

CARLTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the held on Tuesday 18th February 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: T Cooper (Chair), N Fletcher (Vice-Chair), R Whate, K Smith, M Eley, J Clark, B Laughton, C Rose, T Grimes (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

1. To consider any apologies for absence

FJ sent apologies for having to work. Cllr Rose apologised for arriving at 8pm having been to another meeting.

2. To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

3. 10 minute open forum to receive questions and comments from members of the public

It was suggested that, in the light of recent flooding in Somerset, the Environment Agency be asked to dredge the Trent more regularly and not to limit this to the navigable channel. In his visit last year, Morgan Wray did commit to regular dredging and there had been evidence of this however the council had not heard anything else from MW despite promises of costings for flood banks. NF had sent some photographs of the flooding to NSDC at the request of the EA but there had been no response from there either. The clerk was asked to contact MW.

JC had received reports that the dyke by the caravan park was full and that there was a methane smell. The matter had been reported and Graham Smith would be visiting the site on Monday.

RW had been informed of huge puddles on the corner of Ferry Lane. Investigation of the drains at the time suggested they were full of leaves. NF and TC offered to have a look and take action if appropriate

The litter on the slip road had been reported with a request for another litter pick. It was felt this should be out on the next agenda.

Sutton on Trent PC have been looking at acquiring a defibrillator. Steve Hall would be happy to talk to the council and answer any questions he can with regard to insurance and maintenance. It was felt this should be put on the next agenda.

4. To draft a response to the RCAN Good Neighbourhood Scheme survey

After much discussion, it was felt that there were many examples of good neighbours within the village and that none of the listed services were provided by other means, however to respond would be offering to take on these services formally within the community when they ought to be provided elsewhere. The proposal not to respond was carried unanimously.

5. To draft a response to the Wind Energy Consultation

Cllr Rose gave more detailed information about the areas identified within the policy and her concerns about the Holmes.

The documentation opens with a statement that Newark and Sherwood is a large area and therefore wind rich.

There is no logical connection between large areas and wind and no evidence to support this statement.

The landscape survey identifies regions of sensitivity. The west side of the district has been deemed as highly sensitive due to the proliferation of turbines already evident. Southwell and Laxton have been identified as important heritage sites and have therefore been deemed highly sensitive. CoT however, has been designated as medium sensitivity, meaning that it is suited to large turbines and moderate development. NSDC Landscape Character Assessment identifies SoT and CoT as areas that need conserving. The Holmes are historical grazing areas and possibly the largest common grazing lands in the UK, which the council feel should be protected like Laxton. The documentation stated that the character appraisals for CoT and SoT had not been included – it was felt this was a significant omission.

The skyline is over populated with pylons and should not be further littered with turbines. The area along the river is a tourist attraction which should be protected.

Cllr Rose felt that in the interest of amenity there should be a restriction of no small to medium turbines within 1km of residential dwellings and heritage building and a 2km limit for large turbines.

NF noted that there were some inaccuracies in the documentation; 4.213 stated that there were no operational turbines in the Trent valley area thus ignoring the existing CoT turbine and 4.188 stated there was a single turbine contradicting 4.213. Cllr Rose noted that map 3.6 stated 16 to 20 turbines were visible in this area which was incorrect.

Much of the documentation was produced through desk top studies by someone in Edinburgh and there were only 2 days spent in this area. It was felt that this had resulted in the errors and the inappropriate designation of CoT and SoT as similar to places like Staythorpe.

The comments above will be submitted to NSDC in the hope that the area round CoT can be protected against further turbine developments.

6. To discuss and note any further actions required from correspondence received since the last meeting
(a) NSDC Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan

This outlines the findings of the consultation on the first stage and outlines the next stage. It was put in the pack for

councillors to read.

(b) NALC LCR Magazine

Councillors were asked if they wished to subscribe to this but as it is a NALC publication it was felt that the clerk could report any articles of particular relevance to the council.

(c) Newark & Sherwood CVS

A poster is to be displayed in the phone box.

(d) Village Hall Grant Application

The Village Hall committee requested that as users of the hall, the PC write a letter of support to help their grant application for improvements to the hall. Councillors felt the hall was an important asset to the community and that a letter should be sent.

7. To consider and approve any financial matters

(a) To approve payments for:

- Village Hall fees
- Insurance Renewal
- NALC subscription

The insurance was not a renewal premium but a review of the cover required. The clerk was asked to look into this and update as appropriate. Payments of £6 to the village hall and of £57.78 to NALC were proposed by JC and seconded by KS.

(b) Any other outstanding financial matters

- HMRC RTI of PAYE

The clerk reported that this is still not happening.

8. To raise any other business which may need to be included on the agenda of the next meeting

After the agenda was drawn up a letter was received inviting councillors to a civic service. Details were read out as the service takes place before the next meeting.

The new village signs have been put up and after several attempts are in the correct position. There have been many positive comments about them and the clerk was asked to thank Jenny.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Tanya Grimes – Clerk to the Parish Council