

DRAFT

SYMONDSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Policy Committee Meeting held on 13th December 2011 at Symondsbury School at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs A Streatfeild, P Smith, S Holmes, M Costello, S Ralph, M Leighton and B Baker
In attendance: Ms Cathy Evans.

1. **Apologies** - none.
2. **The minutes** - of the meeting held on 11 October 2011 having been previously circulated were taken as read and were approved.
3. **Chairman's Remarks** -. Review of the revised SPC planning application consideration process as implemented. Generally considered to be an improvement although there was a danger the Cllrs not leading a particular Application may not take sufficient interest to ensure a robust response was made.
4. **Lengthsman Link** – The Chairman now had paperwork and process for commissioning the Lengthsman and sought a volunteer to supervise and commission the SPC requirements. He agreed to perform this task as no-one else wished to. The Clerk agreed to notify Bridport Town Council (as the employing organisation) of the new arrangement and ask them to organise a meeting with all the respective Parish Lengthsman linked Cllrs.
5. **Planning Applications for decision**
All 5 cases were fully discussed and local views taken into account with the following outcomes:
1/D/11/001726 – 20 PV solar PV panels at ground level in Edge Cliff, West Bay. The Application was fully discussed and a decision made to submit an objection on the grounds: whilst generally supportive of the concept of renewable energy, this application cannot counter-balance the resulting damaging visual impact in the highly sensitive area of the World Heritage Coast, and an AONB. As currently conceived it is clearly observable from the coastal path and the end of Third Cliff Walk, which is also believed to be a Highway. The impact could be considerably reduced or even removed with a condition to lower the PV array (possibly by spreading the panels over a greater area with panels in a horizontal rather than vertical tier). A further observation was made that the proposal's title was misleading in that it referred to PV panels *at ground level*, and this had generally been interpreted as PV panels at ground level and not as proposed, pitched on a frame that projected them to a height in excess of 2 meters
1/D/11/001787 – change of use Manor Farm, Symondsbury and
1/D/11/001788 – Listed Building consent re above – No objections to either Application.
CA/11/00428 – Trees work in Rectory Gardens, Symondsbury – No objections
1/D/11/001902 – extension and porch entrance to Sea Hill, Second Cliff Walk, West Cliff – No objections
6. **Consider proposed revisions to SPC Standing Orders and the Terms of Reference to the Planning Committee** – Proposals agreed as presented.
7. **Village Design Statement** - A constituent had raised this issue (for Eype); it was considered in the broader context of the new Planning Framework and the Localism Act. The Clerk agreed to undertake some preliminary work to clarify the different national supporting policies and any potential funding sources with a view to bringing this back to a future meeting for more in-depth consideration. The 2 responses from constituents to the Local Plan questions in the Symene Voice to be circulated with these minutes.
8. **Budget** – Axe Valley – agreed to grant £50 but ask them how extensively they advertise their services in the Symondsbury Parish, and agree further opportunities in return for the grant. Also if they know how many local people currently use the service to assess VFM for the grant, Victim Support – the Clerk was asked to investigate the extent to which local people have benefited from their services over the past year and return this information alongside their request to a future meeting.
9. **Vearse Farm** – the Chairman gave the background, that approximately 800 houses have been proposed on this site as part of the WDDC revised Local Plan, the site having been in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) since 2009. It has gained a public

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profile following the WDDC Local Plan consultation in Bridport in November. SPC raised concerns over the impact on the local roads in terms of traffic congestion, potential parking issues and the impact of any mitigating traffic measures on the A35 (particularly in light of the potential Broomhills Waste Transfer site); also the visual diminution of the rural nature of the area. The Chair agreed to circulate the SHLAA that contains all the potential housing sites.

10. **Parish Councillor surgeries** – the Chairman made a proposal to hold local surgeries to encourage members of the public to raise issues that they'd like the SPC to hear. It was agreed to undertake a trial one, consisting of P Smith, B Baker and A Streatfeild to assess public response.
11. **Reports** – Localism Act seminar. Three key points raised. Firstly the Act will be followed by a range of Guidance and Regulations and a timetable of such to be published this winter; until then the impact of a large part of the Act is still unclear. Secondly Parish Councils will be required to draw up a Code of Conduct; WDDC will draw one up that SPC will be able to use as a template; WDDC will be recruiting Parish Cllrs to sit on their Challenge Panel in due course. Thirdly, the Power of Competence will require achievement against a 'standard', likely to be a trained Clerk and 80% elected Cllrs
12. Correspondence to date and Clerks Report – Agreed to send in a representation to support the challenge to the withdrawal of the Portland Coastguard Helicopter service from 2017. The Clerk agreed to check with Data Protection regulations about use of collection of public's email addresses; following outcome of this investigation consider using the next Newsletter to encourage members of the public to provide their email addresses to their local Cllrs.
13. Date of the next Council meeting 10 January 2012; next Policy meeting 14th February.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed.....date.....
Chairman

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