

BERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th October 2021,
8.00pm

Present: John Burton, Amanda Coomber, Duncan Murdoch(8.15pm), John Riddell, Diane Holt, Pete Hewitt, Laura Free, Ian Stumpf UCC: Cllr Janice Loughlin, Public: Mike Phillimore-Brown, Sarah Youens

231.0	Apologies: DM 15 Mins late, sends apologies
231.1	Declarations of Interest: Mike Phillimore-Brown, Sarah Youenss
231.2	Public Participation. Solar, Footpaths, Community Speedwatch.
231.3	Ratify Decisions and Approve Minutes of last Berden Parish Council Meeting 11th September 2021. Approved.
231.4	Clerk's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Review of notes. All points now complete.
231.5	Crabbs Green Battery Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none">● No movement as of yet on this application. East End Battery Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Application is still open so objections can still be logged, as of 11th October but due to close imminently.● It is believed that the planning application will roll on and on, Environmental Health not happy, Highways has reservations.● This is all normal procedure for East Herts. It takes months.● It is believed the Christensen report has not been uploaded as of 11th Oct.● The uploading of information onto the portal seems to be very slow.● Ashley Ransome, the East Herts Planning Officer, will coordinate the information and they pass to the relevant people for the decision to be made.● PTP group are extremely active and organised.● JB to send Christensen report to Mike Phillimore-Brown.

Battles Farm Solar Facility

- No movement
- Proposed new site is in both Essex and East Herts, and will likely go to UDC when application is made.
- County border is the hedge on the right as you look at the National Grid.
- Additional land is Watts' family land. Two farm owners.
- BPC feel Low Carbon have come around this in the wrong way, instead of asking the community what they think Low Carbon should do, it is believed they should have come to the community with what they believe is the right scheme. As they have access to all the heritage personnel, archaeologists, landscaping etc.
- Possibility that if one area cuts land off it might make that land unuseable.

Stocking/Furneux Pelham Solar Facility

- No Movement.

Park Green Solar Facility

- No application, only screening opinions currently.

Joint Parish Meeting

- No further joint parish meeting as no applications have been submitted.

Dropbox

- All information has been stored in the dropbox.
- Possibility of sharing with Claire Russell so that the information can be shared with other villages at the correct time.

General Comments & Clarification

- BPC have sent letters stating that it is believed that all three proposals need to be looked at as one not three separate sites, this would push it over the required wattage for it to be looked at on a national level.
- There are numerous applications all over the area currently and approx 5 companies are involved in most of them.
- CPRE booklet has been sent to UDC & East Herts, it is also on the Battles Farm and Berden PC websites.
- MPB states he thinks that this needs to be approached from an evidential point rather than emotion.
- DM states BPC are currently stating what has currently been proposed is not acceptable but no application has been submitted yet. This is the case on Battles Farm and Park Green.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When the application does come and if they have taken on the PC views then maybe it will be reconsidered. ● The Furneux Pelham village survey was based on the original Berden scheme . ● The PC takes on board MPB views. MPB wants to ensure it's a fair argument either way. ● The PC's are trying to keep the villages informed as and when information presents itself. ● FP/BP have taken a different view. Didn't consult the village. Protect the Pelhams was born from within the community, not the PC. ● BPC wants to work with the action groups as they are formed.
231.6	<p>Finance Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two sets of accounts sent for reference. ● VAT Refunded. ● Pete Hewitt to sign off quarterly accounts. ● Payments made this month Clerk's Salary & Grass Cutting. ● Berden Village Hall Vat refund to be paid. ● All members approved the movement of the Bank Accounts to NatWest Bank. DH to arrange in coming weeks.
231.7	<p>Planning & Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cantlow House, Little London, consult immediate neighbours to obtain their views. Next to 3 Listed buildings, will it impede on these. ● St Nicolas Field: No comments
231.8	<p>Playground Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Goal posts have been reset. ● Zip Wire now adjusted. ● Inspection was completed, nothing to report other than the ongoing problem of the grass (or lack of) on top of the tunnel. ● Funds remain unchanged from October. ● IS has applied for two more grants, awaiting an update. ● Area around the swing on The Street, very overgrown, JB to cut back before Bonfire night.
231.9	<p>Village Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Village Hall mins to be filed for reference. See appendix one. ● Village Hall rent to be paid pro-rata. ● Grants to be discussed further in November.

231.10

Highways

- Email was sent to RG, he informed JR that changes had occurred within the department and he didn't believe there were any surgeries currently.
- JR sent a further email requesting comments, but no further communication has been forthcoming. JR to chase RG.
- RG participation in the BPC meeting has been non-existent in recent months. JB to email RG to communicate this and possible list of meetings for the remainder of the year to be sent.
- Community Speedwatch has now obtained 5 volunteers, so therefore the training can move forward.
- Large Pothole in Little London JR to report again.
- Missing Giveaway sign reported.
- There is a possibility that the drains on Pelham road need pumping, JR to report.

231.11

Footpaths

- EEC request for payment has been issued.
- Footpath 55 in London Little has been reported to council to address as is impassable.
- Roselane & Blakings Lane also an issue. JB to report. Mr Tinney can not cut until ECC addresses the issues.
- Banks between Vicarage & Bonnington Lane are very overgrown. There is a tree on the bank , possibly a job for the rangers.

231.12

Parkers Access

- DM has spoken with Darren & Kerry Calder and explained the situation. Duncan's has offered to write a letter to UDC.

231.13

Environment

- Trees to be planted later in the year.
- Pruning also to be completed.
- All members to think about where trees can be planted for the Queen's canopy.

231.14

Defibrillator

- No further update on the Little London unit.
- Pads with the Village Hall machine are currently at 50%, possible new ones required by end of the year. Budgeted £165 for the defibrillator this year.

231.15

Cllr Janice Loughlin

- Difficult week as the decision has been made to no longer pursue the fight against the Stansted Development, although £2.5m of taxpayers money has been spent.
- Very complex case. **Please see Cllr Loughlin notes attached.** See appendix two
- A peer review has been completed in the planning department. Numerous comments and suggestions were recommended.
- An email from the CEO to the department was read aloud.
- Training needs to be completed by the planning officers. It was stated that too many applications were refused even though planners recommended granting permission.
- 2 Planning Solicitors are being employed.
- Letter sent to Kemi JB has asked Janice to see who is likely to be responding? JL has stated she is getting a lot in her Inbox from Kemi.

231.16

Cllr Ray Gooding not in attendance

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