors, Phil Tucker Cornwall Councillor, and 9 members of the public present. The following matters were discussed:

Moving seat from beside the Glebe to churchyard: Mr. I. Barriball reported that the seat was now in his garage and needed cleaning and re-painting before being placed in the churchyard.

Football Club: Main gates are now being shut more regularly however Ms. T. Kabler said that she often had to close the gate by the playground in the evening. There is now a new gate on the entrance to the new pitch. Mr. P. Sachs said that over the Christmas break he would be putting up the 'Awards for All' signs and carrying out other minor work.

Parish Hall: A successful Bingo and Christmas Draw evening was held. There would be a celebration Open Day in April 2012 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Parish Hall.

Diamond Jubilee: There was discussion around the plans to hold the celebrations over three days. It was generally agreed that only one evening event would be required and the obvious evening for this would be the Sunday when the beacon will be lit. Mr. L. Davies to take these thoughts back to the Jubilee Committee.

Correspondence was dealt with (for full list see agenda on Parish Notice Board and the village website)

Webbers Coaches re. re-tendering process – the council agreed to write to Cornwall Council in support of what is a highly valued service locally.

Finance: Cheques were raised for the following Mr JLA Race- Toilet cleaning; Royal British Legion- Poppy wreath; Parish Hall- Quarterly donation; Peters Langford Davies - Registration of Playing (Amenity) Field with Land Registry; Week St. Mary Parish Council - Monmouthshire Building Soc. Account; Mr. P. Johns - Repair to drains at footpath 5; Cornwall Council - Filled salt bin; Ms. T. Kabler - Christmas tree lights; EDF Energy - electricity at playing field. VAT reclaim received.

Public Toilets: Mrs M Smith has spoken to Mr. J. Race re. the checklist and the improvement in the cleanliness of the toilets. There have been no recent complaints.

Footpaths: Cornwall Council Local Maintenance Partnership claim due – Mr. R. Harris reported that there is a gate that needs repairing at Exemoor (the Footpath Co-ordinator is aware of this).

Dog Bins: – a new location is still being sought for the replacement dog bin.

Planning

The following information has been received:

1. PA11/08886 Installation of ground mounted 50 kW solar photovoltaic panels (approximately 200 panels with a rating of approximately 250W) with an associated building to house electrical equipment for Mr Dave Fowler at Field adj Appledene Whitstone APPROVED
2. PA11/08706 Installation of ground mounted 50 kW solar photovoltaic panels (approximately 200 panels) to generate electricity to export to the grid at Field at Appledene Whitstone for Mr Kevin Johns APPROVED
3. EN11/00621 – Felling of trees at land adjacent to Regent House – replanting scheme agreed with owner of site with compliance check March 2012.

The following planning applications have been received:

1. PA11/09247 Grigham House, Week St. Mary extension to the north side of agricultural barn to create 3 stables and creation of 40m x 20m dry exercise yard (**Case Officer – Richard White**) – there were no comments.
2. PA11/09209 Kitsham, Poundstock installation of 2 x CF15e kW wind turbines with 20m masts and 6m long blades – Mr. J. Congdon (**Case Officer – Gavin Smith**).

The chair declared an Open Forum to discuss this issue at 7.42 p.m.

Dr. C. Morwood spoke for the residents and raised the following issues:

There had been no pre-application discussion with any of the residents regarding this development so it came very much as a surprise. The turbines are to be placed in an area of great landscape value in the Neet Valley and not far from an area of AONB. The life of the turbines is expected to be 20 years and they will have a great visual impact. The economy of the area relies on people coming to stay for their holidays – the turbines could have a detrimental effect on holidaymakers. The statements that have been made about visual impact are incorrect and in some cases the turbines will only be 250-300m away from the road and not much further from residential property. There is considerable concern about noise nuisance the report only states noise levels in non-turbulent air. The report states that the turbines will be placed on a ridge to minimise noise nuisance but does not mention all the other ridges in the region that will actually cause turbulent air and greater noise nuisance. There appears to have been no architectural impact survey. One of the turbines will be extremely close to Penfound Manor – a property mentioned in the Domesday Book and the longest inhabited manor in England. There are plans to create rural workshops at Penfound and these would possibly be affected by the turbines. There has been a bat survey carried out but the section on owls is left blank. There is considerable evidence of barn owls (a protected species) in the area together with Peregrine Falcons. Cornwall Council state that an owl survey is a statutory requirement, and there is also a statutory requirement to enhance populations of barn owls, before planning permission is granted. Three properties are very directly affected by the planned placement and this could lower property prices. There is also concern that there could be even more if permission is granted for these two. The statement that the turbines can only be seen from one area is also untrue. At least one property is missing from the map with the plans.

The Parish Council said they would contact Poundstock Parish Council so that they also can comment on the plans and we would forward our views to Poundstock. Phil Tucker to be contacted urgently to ask that this planning application goes before Committee. The residents attending the meeting were advised to contact Phil Tucker also. It was also agreed that we would write to Cornwall Council Planning with the following points:

- The visual impact in an area of great landscape value is unacceptable
- The map used is inaccurate particularly in relation to the topography and, therefore, noise nuisance
- There must be an environmental survey of bird life; in particular in relation to barn owls and peregrines
- It will have a detrimental impact on the nearby conservation area
- Suggest that a noise survey be carried out before planning is granted

- No local consultation has been carried out as suggested in planning guidelines.

It was also suggested that a representative from the company be asked to attend our next meeting.

4. PA11/09538 Pegsdon Cottage Marhamchurch construction of ground floor extension to provide kitchen and dining space to existing dwelling and PA11/09541 Pegsdon Cottage listed building consent for the above– Mr. & Mrs. James Congdon

The council made the following two comments:

- The extension appears to be greater than 10% of the original build
- The proposed building is totally out of keeping with the listed building on the site.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 16th January 2012 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall..

Nicky May - Parish Clerk