

PEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 16th October 2013 in the Parish Hall

Present: Cllr. G. Evans (Chair) Cllr. T. Bennetto, Cllr. D. Owens,
Cllr. Ms. C. Fothergill, Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans, Cllr. P. Thomas,
Cllr. P. Rogers, Cllr. K. Duggan, Cll. A. Pace, Cllr. M. Ratcliffe
+ 28 members of the public

G127 Apologies:
Cllr. A. Stokes, Cllr. Ms. J. Mifflin, Cllr. R. Phillips

G128 Announcement of any interests from councillors :
One: Cllr. Mrs. C. Evans re Planning Application at The Leen.

G129 Planning applications for consideration :

ACTION

132589/N Yeld Farm, Lyonshall, Kington. HR5 3LY
500kW agricultural anaerobic digester and ancillary development to produce
renewable energy from spent poultry litter and energy crops.
+ Amended plans for complete Noise Statement

After lengthy discussion and points of view from local residents and councillors:

COMMENT: It is acknowledged that the current farming system in place works well, with wood chip fuelling bio-mass boilers to heat the 10 poultry houses, and the manure is exported to local farms.

This application for an Anaerobic Digester (A.D.) is not considered to be what the government recommended for A.D. sites, as it wants digesters to have as much as possible of feedstock and manures produced on the farm, and the digestate utilized on that farm. The planned A.D. at the Yeld does not do that and is therefore unsustainable.

There is concern that because of the sheer volume of energy crop needed to fuel the plant, which is a far higher quantity than can be produced locally, that large machinery and lorries will need to transport the crop along a single track access road, the main road, and through this village to the site. In addition, it will entail vehicles being held up on the A44 whilst tractors are travelling to or from the site along the single track. These increased traffic movements have been measured on a weekly basis, but will in part be compressed into the period when the harvest of the feedstock crop occurs. It should also be recognised that the access road is not solely for use of the applicant but is also the means of access for neighbours, and increased traffic movements would therefore have a detrimental affect on the neighbouring residents.

On other applications for anaerobic digesters in the parish that we have supported, we have specifically requested that no transport to or from those sites should be allowed through the village, or on or off the main roads leading to it; and that should be mentioned in the conditions.

There are some inaccuracies in the plans, as not all the poultry housing on this site are shown. Existing poultry houses form a complete barrier to two sides of the adjacent woodland, and the proposed development would form a third complete barrier to the woods, having a negative environmental impact.

Parkland nearby has not changed over 100's of years, but the application site has changed considerably with many trees having been felled and the loss of the original boundary hedge. The site has far fewer trees now than are shown on the plan, and it has been vastly detrimentally altered over the years, and is quite different now to its lovely surroundings.

It is noted that previous development of the site has been piecemeal, and it would be appreciated if the development of the site could be considered as a whole.

The site and surrounding area are not flat. The proposed development is on top of a steep slope that descends down c 250 metres to the Curl Brook, and no amount of landscaping or tree planting would screen the development; indeed the plans show only a 2 metre high bund wall and hedge. The whole character of the local environment would therefore be spoiled. The Design Access Report Item 5.8.6 inaccurately states that private properties' views of the site are screened by clusters of mature trees – this is not the case, and the development will cause demonstrable harm to the locality in terms of visual intrusion as well as being in full view from some properties.

It is considered that this application would be an over-development of the smallholding, which would not be able to support an A.D. plant of this size. Appendix B Item 12 *Final Products* does not state whether any processed material will be sold off site annually.

It is also considered that this application will cause a blot on our landscape, clog up our roads and the village with their multitude of machines and the Parish Council wishes to request that a full Environmental Impact Assessment be carried out, which would highlight all of the above points, as well as the fact that the site is a nitrate vulnerable zone and that some pollution has already been recorded, caused by run-off from the poultry houses.

It has previously been acknowledged that there is environmental sensitivity in this area as significant numbers of Great Crested Newts have been recorded.

The Parish Council would like to have the heritage assets of the area conserved for their contribution to the quality of life to both existing residents, and the future generations.

Pembridge Parish Council therefore proposes refusal of this application.
(Unanimous decision on a show of hands)

Cllr. R. Phillips announced that he would be attending a site visit at The Yeld Farm with local residents next Saturday morning.

132590/N The Leen, Pembridge, Leominster. HR6 9HN
Development of an agricultural anaerobic digester plant for the purpose of farm diversification and for the production of renewable energy.

COMMENT: Pembridge Parish Council supports this application, but it wishes to have written in to the conditions that both during development and production that no traffic movements will be allowed off or on to the a44 through Pembridge village, to or from the site. (Unanimous decision on a show of hands)

132405/F Yew Tree Farm, Lower Bearwood, Pembridge. HR6 9ED
Replacement and enlargement of existing poultry houses, link building and hardstanding.

COMMENT: Pembridge Parish Council supports this application because it recognises the need for the building to be improved; the site is well screened, and has good access. (Unanimous decision on a show of hands)

G130 Police Report – CSO Dick alford

No recent crimes have been reported in Pembridge over the last 3 months. There was only one domestic incident that has been resolved.

During forthcoming Halloween celebrations, the evening patrols will be made, and posters delivered to the elderly regarding Trick or Treat visitors.

Please be aware that the Safer Partnership speed monitoring van has been in the village recently, and will also be in Eardisley – so beware. CSO Alford will advise the Clerk as to results of the recent speed monitoring.

The next PACT meetings will be held in the Old Steppes shop on: 17th October, 21st November and 2nd January.

CSO Alford advised the meeting that there is now in place a new Police Alliance, between West Mercia and Warwickshire forces. This has involved movement of staff around to different stations. Leominster will cover the north of the county and has more staff based there now, an increment to 7 officers and a sergeant. There has also been a decrease in officers at Kington, where there were 3 CSO's there are now only 2, together with WPC Joanne Ellis. Shift patterns have also changed, and the CSO's are working until midnight.

G131 Minutes of last meeting/matters arising from them – 18th September 2013

Minutes approved as a true record and there were no matters arising.

G132 Financial Report: - Clerk

Reconciliation of bank accounts for September has taken place.

Handout of 2nd quarter's budget/expenditure to date was made to all councillors at the meeting.

Clerk requested councillors to consider any items of expenditure required next financial year, ready for budget setting in early December.

Balances at end September 2013:

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|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Current Account: | £28,885.51 |
| Tracker Account: | £5,933.47 |
| National Savings Account: | £11,454.54 |

Receipts since last meeting:

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|---|-----------|
| 2 nd half-year Precept payment | £9,000.00 |
| Welsh Water payment (use of V.Green car park as a compound) | £2,050.00 |

Payments made since last meeting:

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|---|---------|
| Toilet Cleaner & Bins – September | £217.00 |
| Clerks 2 nd quarter salary | £863.03 |
| Clerk's 2 nd quarter expenses | £109.27 |
| PAYE payment for staff First 2 quarters payments | £427.20 |

Requests for payment:

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| Toilet Cleaner & Bins – October (Increment commencing this month in line with National increase to minimum wage). This was agreed by all councillors in closed session at the end of this meeting's business) | £234.00 |
| Hall Hire | £42.00 |
| Annual Insurance Premium for good Neighbour Scheme (payable to Pembridge Good Neighbour Scheme) | £75.53 |
| Lengthsman Invoice No. 2752 | £507.90 |

All requests for payment were approved.

G133 Fire Station Closures (Possible loss of Kingsland Fire Station) – Visiting Speakers Andrew Cross & Andrew Bradley – Retained Fire Fighters from Kingsland

It was explained that most calls for assistance do need two appliances to attend, but there is a proposal for several fire stations to lose an appliance. There could be an appliance taken from Leominster or the closure of Kington fire station altogether; leading to longer call out times and loss of retained staff. Kingsland fire station's retained staff also provide cover to Leominster, and last year there were 105 calls.

Bromyard, Tenbury & Ledbury may also each lose one appliance.

Hereford City may also lose one whole time appliance. It was reiterated that most calls require two appliances to attend, so a serious situation could arise if appliances and their staff are lost from so many fire stations.

The Parish Council was requested to respond to the Consultation – which ends in early January.

As the councillors had not had time to read the consultation in full as it had not yet been circulated to them, it was decided to put this topic on the November meeting's agenda.

Meeting to be Closed for the next two items**G134 Residents Questions:**

1) There was concern that there has been no action following the inspection of the village pavements and their poor state. Cllr. Phillips agreed to follow this up with the Highways team.

2) It was noted that with regard to the planning applications discussed earlier at this meeting, that none of the applicants had attended to answer questions from local residents, and it was felt they should be here in the community spirit.

RJP**G135 Ward Councillors Report – Cllr. R. Phillips**

Cllr. Phillip's report has been circulated to all councillors in advance of this meeting.

Cllr. Phillips was not present to provide any further information.

Meeting Re-opened**G136 Parish Council Assets – Means of Recording Assets - Chairman**

Following on from the discussion on the topic at the previous meeting, the Chairman proposed that the correct way to record assets is at Historic Cost Value, with no annual increments – and this should be carried out from this time onward. All in agreement. This will fall in line with the request from the external auditor recently, following his examination of the accounts and papers.

HH**G137 Neighbourhood Planning Update – Cllr. A. Pace**

The draft Questionnaire is prepared.

The planning officer's feedback on the draft Questionnaire submitted, has been passed to all councillors. One or two areas need to be dealt with more closely, such as confidentiality and data protection. The Questionnaire will shortly be put in the correct format.

The budget figure needed to complete the Plan is estimated at around £7,000, and a grant application for this sum will be submitted. No match funding is required. It was appreciated that this needs to be acted upon quickly before the deadline for entries is reached. The Chairman suggested that this should be submitted as soon as possible.

There will shortly be a need to spend £600 - £800 in completing the Questionnaire that is to be sent to all households in the parish.

National rules now leave parishes exposed to large developments, and Cllr. Pace had prepared a Planning Statement which he circulated and which he proposed should be published by the Parish Council, stating what is to be achieved by the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Planning Statement was read out to the meeting by the Chairman, and subject to a few slight amendments being made it was agreed unanimously. This Statement will be published in the November meeting minutes.

The Hereford Times reported that The Core Strategy Challenge Group had been formed to make a legal challenge to the Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. Cllr. Pace proposed that he should investigate and see if it was appropriate that Pembridge join. All were in favour.

G138 Pride in Pembridge Group – Cllr. A. Stokes – Update on “Britain In Bloom” Judging

The Annual Awards Ceremony held in Cleethorpes was a very large event.

There were 7 village finalists from across the UK in the same category as Pembridge for size (300 -1,000 residents). Pembridge and another received Gold Awards and Pembridge received 90% of possible marks. Afterwards it was announced that Pembridge was to receive the Award for Best in Category for the whole of the UK !

Thank you to everyone who has helped – more and more people did get involved , and the schoolchildren were amazing.

We have a banner, and we are currently following up the opportunity with H. Council for improved village signage at the east and west entry points to the village.

A village celebratory party will be held on Saturday 23rd November for all residents. Food will be provided, just bring your own drink. There will be a Quiz and a Slide Show, and a Raffle – please bring a Prize along if you are able.

Having won this year, the village is barred from entering the National Competition again until the year after next.

It is hoped that the success of the village will be broadcast on radio interviews, and local press releases, with it also being announced at Herefordshire Council's Cabinet Meeting on Friday.

G139 Children's Playground Repairs to Equipment & Surfacing – Cllr. A. Stokes

The quotation for repairs to equipment has been received, and has come in at c£2,000. This does not include repairing the 2 areas of rubberised surfacing that have been vandalised and need repair. Following discussion the Clerk was requested to get an 'all-in' quotation in time for the next meeting. It was recognised as an area of concern to councillors that this surfacing repair work needs to be undertaken with urgency, as naturally the parish council wants to be seen to rectify the situation responsibly in before any accident should occur. Clerk to follow up and report further to the next meeting.

HH

Previously Unseen Vintage Photographs of Village – Cllr. G. Evans

G140 Consideration of these being displayed.

Nothing to report at the moment - Cllr. D. Owens agreed to follow this up and report back to the next meeting.

DO

G141 Good Neighbour Scheme - Saturday Coffee Mornings in 2014 – Clerk

The Group requested that the Parish Council hosts a Saturday Coffee Morning during 2014, - held on the 3rd Saturday of each month between 10.30 and 12.00 am.

Following discussion it was agreed to host a coffee morning in either July or August 2014.

Clerk to advise Mrs. P. Stokes.

HH

G142 1st World War Centenary Events – Clerk

Cllr. Duggan confirmed that he had recently attended a meeting at The Courtyard Theatre in Hereford, on this topic, and schools and everyone are being encouraged to hold some sort of commemorative event in their parish in 2014. The names of the fallen from all Herefordshire villages including Pembridge, have been listed, with the dates of the individuals' death and final resting place recorded.

It was acknowledged that the local History Group and British Legion may well be thinking about events; however it was also acknowledged that it would be preferable if all groups could come under one umbrella co-ordinated event, with the Parish Council's assistance.

An article was placed in the current edition of the Parish News Magazine, requesting all residents to suggest an event, and to let either a Councillor or the Clerk know by the end of this November.

G143 Parish Magazine Production – Clerk

An article has been placed in the Parish News Magazine seeking a new Editor.

The Chairman said that his daughter, who is training to be a journalist, is interested in taking on the editorship and she will follow this up with the current Editor/s.

G144 Standing Orders Update – Clerk

On hold – Clerk is still awaiting information from National Association of Local Councils (NALC) (via HALC) concerning an update on the Financial Regulations, which will also need to be updated.

G145 Remembrance Sunday - Wreath Laying at War Memorial - Clerk

Following discussion the Chairman proposed that a wreath be purchased to lay on the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday in November. Agreed by all. Clerk to arrange purchase.

HH

Following the end of Business the members of the public were requested to leave the meeting whilst the councillors discussed confidential business relating to the salary of a staff member.

G146 Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20th November 2013** at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

All Welcome