

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHEPTON MONTAGUE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, SHEPTON MONTAGUE ON MONDAY 18TH AUGUST 2014 AT 8PM.

Present: Mr. R Ellis (Chair), Mr. P Williams, Mr. P Costen, Mr. R Reed, Mrs. M Hill (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mrs. J Robinson, Anna Groskop, County Councillor.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Mr. R Reed for items 5 and 6
3. **Minutes of last meeting:** Approved and signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - It was noted that the salt bin in Stoney Stoke had still not been filled.
 - The clerk had received an email from John Nicholson of Highways in response to the request for cleaning of drains on the main road into Shepton Montague, from Welham to Lily Farm. He has asked for appropriate action to be taken. The frequency of gully cleansing is outlined on the website: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-blocked-drain-on-the-road/>
 - Readings from the Speed Indicator Device had been circulated prior to the meeting. The figures were for one week only and show that there are still a few vehicles driving through the village at over 50mph.

Mr. R Reed stepped down from the meeting.

5. **Planning Application: 14/03146/FUL** Erection of steel framed agricultural building for livestock accommodation at Land OS 7543 at Lily Farm, Castle Cary
6. **Planning Application: 14/03144/FUL** Erection of new agricultural building. Farm buildings at Lily Farm, Castle Cary, BA7 7NF

The above two items were considered together. Council had no concerns or objections. **Action:** The clerk to make this return to Planning.

Mr. R Reed re-joined the meeting.

7. **Planning Application: 14/03105/FUL** Single 74m tip wind turbine and associated infrastructure, including temporary wind monitoring mast. Land at Gilcombe Farm, Bruton Road, Brewham, Bruton.

Council considered the above proposal, which is in the adjacent Parish. Council objected to the proposal. **Action:** Clerk to make the following comments to Planning:

Council consider that this giant turbine, built as proposed, on the brow of a hill, will be an appalling eyesore, visible from miles around and blighting the surrounding countryside.

The Planning authority has a duty to enhance the natural and historic environment and the quality and character of the countryside. Clearly this turbine will have an adverse impact on the landscape, it being massive in size and sited so prominently and thus dominating the skyline. Granting permission for this turbine would be contrary to this duty.

Whilst Gilcombe Farm may benefit from generating electricity, there will be no benefit to the local community, only the despoiling of our local countryside.

If this development is permitted, irreparable damage will be done to our local landscape and to the lives of local residents blighted by the sight, sound and potential vibration and flicker effects of such a turbine.

The local authority has a duty to ensure the countryside is protected to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. This proposal would be entirely contrary to that duty.

Furthermore we do not want to see a precedent being set in allowing this application which could lead to a proliferation of hilltop machines in the area.

8. **Planning Application: 14/03401/FUL** Repair of Gardener's Cottage and modest alteration to restore earlier roof form and thatched coverings, minor alterations to chimney, removal of rainwater goods, relaying floor construction, reduction in external ground levels and alterations to the fireplace. Gardener's Cottage, Hadspen House, Hadspen, BA7 7NG

Council had no objections to this proposal. **Action:** Clerk to communicate this to Planning.

9. **Planning Application: 14/03369/PAMB** Prior approval for the change of use of agricultural storage building to dwelling. Dutch Barn at Higher Farm, Shepton Montague.

Lee Walton, Planning Officer, had advised that the Parish Council may not be invited to comment on this 'Prior Approval' application as Planning are restricted in the scope of issues that may be considered in such cases, to mainly technical matters. However

Council did have some concerns regarding drainage from the development. It was felt that attention needs to be paid to the drainage from the access road. If the surface of the access road is to be improved, this will affect the run-off of water into East Street, which is already a problem. **Action:** Clerk to convey this comment to Planning.

10. **a.o.b.**

- It was noted that some holes have appeared in the hedge to make access onto the main road on the north side of the A359 above the Shepton Montague turn, but below Stumps Cross. **Action:** Clerk to ask Mike Beech to make enquiries.
- It was observed that the road from Stoney Stoke to Shepton Montague deteriorates every day, and is now particularly bad around the Stop Gap.

11. **Open discussion**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02pm.