

## WEEK ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting took place on Thursday 14th November 2013 at 7.30pm under the chairmanship of Mr J Ward with 9 Councillors, the Clerk, Cornwall Cllr N Chopak with fourteen members of the public present.

The following matters were discussed:

**GOOD ENERGY PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY BENEFITS** - The Chairman introduced James Ryle and Jessica Knowles from Good Energy. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Good Energy (GE) spoke about the community benefits they propose offering. Their benefit package constitutes 3 parts: 1. Discounted electricity tariff - everyone residing within 5km of the site would benefit from a 20% reduced tariff and GE is looking into including dual fuel tariffs including mains gas. 2. Community Investment - GE would give people the opportunity to invest and are investigating various options, ie share offers, bond offers, and shared ownership and 3. Community Benefit Fund - this would amount to £2,000 per mw per wind farm per annum; GE is keen to enhance wildlife and sustainable practices and would provide an education centre. Many questions and comments were posed by the councillors and members of the public these included: GE presentation comprised the same information given by them at their previous presentations, to which GE responded that they were unable to proceed without parish council input/discussions. A recent press release from the Government Communities Secretary was referred to which purported enabling communities to have a greater say and increased benefits which is £5,000 per mw; GE offer is below the recommendation for community benefits and GE responded that the £2K Community Benefit is part of the whole benefit package. GE confirmed that the £2k per mw per wind farm per annum is index linked and that the benefits are calculated at installation capacity. When asked about what would happen should GE sell the project on – they could not guarantee they would not sell but advised there are no current plans or intention of selling. The exact discounts to customers on the reduced tariff in comparison to other suppliers were questioned and it was suggested that GE would benefit the most from supplying the energy to the users. When asked how GE would distribute the community benefits, they confirmed GE would not decide how it is spent, neither would they administer the fund and that is why a group needs to be set up and they suggested a combination of parish councils within the benefit area. GE was asked where they have completed wind farms already in operation in similar situations as the one proposed for Week St Mary, not including the one at Delabole which was already in existence, and GE advised there are others in the development stage and they have solar projects.

**PLANNING** - 2 x Decision Notices approved by CC PA13/07936 & 37 relating to reconstruction of cob store to rear of Clifton Cottage, Week St Mary. Mr Lee Bacchus. There were no planning applications. In relation to some planning queries, there had been a delay in CC responding, the councillors did not fully agree with the planning officer's report and C Cllr N Chopak offered to speak to the planning officer for clarification.

Details relating to 3 x Planning Consultations have been received: 1) Renewable Energy Landscape Supplementary Planning Document. 2) Mineral Safeguarding Development. 3) Allocations Development. The deadline for comments is 20.12.13.

**DISPENSATIONS RE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS** - The councillors were disappointed that their request for someone from CC Corporate Legal Department to attend to enable the councillors the discuss dispensations more fully had not come to fruition.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - Eighteen items of correspondence had been circulated. It was agreed to take up the offer of free native mixed variety trees and request 25 trees.

**FINANCE** – payments were approved. A draft set of figures for the precept had been circulated, CC have advised that the final decision relating to a CTS Grant for 2014/15 will not be made until 26.11.13.

**PLAYING FIELD** - the final Lease Document with the Football Club was proved by the council and duly signed. The football club have advised that in order to improve visibility, they are planning to undertake some close trimming of the hedge by the road entrance.

**DRAINAGE AT THE JUNCTION OF ASHBURY GROVE** - Following flooding issues by Glen Grant, a representative from CORMAC had visited and after investigation it was found that BT contractors have drilled through the drain.

**PARISH OFFICE** – The Clerk will order radiator for the office and the PIR lights will be checked.

**PUBLIC TOILETS** – Compliments on the cleanliness of the toilets have been received.

**HIGHWAYS** – It was highlighted that various roads within the parish are in a poor state including some that have recently been patched and Cllr N Chopak will speak to CC.

**COMMUNITY POLICING** – Bude Police Sergeant has confirmed there are no plans to replace the Neighbourhood Beat Manager and PCSO Sarah Ross is our point of contact. PCSO Ross has offered to attend as many meetings as possible in 2014.

TRANSPORT – Mr W Pearce advised that some parishioners who qualified for free bus passes have offered to pay for the service if this would save the community bus and he will write to Bert Biscoe CC accordingly.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR PARISH COUNCIL TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING RELATING TO GOOD ENERGY LTD PROPOSALS - It was agreed to defer making a decision about holding a meeting until Good Energy have made a pre-application request with the planning department.

WEEK ST MARY EMERGENCY PLANNING - Mr P Coulson had attended the meeting at Launceston College and his offer to formulate an Emergency Plan for Week St Mary was accepted with thanks.

CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE SQUARE - Mr & Mrs P Dorren have kindly offered to power the lights on the tree.

NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA - Precept, Week St Mary Parish Hall, Playing Field,

DATE OF NEXT MEETING The monthly meeting would be 1 week later 19.12.13. An extraordinary meeting was scheduled for 12.12.13 to deal with responses to CC Planning Consultation. Both meetings 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

*Bobbie Heathcote*