

SCALDWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Wednesday 28th January 2009
in Scaldwell Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Mrs P Long (Chairman)
Mrs M Vinton (Vice-Chairman)
Mr A Tait
Mrs J Randall (joined at item 09/004)

In attendance: Mr J Harris (Clerk)
Mr C Millar (County Councillor)
Mrs E Wiig (District Councillor)
15 villagers

09/001 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr M Alcock, Mrs A Coward and Mr F Wiig.

09/002 Declaration of Interest

None.

At this point the meeting was adjourned for comments and questions from parishioners on matters except those relating to the planning applications

09/003 To co-opt a new Councillor

Names put forward: Mrs Joan Randall.

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mrs Randall as a Councillor; proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

Mrs Randall signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and joined the meeting as a Councillor.

09/004 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th November 2008

The minutes were approved and signed.

09/005 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only)

These were covered in the various agenda items.

At this point the meeting was adjourned for comments and questions from parishioners on matters relating to the planning applications

09/006 Planning Applications

For consideration:

a) DA/2008/1252 Land west of Hanging Houghton Lodge, Harborough Road, Hanging Houghton. 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

The Chairman encouraged villagers to send their comments about the application to DDC but to stick to planning issues.

The following response was sent to DDC:

Scaldwell Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed wind turbines and associated infrastructure near Hanging Houghton.

Our opposition is based on a number of aspects which we strongly believe render the site totally unsuitable for wind turbines.

Our main objections are:

The turbines would be located in a designated Special Landscape Area and would therefore make a mockery of this designation, destroying this status. This application is contrary to Local Plan Policy EN1 because it would 'adversely affect the character of the local landscape'.

The site is in close proximity to Brixworth Saxon Church, the largest Saxon Building in Europe and an international heritage site. The turbines would ruin the view of this historically unique building. The church spire has, as intended, dominated the local skyline for hundreds of years. To have that changed would be severely detrimental to the historical importance of this important vista.

The site is also close to and would spoil Brampton Valley Way which is used by many people for recreational activities. We also have health and safety concerns as the potential ice throw from the turbines could reach walkers in this area.

The whole countryside in the surrounding area is free from visual pollution such as electricity pylons; erecting such large turbines that would be seen over such a large area would have a severely negative impact on a vast part of Northamptonshire.

We are also concerned that:

This is a migratory area for birds and the proposed turbines would have an adverse affect on the bird population.

The turbines are close to the busy A508 which raises safety concerns with the potential distraction to drivers.

Northamptonshire is a recognised low windspeed area and output from turbines would be low. We are aware the experts on wind power have said they would not erect wind turbines near Brixworth because there is such low wind speed in this area.

There appear to be inaccuracies in the plans submitted; for example, the scale of the turbines on the photomontages seem misleading.

Finally, we wish to query whether the aviation authorities, including the US and RAF military aviation, have been consulted on this application as low flying aircraft are regularly seen in this valley?

The proposed site for these turbines seems completely inappropriate and is contrary to Local Plan Policy EN1 concerning Special Landscape Areas; we therefore urge you to refuse this application on these grounds.

b) Planning Appeal APPY2810A092093551WF Land at 2 School Lane, Scaldwell Demolition of existing end of terrace. Rebuild one end of terrace cottage and one new detached cottage with parking

The original objections to this application will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate with a request to be notified about the site visit.

For information:

- c) DA/2008/1046 Scaldwell House, High Street, Scaldwell Listed building consent for new fire surround and hearth to dining room** DDC approved 24/11
- d) DA/2008/1141 The Old Coach House, High Street, Scaldwell Work to trees in a Conservation Area** PC objected DDC approved 22/12
- e) DA/2008/1152 Sundial House, High Street, Scaldwell Work to tree in a Conservation Area** PC approved option 2 DDC approved 23/12
- f) DA/2008/1182 Bramleys, High Street, Scaldwell Work to trees in a Conservation Area** PC agreed with officer's advise DDC approved 7/1/09
- g) DA/2008/1160 Barn off Holcot Lane, Scaldwell Change of use of agricultural barn to dwelling** PC objected DDC refused 9/1/09
- h) DA/2008/1223 Land east of Old Road, Scaldwell Agricultural hay or implement store** DDC refused 6/1/09

09/007 Playing Field

a) Report from Playing Field Committee

Mrs Lorraine Murphy presented a report from the Scaldwell Playing Field Community Group. Details of the Parish Council insurance and playing field funds will be passed onto the group to assist with their funding applications. (Action - Clerk)

b) Weekly inspection reports

Mr A Tait reported on this. The broken bin will be removed. DDC have informed the PC that they're unable to empty any extra litter bins at the moment; it was agreed not to purchase a new bin as this may be included in the proposed playing field development. Similarly it was agreed not to arrange to spray the nettles on the mound. Mr Dylan Lewis agreed to continue strimming the mound for the time being. It was agreed that Scaldwell Club could use the playing field for an event in June as last year.

c) Report on parking and entrance to field

This has been reported to DDC. Concerns on safety grounds were raised about vehicles turning in the field when collecting children from the play area. This will be mentioned in the next newsletter.

d) Update on transfer of ownership of playing field and its entrance

This is still with the solicitors.

09/008 Highways

a) Update on request for a speed camera

NCC have agreed to include Scaldwell in their Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign Scheme Phase 4; this is due to commence in late summer.

b) Report on other highways issues raised since the last meeting

The damaged chevron sign & reflector posts on the High Street bend were reported in December; this will be followed up & Councillor Chris Millar has been informed. A letter will be sent to NCC Highways & County Councillors Bob Seery & Chris Millar to say the PC has had no feedback from the Highways department regarding safety concerns since the side road resurfacing took place and antiskid surfaces requested.

(Action - Clerk)

09/009 Financial matters - general

a) Monthly accounts to 31 December 2008

The monthly accounts were circulated to Councillors before the meeting together with a bank reconciliation.

b) Money received :

i) Northamptonshire County Council - annual payment towards grass cutting - £290.27

09/010 Financial Matters - the following payments were approved

e.on	Street lighting maintenance	£63.02	Paid 28/11	Chq 558
Northants ACRE	Annual subscription	£34.00	Paid 28/11	Chq 559
CPRE	Annual membership	£29.00	Paid 28/11	Chq 560
Brixworth Travel Club	Annual Donation	£26.00	Paid 28/11	Chq 561
e.on	Street lighting supply	£165.21	Paid 28/11	Chq 562
J Harris	Clerk's expenses 13/7/08 to 19/1/09	£84.15	Paid 28/11	Chq 563

Information on the Brixworth Travel Club will be mentioned in the next newsletter.

09/011 New Model Publication Scheme 2009

a) To adopt the Freedom of Information New Model Publication Scheme as issued by the Information Commissioner

This was approved and formally adopted by the Council

b) To adopt and publish the Guide to Information for Scaldwell Parish Council

A draft copy had been circulated to Councillors.

This was approved and formally adopted by the Council and will be uploaded onto the Council website.
(Action - Clerk)

09/012 To review the Clerk's pay and conditions

Due to the recently revised pay scales from April'08 the Clerk will be owed £46.97 backdated pay for the year ending 31st March'09.

It was agreed to change the Clerk's pay scale to SCP 21 from 1st April'09 .

09/013 Report on street lighting

Councillor Millar informed the PC that the money received for street lighting from the Councillor's Empowerment Fund needs to be spent as soon as possible. The Councillors arranged to meet one evening to walk round the village and consider places that may need additional lighting.

09/014 Report on roots of Willow tree on Back Lane

This has been reported to Mr M Venton at DDC and MGWSP.

09/015 To consider a suitable item to purchase for the village in memory of Councillor David Watts

It was agreed that individual Councillors could make their own contributions to the Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

09/016 Correspondence:

- a) Communities & Local Government - Communities in Control consultation on local authority publicity** Responses by 12th March. No response to be sent.
- b) Northants CC - Local List on requirements for planning application details** Responses by 20th February. No response to be sent.
- c) Northants CC - Draft Council Plan & Budget consultation** Responses by 10th February. No response to be sent.
- d) West Northants Joint Planning Unit - West Northants Joint Core Strategy Consultation and update** Responses by 5th March. A response will be sent saying the PC views haven't changed since the last consultation on this strategy.
- e) Northamptonshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework: Locations for Minerals & Waste Development proposals** Responses by 12th March. A response will be sent saying the PC views haven't changed since the last consultation on this framework.
- f) Correspondence for information only** (list available on request)

09/017 Councillors' reports

Mr E Cockram wishes to step down from his role as Footpath Warden. Mrs Diane Kimbell agreed to become the new Footpath Warden. She will look into concerns raised about the horse left in the bridleway next to Brimlands Farm.

09/018 Items for the next agenda

None mentioned.

09/019 Date of next meeting

The next statutory meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th March 2009 at 7.30pm.
The meeting closed at 9.40pm.