

BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING 27TH AUGUST 2024

Present: Cllrs Alison Holman (Chair), John Gatehouse, Tony Millard, Jon Reardon-Smith, Richard Osborne (minutes), Rob Watkins and David Rogers.

2024/233 Apologies: Cllrs Karen Parry and Geoff Dolphin

2024/234 Declarations of Interest

- i. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None
- ii. To declare any Non-Pecuniary Interests: None

2024/235 Public Participation: No members of the public were in attendance.

2024/236 Planning: Proposed Solar Farm to The East of Squirrel Lane, Ledwyche.

- i. 24/02388/VAR: Application to move the substation, due to Western Power/National Grid requirements. Concern is that there could be a transformer and that could lead to noise issues. Enquiries were made regarding possible noise issues. Verbal advisory by applicants was no noise issue. Lynn Parker, planning officer Shropshire Council, advised the parish council formally request information on what is in the substation and if noise could be an issue. Information was requested from the applicants however no information has been forthcoming. No statement in the application has been made. Cannot get information from National Grid on what is likely to be in the substation. Consultation response proposed by Cllr Reardon-Smith, Cllr Holman seconded, all agreed.
RESOLVED: The council accepts the documents provided and agrees that its response to the application should be neutral. Response to be sent to the planning officer.
- ii. 24/02888/DIS: Regarding trees, Cllr Rogers advised the plan for tree planting, species varieties etc. look satisfactory. Landscape and Ecological Mitigation Plan, Cllr Reardon-Smith stated that the plan and the document do not agree. Issues:
 - a. Area of land between hedge and deer fence. That land area needs maintaining. Not in the plans.
 - b. Drainage pond, drawing does not show fencing
 - c. Drainage ditch (filtration included) route that runs up the side of the development, missing a section through the wildflower meadow, taking run off. Drawing is missing this section, requires clarifying.A clarification document has been drafted that makes clear the above 3 points. Proposal by Cllr Reardon-Smith, Cllr Alison Holman Seconded, all agreed.
RESOLVED: The council accepts the documents provided and the contents and is happy with the proposal to send a clarification document to the planning officer as part of the response.
- iii. 24/01382/DID – CTMP: Cllr Reardon-Smith explained that there would clearly need to be many more visits by contractors for maintenance work etc. than what has been set out in the traffic management plans. Cllr Reardon-Smith

has surveyed other traffic plans for other solar farms and found a great disparity in stated number of maintenance visits. Although not proposing a response to the traffic management plan itself, it is proposed that Shropshire Council need to know of the likely impacts on local roads and that Shropshire council should consider taking action to ensure future traffic plans are better quality. They need to reflect and respond to the ongoing maintenance traffic issues as well as the construction phase. Cllr Millard proposed, Cllr Watkins seconded, all agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. Send the document to the Head of planning and Head of Highways at Shropshire Council asking them to review the document and respond with a way forward to improve CTMP's and in particular to some of the recommendations in the document, such as full life cycle including maintenance.
2. Send it to the Chairpersons of the North and South Planning Committees asking for their view on the situation and why there is a lack of consistency in applications and why the lack of information is not discussed as part of planning applications or committee hearings.
3. Send it to our new MP for his comment
4. Following any response (or lack of response) to debate at a Shropshire Association of Local Council (SALC) meeting and try and persuade SALC to take the issue forward to get some improvements in the initial CTMP submitted with applications and the subsequent CTMP proposed for discharge i.e. improve Shropshire Council's planning processes to stop these issues and make developers supply consistent and believable information. It makes no sense for applicants to be producing LEMP's, BEMP's grazing and ecological maintenance documentation (and now binding biodiversity targets to be achieved over the life of projects) on the one hand and then say it will take zero visits to do it.

Meeting concluded at 8.50 pm

Next Meeting: 7.00 Monday 16th September 2024 at Bitterley Village Hall