Sturton le Steeple Parish Council
www.sturtonlesteepleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Sturton le Steeple Parish Council held on October 11th 2023, at 7.00 pm at The Village Hall in Sturton le Steeple

Present Councillors A. Frankish (Chair) P. Appleyard, B. Werth, A Bradley, E Byatt, J. Marshall

Also Present: Clerk & RFO: Julie Tisi, 4 members of the public

Guests: Will Bridges and Indya Waite RES (Renewable Energy Systems Ltd)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

Public Forum
Resident raised query over Quarry Planning Application submitted in 2016 which he has not previously seen any visibility of. Cllr Appleyard confirmed that a quarry liaison committee had now been formed and that this application would be reviewed prior to the fist meeting, further information under planning.

Resident raised concern over increase in dog fouling in the village, PC agreed to discuss the issue with The dog warden.

Resident concern over parked car on Leverton Road, the car is blocking the pavement so pushchair users need to walk on the road. PC to contact owners and request that they don't block the pavement.

10.23.01 Welcome
Cllr Appleyard welcomed everyone to the meeting as Cllr Frankish was unavoidably delayed.

10.23.02 Apologies for Absence
It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllrs Howard and Moore

10.23.03 Comments from the Chair
Cllr Appleyard suggested that D-D Beacon lighting was discussed as part of matters arising.

10.23.04 Declarations of Interest
To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests pursuant to section 31 Localism Act 2011 from councillors on matters considered at this meeting.
No Disclosures

10.23.05 Planning Matters
RES attended the meeting to present possible plans for development of the Sturton Estate to create upto a 400MW solar farm including 200MW battery storage, if approved the farm would provide energy for around 45% of homes in Nottinghamshire. A connection to the National Grid has been secured at West Burton Power Station should plans be approved. Exact details are not available as yet as in the very early stages of planning but it could potentially mean that the whole of the Sturton Estate is developed.

Community benefits would include reduced energy costs for households in the village as well as community development funds, the size of which would be dependant on the scale of the project.

RES would run and operate the site which would be 100% funded by private investment, this would be one of the largest scale solar farms in the country.

Early consultation running for 6 weeks from the 23rd October to the 4th December, during this time, RES will be writing to 3000+ homes within 2km of the site boundary, engaging with site neighbours, hosting 2 in person events and one online webinar.

Cllrs all expressed concerns over the proposals and can see no gain to the Village, main concerns surrounding the loss of agricultural land, loss of jobs, impact on wildlife, affect to house prices and to village life in general.

RES stated that all land would be assessed prior to any applications being made which would include archaeological and environmental impact surveys.

Cllr Appleyard raised that there is a feeling in the Village that the owner of the Sturton Estate has no real interest in the Village or its residents and is using the land purely as a tool to make money.

New Applications

Proposed Rear Extension, Church Hill Cottage Leverton Road Sturton Le Steeple Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 9HE Ref. No: 23/01216/HPD | Received: Mon 02 Oct 2023 | Validated: Thu 05 Oct 2023 | **Status: Awaiting decision**
PC reviewed and agreed to support this application

Erect Single Storey Rear Extension With First Floor Terrace Area and Convert Loft Space to Create an Additional Bedroom, Coach House Cottage North Street Sturton Le Steeple Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 9HP Ref. No: 23/01180/HSE | Received: Mon 25 Sep 2023 | Validated: Thu 28 Sep 2023 | **Status: Awaiting decision**
PC reviewed and agreed to support this application

Applications awaiting decision

1 No. Bungalow with Detached Garage Open for comment icon
Land East Of Woodcote And West Of Ferndean Freemans Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire Ref. No: 23/01088/FUL | Received: Tue 05 Sep 2023 | Validated: Fri 08 Sep 2023 |
Status: Awaiting decision.

Discharge Conditions 1 - 12 on P.A 23/00199/FUL - Demolition of an Existing Derelict Bungalow and Erection of a Detached House and Garages with New Vehicular Access
Littlewood House Wheatley Road Sturton Le Steeple Retford Nottinghamshire DN22 9HU
Ref. No: 23/00933/COND | Received: Wed 26 Jul 2023 | Validated: Tue 08 Aug 2023 | **Status: Awaiting decision**

Variation of Conditions 4, 8 and 16 of PA 21/01552/VOC Condition 4 New Wording to Reflect New Planning Drawings Condition 8 Amendments to Landscape and Environment Management Plan (LEMP) Condition 16 Amendments to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)
Land North West And South Of Field Farm Wood Lane Sturton Le Steeple Nottinghamshire
Ref. No: 23/00827/VOC | Received: Wed 05 Jul 2023 | Validated: Fri 07 Jul 2023 |
Status: Awaiting decision

Applications Complete

None

Other Planning matters

UKAEA STEPS project update
No updates

West Burton Decommissioning
Decommissioning work is now well underway with main power to the site now disconnected with around 20 EDF staff left onsite. Traffic management remains well controlled, and we have clear lines of engagement should we need it.

Cottam Power Station
Demolition ongoing, consumer engagement works now complete, awaiting proposals to come forwards. There is a community open morning at 10.00am on Saturday 4th November at Rampton Village Hall to share the work done so far and further discuss options for the site.

Wood Lane Solar Farm
Meeting due to take place on the 19th September was cancelled and has been re-scheduled for later this month.

West Burton Solar Farm
No update

Bole Battery Storage
No updates, believed fire reports are still outstanding before new committee date will be set

Upgrade to the National Grid
Information has been circulated and a recent questionary from our local MP, Brendan Clarke-Smith was circulated on our Facebook page. If you haven't completed this survey we would encourage you to do so. This is another large infostructure project that will have to be passed by Secretary of State but would have significant impact on the parish.

Quarry Liaison Committee
Cllr Appleyard together with Bob Fleming and Brian Marchant will form the committee. Clerk to contact Mike Hankin with Committee Members information and to request first meeting date is set. **Action Clerk**

10.23.06 Police Report
No updates

10.23.07 Remembrance Day
Poppies and Tommy statue will be placed in and around the Village. Cllr Frankish will co-ordinate

10.23.08 Council Vacancy
Graham Burgin has now resigned. The Parish Council would like to thank Graham for the time and commitment he has shown to the Parish Council while in seat. There is now a vacancy, any residents who would be interested please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance for further information

10.23.09 Reports & updates from County and District Councillors
Not in attendance, however please see written report below from Cllr Naish:

DEVOLUTION

There is legislation currently going through Parliament which will mean that, in May 2024, we will likely be voting for an East Midlands mayor for the first time This individual will help to set the strategic direction for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. You can read more about what this means for you here: https://www.eastmidlandsdevolution.co.uk/

POWER LINE UPGRADES

Several of you contacted me about the proposed upgrade of the power lines from the North Humber to High Marnham which travel through our area. I had a private meeting with National Grid at the end of August. The next formal consultation – with a specific route – is not expected until autumn 2024.

PROSPERITY FUNDS

There have been two main activities here. Firstly, a 'High Street Task Force' has visited Retford to look at how the high street can be renewed. A report is expected in the coming weeks. Secondly, there have been 45 applications to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (£715,000) including six applications from Sturton Ward. A cross-party panel met in early October to make decisions.

STEP FUSION ENERGY PROJECT

There have been several engagement events about STEP over the summer. The next one is planned for Sturton Village Hall before Christmas. Please keep an eye out on notice boards and Parish Council minutes / Facebook pages for the dates. The first apprenticeships are expected to start next summer.

VISION 2040

At a meeting in September, the District Council's vision for 2040 was approved. This vision aligns with the delivery of the STEP fusion energy project at West Burton. You can have a look at this vision here: https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/about-us/bassetlaw-vision-2040/

WILKO

We've hosted two large job fairs since Wilko went into administration. These were attended by over 500 people and we are really pleased to hear positive stories emerging about people landing new jobs. If you are impacted by the sad demise of this much-loved brand, please get in touch with me and I can put you in touch with the right support.

10.23.10 Traffic Speeding / Calming Issues

The speed camera is now going to be replaced as repair is not possible. Traffic survey has been carried out, awaiting results from VIA. **Action Clerk**

10.23.11 Highways and Public Safety

Cllr Appleyard has started gathering photographic evidence of potholes in the Village to supply to Cllr Ogle.

Flooding adjacent to the Bridge to be placed on the November agenda. **Action Clerk**

10.23.12 Road Closures

None

10.23.13 The Lengthsman Scheme

No update from Lengthsman

Contract to receive funding from BDC duly signed by Chair, to be returned to BDC **Action Clerk**

Purchase of lawnmower, will be put forward to November agenda **Action Clerk**

10.23.14 Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on September 14th 2023

It was resolved that the minutes were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

10.23.15 Matters Arising – Non-Agenda items

D-D Beacon, cost associated with purchase of Beacon needed before decision can be made **Action Clerk**

10.23.16 Village Pond

A resident has approached Cllr Moore regarding a previous offer to clear the pond, this will be picked up by Cllr Frankish. To be added to November agenda **Action Clerk**

10.23.17 Correspondence

Correspondence received regarding planning application for land on Freemans Lane and the PC's decision to remain neutral on the application. The PC have responded and as the land falls within the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the proposal is on a smaller scale than the previous application have resolved to remain neutral.

10.23.18 Finance

Monthly bank reconciliation

It was resolved that the bank reconciliation was correct and signed accordingly.

Church Grass Cutting

Council needs to resolve invoicing for the grass cutting at the Church and a meeting has been requested to resolve this matter moving forward.

10.23.19 September payments for approval

Schedule of Payments - September 2023						
Voucher	*Cheque No*	*Reason*	*VAT No if Applicable*	*Net Total*	*VAT*	*Total*
42	BACS	Starboard Systems (Scribe)		£345.60	£69.12	£414.72
43	BACS	Defib Company (J Tisi expense claim)		£222.00	£44.40	£266.40
44	BACS	Insurance Renewal		£1,913.36	£0.00	£1,913.36
45	BACS	Lengthsman J Foster		£120.00	£0.00	£120.00
46	BACS	Holmes Groundcare Church		£252.00	£0.00	£252.00
46	BACS	Holmes Groundcare Village		£158.07	£0.00	£158.07
47	BACS	J Tisi September Salary/Expense		£360.11	£0.00	£360.11
48	FEE	Unity Bank Service Charge		18.00	0.00	18.00
			Total	£3,389.14	£113.52	£3,502.66

Resolved that payments are correct, BACS payments will be approved by Cllr Frankish.

10.23.20 Reports from other groups and committees

Playpark safety report
Following Cllr Burgins resignation, Cllr Bradley will now take over the role. Question raised as to when annual safety inspection was due, Clerk confirmed that this is booked for November.

Village Hall
Trustees of the Village Hall have reported booking in the 2nd half of the year have increase, The monthly meeting of Sturton Residents, Sturton Friends is well attended and has a program of events for the remainder of the year. The recent Jumble sale raised £400 for the Village Hall Charity which will help with the upkeep and improved facilities at the Hall. Cllrs commented that many residents were not aware of the events, the PC will look at different ways to get communication across to more residents.

Update on the Reflection Garden
A planting plan is available and plants are on order. Volunteers are needed to assist with the maintenance of the garden and village in general and the council would like to put a sub committee together to look after this. Please make yourself know if you are interested in helping with this. A quote of £17k has been received from the sculpture for the centre feature which is out of budget. A donation of 5K has been agreed from EDF so will look at getting something created within this cost.

Village Signs
Cllrs Appleyard and Frankish will arrange to remove and replace old and damaged signs around the villages.

Skate Park
Cllr Bradley will look at current skate ramp to see what improvements can be made. Further input from residents needed before looking to replace current facilities.

10.23.21 Village update
Monthly defibrillator check
Check has been carried out. New battery and pads have been received. Cllr Marshall will replace existing.

Defibrillator Training Course
To be publicised in next Newsletter as 12 participants needed before a course will be booked.

Newsletter
Cllrs Frankish, Appleyard and Byatt will put together a newsletter and aim to produce one quarterly going forwards.

Noticeboard
It was agreed to remove the noticeboard at the butchers as it is not being used, this will be re-sited at the Village Hall. Clerk to look at the cost of a further noticeboard to place elsewhere in the village prior to the next meeting **Action Clerk**

Church Clock update
The clock is still running about 4 minutes slow. Cllr Bradley has arranged for Time Assured to come back out and repair for the second time.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm. Date of next meeting Wednesday 8th November at 7.00pm

I declare that this is an accurate account of the meeting and agree to accept the minutes as a true account.

Signed: Chairman Sturton le Steeple Parish Council

Date:

Julie Tisi– Clerk, Tel. 07557 762 012 – clerk@sturtonlesteepleparishcouncil.gov.uk