

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 27 January 2009 at 7.15p.m. in the Village Hall, Holcot Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), C Bament, R Chattaway,
T Everard, Mrs A Gunnet M Lacey, R Low, R Monk, Mrs E Nunn,
S Pointer, S Whiffen,

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Cllr E Wiig – *(Remained with the members of the public)*
County Cllr C Millar
Mike Corker - Bolsterstone
Liam Nevins – Arcus
Paul Philips – Arcus
55 Members of the Public
PCSO Jo Hillery - Northants Police

09/396 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr F Wiig

09/397 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

None

09/398 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 16 December 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2008 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7.20pm to allow members of the public to address the Council. A note of the matters raised are attached to the minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 8pm.

09/399 County Councillors Report

Cllr Millar speaking as the local County Councillor stated that he had originally an open mind about the planning application for the Brixworth Wind Farm, however after establishing further information he thought that it was situated in the wrong location and that there must be many other more suitable sites that are not positioned in a Special Landscaped Area and close to ancient monuments.

Cllr Chris Millar in his capacity as Leader of Daventry District Council and a member of the WNJPU informed the meeting that the WNJPU are looking at the potential growth locations in the West Northants area i.e. DDC, SNC and NBC and last June made a "call for sites" i.e. Landowners were invited to put forward proposals for potential future housing growth on their land. He explained that details of any potential future sites in the Brixworth Area are available from the WNJPU'.

Planning

09/400 Minutes of Meetings 5 and 26 January 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 5 and 26 January 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

09/401 DDC Planning Approvals and Refusals – December 2008 Report

The planning approvals and refusals for December 2008 were noted as follows: -

Approvals

DA/2008/0636 Mercedes Benz, Morgan Drive, Brixworth

Construction of new manufacturing building and energy centre with associated staff restaurant and welfare facilities, extension to existing engineering and testing building, provision of new staff car parking, extension of site perimeter road with landscaping (amendment to scheme approved under DA/2007/0497)

30.6.08 PC No Objection

11.12.08 DDC Approved

DA/2008/1088 Mr J McFadyen, 43 Brackenborough, Brixworth

Retrospective application for conservatory at rear of dwelling

24.11.08 PC No objection

17.12.08 DDC Approved

DA/2008/1159 Mr R Johnson, 36 The Knoll, Brixworth

Two Bed Bungalow

15.12.08 PC No Objection

5.1.09 DDC Approved

Refusals

None

09/ DA/2008/1252 Erection of six wind turbines and associated infrastructure including hard standings, on-site tracks, construction compound, permanent meteorological mast, underground cabling, culverting, control building and upgraded site access from the A508.

Land west of Hanging Houghton Lodge, Harborough Road, Hanging Houghton, Northants

Individual members gave their comments on this planning application, which were as follows: -

- The proposed site is located in a Special Landscape Area
- Concerns regarding the visual affect of the landscape, especially with regards to the Ancient Saxon Church, which has dominated the landscape for the past 1300 years
- No guarantee that the Green Field site will be reinstated after the 25 years, when the turbines are decommissioned
- Parish Council has a duty to support neighbouring villages, which will also be affected by this wind farm
- Photomontages in the application not representative of the visual impact the turbines would have on the area
- Turbines as high as the Express Tower
- Low wind speed area
- Brixworth Village Design Statement mentions that the views identified in the statement need to be protected and enhanced. In particular the views of the church approached from the north along the A508.
- Horses along the Brampton Way would be spooked by shadows and the sight of the towers
- Health and Safety issues (i.e. ice throw) to users of the Brampton Valley Way

- NCC Highways will be consulted and will comment on the safety aspect of the road and entrance
- Distraction to drivers
- Concerns regarding the cumulative affect of the 15 proposed wind farms in a 30km area of Brixworth
- Affects of noise are unknown and may not be an issue
- The impact of the wind farm may not be as people fear

In addition some members supported comments already made by the members of the public (see attached note at the end of the minutes), fellow councillors and Cllr Millar.

Following a recorded vote it was resolved to strongly object to this planning application which is detrimental to the Ancient Saxon Church and contravenes the Village Design Statement, Special Landscape Area as well as Health and Safety issues on the Brampton Valley Way. In addition to refer to the relevant parts in Dr Jones letter.

(Cllrs I Barratt, C Bament, RChattaway, Mrs A Gunnet, M Lacey, Low, R Monk, Mrs E Nunn, S Pointer, S Whiffen voted in favour of the motion, to strongly object, there were no votes against and Cllr T Everard abstained)

It was agreed for the Chairman and Cllr Chattaway to draft a letter, which is to be sent to the District Council, in response to this application. The latest deadline for a response is 5 February 2009.

Members of the Public and representatives from Bolsterstone and Arcus, after being thanked for attending left the meeting.

Cllr A Gunnet, Cllr E Wiig and County Cllr Millar left the meeting.

09/402 Police Representative's Report

PCSO Jo Hillery gave the following report: -

02/01/09 Criminal Damage – Froxhill Crescent – Unknown person throws stone at car causing over a £1000 worth of damage.

07/01/09 Theft of Motor Vehicle – Waterlee furlong – Unknown person takes vehicle and is then found later parked in the Knoll car park, items taken from within.

10/01/09 Shoplifting – Co-op – Known female selects 2 x bottles of wine and leaves without paying.

12/01/09 Theft – All Saints Church – 2 x Unknown males enter the church and search cash boxes for money, no money was taken but they take the safe key.

23/01/09 Theft – Brampton way – Unknown person force lock to trailer and then remove trailer from vehicle, trailer recovered close by.

23/01/09 Shoplifting – Co-op – Male and Female enter store and select bottles of wine and leave without paying.

24/01/09 Shoplifting – Co-op – The same Male and Female enter the store and select wine and leave without paying.

- There has not been any speeding checks done so far this year
- There is no news with regards to the Police amalgamation.
- A known shoplifter in the village has been caught on CCTV and will be paying back the money due, for the alcohol stolen.

Finance

09/403 Income Received for December 2008

The Clerk reported the Income received for December 2008, which was as follows: -

<u>Received from</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>£</u>
Community Centre	Hall Hire	739.64
BCF Action Ltd	3rd instalment of rent - Olive Branch	290.96
DDC	Contribution to utilities	71.01
AFC Crown	First instalment - Use of Ashway C/rooms & pitch	200.00
Natwest Bank	Interest Oct - Dec 08	488.54
		<hr/>
		1,790.15

09/404 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 December 2008

The bank reconciliation as at the 31 December 2008 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£10,542.71
Capital Reserve Account	£130,360.94
Less Cheques outstanding	£692.61
Balance Carried forward as at 1.01.09	£140,211.04

09/405 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for December 2008

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for December 2008. Overall the Council is within its budget. The Project budget of £5000 remains unspent. Chairmen to be cautious of spending above budget limits and must decide where the expenditure is to come from if overspent.

09/406 To Approve the Bills for Payment for January 2009

A schedule of payments, to be made in January 2009 was available to each member at the meeting.

It was resolved for the following accounts to be passed for payment; therefore the Chairman signed the schedule of payments.

Direct Debit Payments

	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
	British Gas Business	Elec. Chgs Sept. - Nov 08 - C/Rooms	197.09
Chq No.	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
3921	Groundsman	Groundman's Salary Jan 2009	1,053.59
3922	Clerk	Clerk's Salary Jan 2009	1,040.31
3923	Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages Jan 2009	105.80
3924	Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Jan 2009	229.20
3925	Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages Jan 2009	183.20
3926	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Jan 2009	758.42
3927	NCC	Pension Contribution	338.38
3928	DDC	Emptying wheelie bins - 1.1.09 -31.3.09	397.32
3929	ESPO	Stationery and Cleaning materials	35.76
3930	SLCC	ILCM Membership	65.00
3931	Zephyr	Flag Pole Base	51.75
3932	Brixworth Village Hall	Hall Hire - Jan - Mar 09	65.46
3933	E.ON	St. Light Elec. Chgs Oct - Dec 08	61.22
3934	Lovell Hardware	Materials for groundsman	82.54
3935	B & Q	Pavement slabs	23.84
3936	Avenue Agriculture	Padlock for Playing Field Car Park Gate	32.78
3937	Mower Shop	Servicing Parts for Mowers	430.28

3938	Earth Anchors	Replacement Dog Litter Bin Lids	117.65
3939	A H Blason & Son	Fuel for pick up	231.95
3940	Mrs J Macken	Postage	7.98
			5,509.52

09/407 Review Council's Annual Insurance

Further to the last Council meeting the Clerk had contacted Zurich Insurance for a quote for the Council's insurance. The local Zurich agent Tennyson Insurance (which is a representative of Summit Insurance Services Ltd) had prepared a competitive quote. It was resolved to ask for a quote from Tennyson when the renewal notice is received from Allianz, which is in a couple of months time.

09/408 Renewal of CPRE Annual Membership

It was resolved to approve the annual membership to CPRE at a cost of £29.00.

Recreation and Amenities Development

09/409 To Accept Minutes of Meeting 20 January 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 20 January 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

09/410 To Consider GI Fitness using the Recreation Ground for Exercise Classes

Following a lengthy discussion which had been deferred from the Recreation Committee, it was resolved that if GI Fitness wishes to book an area on the Ashway Playing Field, then a charge of £25.00 per session would be made. This would give GI Fitness exclusive use of an area, similar to the arrangement made with the sports clubs. The Clerk had spoken to NCALC about this matter.

09/411 To Receive Update on BMX Facility Proposals

A design and quotation for the proposed BMX facility was shown. The Clerk has drawn up a programme of the project, which estimates for the work to be completed for the Summer School Holidays. This was agreed. The Clerk will arrange to meet with the young people at the Youth Club to discuss the design of the track, after which a tender will be sent out for the works. The cost could be reduced if the soil was donated locally. Planning permission would also be required. Applications for Funding to be sought and sent.

09/412 NCC – Proposed Prohibition of Driving Order on Old Harborough Road

The County Council proposes to introduce a prohibition Driving Order on the old Harborough Road, so that the road can be used for Recreational purposes by the Parish Council. It was noted that the access for emergency vehicles would be maintained.

09/413 To Report on Committee's Risk Assessment

Cllr Whiffen and Cllr Everard had looked through the committees risk assessment and there is one change. The Council now has agreements with the Sports Clubs in relation to the use of the Ashway Playing Field and St David's Recreation Ground, which is now included.

09/414 To Approve the Periodic Inspection and Testing of the Fixed Electrical Installations at the Changing Rooms

It was resolved to accept the quote from Maintenance Services for the Inspection and Testing of the Fixed Electrical installation at the changing rooms at a cost of £189.50.

Highways and Environment

09/415 DDC - Street Trading Consent Application for Harborough Road, Brixworth

The Council has no objection to this street trading consent application. It was noted that the applicant has been trading in the area for some time. Consideration to be given for using environmentally friendly containers and bags, together with a request that a litterbin is provided and also any litter is removed from site when leaving.

Correspondence for discussion

09/416 DDH – Tenants Meeting Information

Daventry and District Housing Tenants meeting are to be held at Saxon House, Brampton Way. In addition the Area Housing Officer has started holding sessions at Brixworth Library on the last Thursday of the month between 2pm and 4.30pm. Notices are to be displayed on the Parish Council notice board.

09/417 NCC – Standard Application Form

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) introduced a mandatory Standard Application Form known as 1APP and this is also accompanied by changes to the procedures involved in the validation of applications. Cllr R Chattaway agreed to look at this new information and if necessary report back to the Planning Committee.

09/418 NCC- Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Submission

It was noted that the Core Strategy for Northants Minerals and Waste Development Framework has been submitted.

09/419 NCC – Minerals and Waste DPD Proposed Submission

The Minerals and Waste Development DPD Proposed Submission was referred to the Planning Committee for consideration.

09/420 Communities and Local Government – Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity

Cllr Monk agreed to look at the consultation document to see if the Parish Council needs to make a response.

09/421 NCC – Draft Council Plan and Budget Consultation

It was noted that the County Council is inviting comments on its Draft Council Plan, Service Plans, Budget and Capital Programme.

09/422 NCC – Conference for Parishes 18 March 2009

Cllr Bament, Cllr Nunn, Cllr Lacey and Cllr Pointer all agreed to attend the Conference for Parishes to be held on 18 March 2009 at the Rushden and Diamonds Conference Centre.

09/423 NCALC – Spring Training Programme

Details of NCALC's Spring training programme had been previously circulated to members. Cllr Nunn, Cllr Pointer and Cllr Whiffen all wish to attend the 'Off to a Flying Start' course in February 2009 at a cost of £29.00 each. This was agreed.

09/424 Carnival Meeting

An initial meeting had been held, at which interested representatives from various village organisations attended. Initial thoughts were for a carnival to be held (similar to the one for the Millennium), ending up at St David's Recreation Ground for a Party in the Park. The party would include entertainment and stalls. The group thought that the best time for the carnival would be July 2010. It was agreed that the working group, at its next meeting, should put together a proposal for the management arrangements and how the Parish Council fits in to them.

09/425 Parish Council Winter 2009 Newsletter

A copy of the Winter Parish Council's newsletter was circulated to all members present, which was approved. This is to be printed and circulated by the Brixworth Bulletin at a cost of £200.00.

09/426 Casual Vacancy

The District Council has confirmed that the Council may Co-opt to fill the casual vacancy. The Council has received one new application and the Clerk is to write to the applicants for the previous vacancy. The Council will consider co-opting at its next meeting.

09/427 Correspondence for information only

The Chairman reported that the correspondence file was available for circulation.

09/428 Date of Next Meeting

The next Full Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 24 February 2009 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

09/429 Full Council Meetings 28 April 2009 and 25 August 2009

The Village Hall is booked for Blood Donors on the 28 April 2009 and 25 August 2009, which are the dates scheduled for Full Council meetings, therefore it was agreed to hold these two meetings in the Olive Branch.

09/430 Date for AGM

The Council considered holding the AGM scheduled for the 13 May 2009 on the same night before the Full Council meeting on 19 May 2009. Following a vote it was resolved to keep the two meetings separate, as scheduled.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

09/431 Travel Tokens

The Chairman read out a letter from a resident concerned that he was unable to use the travel tokens issued to him as there were no local taxi firms which accept them. It was agreed to refer this letter to the District Council and advise the resident accordingly.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 24 February 2009

A Note of Matters Raised by Members of the Public

Several members of the public requested to address the Council regarding the planning application for the Brixworth Wind Farm, which the Council was to consider later on during the meeting.

The following Points were raised by Members of the Public: -

- The PCC strongly oppose the application due to the proximity of the turbines in relation to the Ancient Saxon Church, which is a Grade I listed building. For 1300 years the church has been seen by surrounding villages and has dominated the landscape. These turbines would dwarf the church.
- The Stop the Brixworth Wind Farm Group raised six main objections –
 1. The desecration of a Special Landscape Area
 2. Historic heritage of the Brixworth Saxon Church
 3. The affect on the view from the churchyard
 4. The unknown effects on the village (ie noise, shadow flicker)
 5. The possibility of the effects to TV reception
 6. The site is in a Low Wind Speed area
- After 25 years, once the turbines had been decommissioned, the area would become a brown field site
- Existence of a wind farm will remove that area from a list of possible sites for the location of an expansion village
- The community would not directly benefit from the turbines
- Birds and bats would be endangered
- Horse riders along the Brampton Valley Way could be affected
- Walkers, cyclists etc along the Brampton Valley Way would be close to a turbine and potential ice throw
- Photos of the proposed location of the turbines taken from the Brampton Valley Way were circulated to the members of the Council, these showed the openness of the valley, which it was thought would be ruined by the turbines.
- Concerns were raised that there are no photomontages taken or mention of noise levels in the application from Station Road.
- Station Road residents look out across the valley towards Hanging Houghton. These residents would look straight at the proposed turbines.
- The turbines would increase traffic, dangers and may be a distraction to drivers.
- How would the electricity be routed to the grid?

Mr Mike Corker from Bolsterstone made the following points: -

- Energy security and climate change are important. A Central Generated System will not be available in the future. Coal is less viable and Gas is more expensive. Forms of generating electricity will be coming closer to where we live and becoming a local responsibility.
- With regards to the site being located in a Special Landscape Area the District Council will need to way up the effects against the benefits.
- Bolsterstone will fully mitigate any problems associated with TV interference
- Off shore wind farms have been proved to be uneconomical.
- The Whittlesea wind turbine which had an ‘ice throw’, was due to the turbine not shutting down when it was supposed to.