

DAUNTSEY PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
Council Meeting
held at 7.00pm
Brinkworth Earl Danby's Lower School Hall, Dauntsey

8th January 2024

Present: Cllr Mrs D Wood (Vice Chairman). Cllr A Bond, Cllr Miss E Bond, Cllr Mrs R Gregory and Cllr G Wood.

Also Present: Wiltshire Councillor Elizabeth Threlfall, 1 member of the public being, Mr Christopher Farr and Mr V Vines MBE Clerk of the Council.

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the meeting was given in accordance with Schedule 12, para 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- i) Mr Christopher Farr asked the Council to consider increasing their Budget for Year 2024-2025. Following recent inclement weather it was noticeable that Parishioners had been unaware of flood plain implications and had not prepared for potential flooding problems, seeking reliance on Public Body assistance. The Parish Council had held limited emergency stocks provided through their PEAS allowance and had also managed to acquire additional supplies during the occurrences. With this in mind he felt the opportunity should be taken to purchase larger stocks to assist those who may not be self-sufficient. The Council thanked him for his valuable question and considered the option at a later Agenda item.

There were no further Questions raised.

REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLOR, PARISH COUNCILLORS & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- i) Wiltshire Councillor Elizabeth Threlfall updated the Council on Wiltshire Council issues advising that the Council, unlike others, was in a healthy financial position. Understanding of how and why recent local flooding had occurred was still under consideration. There was no update available on enforcement matters relating to the Great Middle Green Farm development. She felt that outstanding highway works, such as white lining would need to await the Spring better weather.

There were no further Reports.

56/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs E Blacker BEM (Chairman) and Cllr R Chanin.

57/23 Declaration(s) of Interest – In accordance with Dauntsey Parish Council's Code of Conduct (Adopted 22nd November 2021) and Standing Orders (Adopted 10th January 2022)

There were no Interests declared.

58/23 MINUTES Members had been previously circulated with the Minutes.

- a) The Council received, approved and signed as a true record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 6th November 2023. **Cllr G Wood proposed, Cllr Mrs G Gregory seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- b) The Council received, approved and signed as a true record the Minutes of the Council Planning Meeting held 4th December 2023. **Cllr G Wood proposed, Cllr Mrs R Gregory seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

59/23 PLANNING

Planning Applications: Prior to the consideration of any Planning Application, the opportunity was given for Applicants and their Representatives and any other interested parties to address the Council. The Council had received representations prior to the Council Meeting.

- a) PL/2023/10077 – Full Planning Permission
Construction and Operation of a Renewable Energy Park comprising Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaics (PV) together with Associated Infrastructure, Access, Landscaping and Cabling
Land West of Lyneham Substation, West of Dauntsey Lock, Wiltshire
For Exagen Development Limited

Following consideration of the application the Council **resolved to raise no objections in principle** to the proposals.

There had been a significant amount of information provided by the applicant, including pre-application local community consultations and the Council acknowledged that alternative energy sources needed to be found. However, in order to gain support developments of this nature needed to be situated in the right place. In this case the development was of a large scale in a highly visual position, within low-lying land, in close proximity to a main road and visible from surrounding higher levels with the potential to destroy the unique character of the rural surrounds.

Council Members noted that there was a considerable amount of technical information submitted with the application that they did not have the expertise to comment on and so would rely on Wiltshire Council departments and external consultees/advisors to assess the merits or otherwise. This was particularly important in regard to flooding and drainage and archaeological issues.

The Council accepted that it was often the case for solar farms to be sited on rural land leading to the loss of agricultural uses, albeit that some limited grazing was retained, but the increasing number of ad-hoc proposals destroying the open character was deplored and they felt that a coherent Policy for Wiltshire should be introduced as soon as possible..

It was also often the case that proposals contained suggestions that impact was minimised by the landscaping proposals. The Council had serious doubts that the present proposals to hide this development from the B4069 and surrounding panoramic views for the next 40 years could and would be achieved. With this in

mind the Council, in offering support in principle, needed to be assured that the landscaping proposals were sufficient to assimilate the development into the rural scene. The Council contended that this reflected the Wiltshire Local Plan policy that proposed that villages and Parishes should be maintained within their rural setting.

The Council accepted that the creation of renewable energy sources needed to be supported but, as mentioned above, this should not bring wholesale changes to the character of the landscape setting to the Parish. The Council felt that on balance this could be a suitable site with the caveat that the quality of the landscaping proposals, including the maintenance of such, was a fundamental requirement.

Cllr Mrs R Gregory proposed, Cllr Miss E Bond seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

There were no further planning applications considered.

Planning General: Planning Application decisions and updates since the last Council Meeting.

- a) PL/2023/02136 – Removal or Variation of Condition
Removal of Conditions 4 and 5 of 20/03114/FUL to allow approved timber cabin to be retained permanent accommodation for an additional rural worker/manager Olivemead Lake Fishing Holidays, Olivemead Lane, Dauntsey SN15 4JF
For Mr & Mrs Scott Wealthall **Approved with Conditions 8th December 2023**
- b) PL/2023/06398 – Full Planning Permission
Erection of Agricultural Building over Existing Cow Loafing Yard
Union Farm, Church Lane, Dauntsey, Wiltshire SN15 4HW
For A E & V Kidner **Approved with Conditions 22nd December 2023**
- c) PL/2023/10237 - Prior Notification - Building
Prior Notification for Proposed New Agricultural Building
Little Smithcott Farm, Dauntsey, Chippenham, SN15 4JL
For WD & BP Rose & Son **Prior Approval Not Required 11th December 2023**
- d) PL/2023/10441 - Prior Notification - Building
Prior Notification for Proposed New Agricultural Building
Little Smithcott Farm, Dauntsey, Chippenham, SN15 4JL
For Mr James Rose **Prior Approval Not Required 11th December 2023**
- e) PL/2023/10442 - Prior Notification - Building
Prior Notification for Proposed New Agricultural Building to Form Roof over Existing Silage Store
Little Smithcott Farm, Dauntsey, Chippenham, SN15 4JL
For Mr James Rose **Prior Approval Not Required 11th December 2023**

There were no further planning related matters reported.

60/23 FINANCE

The Council considered financial matters and received notification of receipts and payments

- a) **Payments made since the last Council Meeting:** The Council noted the following payments made since the last Council Meeting. **(noted)**

Black Nova Designs. Gov.uk domain renewal Inv 18695 08.12.23 £ 66.00

- b) **Payments to be made:** The Council considered and approved the following payment/s:

SWAmbulance NHS Trust. Defibs Lease Renewal Inv 1461 22.11.23 £3,360.00
Black Nova Designs. Website Hosting 24/25 Inv 19154 30.12.23 £ 100.80
Mr A Bond. Grass cutting and assoc works 13.12.23 £ 435.00
Steven Innes Plant Hire. Fingerpost installation 26.11.23 £ 1,200.00

Proposed Cllr G Wood, seconded Cllr Mrs R Gregory and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

- c) **Receipts:** The Council noted that there had been no receipts since the last Council Meeting. **(noted)**

- d) **Bank Account Balance:**

The Council noted that the Lloyds Bank Account No 02333109 balance at 21st November 2023 was £ 54,519.48 **(noted)**

- e) **Council Budget, Budget Proposals and Precept for Year 2024-2025**

The Council considered Budget proposals for Year 2024-2025 together with representations received and background advice in regards to potential capping implications for future Capital and Revenue spending requirements. There was a need to agree a Precept requirement at the Meeting to meet the Wiltshire Council notification timescale of 18th January 2024. Detailed consideration was given to the forward budget and cost pressures. The Council was mindful of the fact that any increases proposed needed the support of Parishioners. In addition the Council acknowledged that with Wiltshire Council continuing to reduce services there could be a need for the Parish Council to carry out additional tasks. The Council had set the Precept for Year 2023-2024 at £21,500.00. The Clerk provided an updated Receipts and Payments Schedule that included an estimated outturn for Year End. Several Capital projects would be completed within the year. The Council agreed that as a matter of principle there was a need to maintain the Capital Fund by resisting reductions to support the Revenue Account and that the Council would remain in a healthy financial position at end of year. The Council noted that the Band D Tax Base had changed from 267.13 to 264.27 per property. The Clerk provided spending options that included a standstill situation and implications resulting from a Precept increase or reduction and after consideration it was felt that to cover proposed spending, including the Capital set aside and an increase in budget of £2,000.00 for emergency costs it was necessary to increase the Precept this year. This could be accommodated with an increase in Band D property charge of £8.43 per year (£80.49 increased to £88.92). **It was agreed** to request a Precept requirement of £23,500.00 for the next Council Year.

Proposed Cllr G Wood, seconded Cllr Miss E Bond and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

61/23 CLERKS REPORT

The following items were received for decision, information, and circulation and for future discussion and matters arising and updates from previous Meeting/s.

- a) **Autospeedwatch Devices.** Cllr Mrs E Blacker updated the Council on recent data collection and reported that Mr David Bullard continued to collect and verify data. **(noted)**
- b) **Speed Identification Devices (SIDs).** The additional SID posts were now installed which would allow the additional SID to become operative. **(noted)**
- c) **Wilts & Berks Canal Trust.** The Council was advised that a Branch Meeting was held on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at The Rachel Fowler Centre, Melksham. The Agenda and Management Reports had been circulated. The date of the next Branch Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 16th January 2024 at the same venue. Since the Council had last met the Trust had advised of changes in management structure and December Management Reports had been received. **(noted)**
- d) **Wilts & Berks Canal Trust.** The November and December 2023 online editions of the On the Button Magazine had been received and circulated. **(noted)**
- e) **Wilts & Berks Canal Trust.** The Winter 2023, Issue 167, online edition of the “Dragonfly” Magazine had been received and circulated. **(noted)**
- f) **Parish Council Database.** There had been no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. To increase the database numbers Council Members were reminded to circulate details to their own Address Book contacts inviting them to join the GDPR controlled Database. There was an opportunity to increase numbers by inviting those who signed the attendance register to join by including a tick box indicating their request. **(noted)**
- g) **Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG).** The next Meeting was scheduled for the 16th January 2024 to be held via TEAMS and details, including the link, would be provided in due course. **(noted)**
- h) **Highway Fingerpost Direction Sign/s.** The 3 replacement signs had now been installed. The sign at Swallett Gate junction would be erected when the temporary road closures were removed. **(noted)**
- i) **Wiltshire Council – Notification of Temporary Road Closures.** There had been no change in circumstances in regards to the closure affecting the B4069 (Part) from its junction with Hollow Way, Bradenstoke to its junction with the B4122 since the Council had last met. **(noted)**
- j) **Parish Award Scheme.** Details had been published in the last two editions of The Pump. There remained a need to encourage nominations. **(noted)**
- k) **Wiltshire Operational Flood Group North.** A Flood Group Hybrid Meeting had been held on the 23rd November 2023. It was essential that the Council was represented at the next Meeting scheduled for the Thursday 25th January 2024 at 9.30am. In person at the Melksham Without Parish Council Offices, Community Campus, Market Place, Melksham SN12 6ES or via MS Teams. The link had been provided. **(noted)**

- l) **Wiltshire Council - Briefing Note 23-32.** The Council noted receipt of a Briefing Note in regards to the Response to recent Council Climate Action Scorecards. **(noted)**
- m) **Wiltshire Council - Briefing Note 23-34.** The Council had previously received a Briefing Note in regards to the Substantive Highways Scheme Fund Bid Application Process 2024/25. Applications for competing bids had been necessary by Friday 15th December 2023. The Council had agreed that as this was a yearly invitation the Council should use the next 11 months to consider proposals in readiness to submit. The item would appear as a reminder on the next Agenda. **(noted)**
- n) **Wiltshire Council - Briefing Note 23-35.** The Council noted receipt of a Briefing Note in regards to the Wiltshire Christmas FUEL Programme Update. **(noted)**
- o) **Wiltshire Council - Briefing Note 23-36.** The Council noted receipt of a Briefing Note in regards to the Coronation Living Heritage Fund - Coronation Orchards **(noted)**
- p) **Wiltshire Council - Briefing Note 23-37.** The Council noted receipt of a Briefing Note in regards to the Wiltshire Simpler Recycling for Household and Business Recycling in England. **(noted)**
- q) **Wiltshire Council - Briefing Note 23-38.** The Council noted receipt of a Briefing Note in regards to the Wiltshire Vibrant Vacant Units Grants. **(noted)**
- r) **Bradenstoke Solar Park Community Benefit Fund (BSPCBF).** The Council had been notified that the BSPCBF, set up in 2017 to award grants to organisations, at their AGM in November 2023 had agreed that they would temporarily extend their geographic scope for 2 years to include Dauntsey Parish. The Council welcomed this and saw this has an opportunity to apply for financial support toward the Recreation Ground Improvements Project. **The Council agreed that Cllr G Wood, the Lead Member would prepare and submit an application to the BSPCBF. Proposed Cllr Mrs E Blacker, seconded Cllr Miss E Bond and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- s) **Wiltshire Council – DEFRA’s Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.** The Council had received details of the PFRR Storm Babet 2023 scheme. Details had been previously circulated to Members for onward distribution to interested parties. There could be a possibility for the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust to take advantage of this Grant assistance that might alleviate some of the problems at The Peterborough Arms. **(noted)**

62/23 UPDATE ON STANDING ITEMS

- a) **Recreation Field:**
 - i) **The Recreation Field Working Group.**
 - a) Recreation Ground Improvements. Cllr G Wood updated the Council on the on-going grant application process and would submit an application to the BSPCBF for financial support. **(noted)**

- ii) **Council Member Inspection Rota.** Inspection visits continued to the agreed timetable. Template response forms were to be updated and circulated. **(noted)**
 - iii) **RoSPA Inspection 2023.** The Sunshine Gym external gym equipment manufacturer's representative had still to visit the site to assess the equipment and signage. **(noted)**
 - iv) **Willow Structure.** The Council had previously discussed the possibility of the construction of a Willow feature dome that could provide a natural play feature. The Council had agreed that there would need to be volunteer involvement in progressing things further. An article had appeared the last edition of The Pump to publicise the Project. There had been no response to date. An item would be included on the Annual Parish Meeting Agenda.
 - v) **General Works.** The Council had considered resurfacing all soft safety play surfaces. Quotations had been received using wetpour rubber surfacing laid to falls that were expensive. Another option suggested was timber bark and this would be investigated further. **(noted)**
- b) **Notice Boards:** There was no update on this occasion. **(noted)**
 - c) **Flooding Update:**
 - i) **Highway ditches in the Good Monday's Farm and Homefield Barn area.** As a dispute had arisen the Wiltshire Council Flood Group North would need to intervene and take any action/s necessary. The matter was to be raised at the Northern Flood Group Meeting. There was no update on this occasion. **(noted)**
 - ii) **Network Rail Flooding.** The Council had noted that the required works along the B4069 had been carried out since the Council had last met. **(noted)**
 - iii) **Flooding issues generally.** The public meeting scheduled for the 4th December 2023 had to be cancelled at late notice. Opportunity could be taken to use the next Council Planning Meeting Hall booking for Monday 5th February 2024 if all interested parties found this acceptable. Indications were that the date would be acceptable **and it was agreed to** publicise the date.
 - d) **Parish/Community Website/Social Media:** Members were reminded that those who had not yet submitted a bio should do so as soon as possible. **(noted)**
 - e) **Asset Register:** There was no update. **(noted)**
 - f) **School Liaison:** A recent Newsletter had been received and circulated. **(noted)**
 - g) **Risk Assessment, Health, Safety & Management Register:** There was no update. **(noted)**

- h) **Freedom of Information Act-Publication Scheme:** There was no update. **(noted)**
- i) **Code of Conduct and Standing Orders:** There was no update. **(noted)**
- j) **Wiltshire Council Malmesbury Area Board:** The Area Board hosted a “Highways Matters” event on the 12th December 2023. The next Area Meeting was scheduled for the 13th February 2024. **(noted)**
- k) **Dauntsey Community Emergency Plan:** The Council had agreed an increase in Council Budget of £2,000.00 for additional emergency costs. This was likely to include the purchase of gel sacks to hold a stock above the PEAS provision for those who had not sourced their own. A future decision would be made on storage requirements depending on how the emergency volunteer teams were based throughout the Parish. **(noted)**
- l) **Defibrillator Project:** The Council has renewed the 4-year defibrillator leases and were entitled to a training session each year. A date for 2024 would be arranged. **(noted)**
- m) **Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety:** There had been no change in circumstances since the Council had last met. **(noted)**
- n) **Data Protection. GDPR:** There was no update required. **(noted)**

63/23 HIGHWAY MATTERS

The Council considered the following Highway related matters

- a) **Parish Stewards Programme/ Requirements:** Issues still needed reporting by Council Members to the Council’s Link Members and also by the MyWilts App system. Cllr Mrs R Gregory and Cllr A Bond would meet with the Steward when necessary. Parish Steward visit dates for the whole of 2024 had been received and distributed. Dates were 29th January, 28th February, 28th March, 29th April, 27th June, 25th July, 26th September, 28th October, 28th November and 20th December 2024. **(noted)**
- b) **Rights of Way:** Cllr A Bond reported that there had been interest shown from volunteers and he would be making contact in the near future. **(noted)**
- c) **Highway Conditions and Maintenance:**
 - i) **Highway Maintenance Requirements.** There had been no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. There was need to report issues again, including white line and road markings re-painting. **(noted)**
 - ii) **Sodom Lane Dauntsey Village Entrance Sign.** There had been no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. **(noted)**
 - iii) **Old Sodom Lane replacement sign.** There had been no change in circumstances since the last Council Meeting. **(noted)**

- iv) **Village Entrance Signage from Little Somerford.** It was reported that highway signage needed repairing or replacement and this would be discussed with the Parish Steward. **(noted)**

64/23 COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING

- i) Action List Update. Cllr Mrs D Wood would update the Members' Action List to assess progress made. An updated list would be circulated following this Meeting.
- ii) Community Award Nomination forms would be re-circulated.

There were no further issues raised.

65/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting was scheduled for **Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm** to be held in Lower School Hall. However, Members noted that **Monday 5th February 2024** was scheduled for a Council Planning Meeting and Notice would be given if this Meeting was required. It was likely that a Parish Flood Meeting would be held that evening and Notice would be given.

Signed:

Date: **4th March 2024**

Chairman, Dauntsey Parish Council