

**MINUTES OF STOW LONGA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT
ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2013 AT 8 PM**

Present: Councillors Hayes (Chairman), Allen, Butcher and Humfryes, the Parish Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and 22 members of the public.

1. **The minutes of the previous meeting held 21 May 2012**, having being circulated to those present, and displayed on the village website were taken as read, approved and then signed by the Chairman.

2. **Parish Council Chairman's Report 2012 / 2013**

Meetings

The Parish Council met on 9 separate occasions since the last Annual Parish Meeting. There was a 78% attendance record by Councillors at those meetings. The Clerk continues to publish the minutes of the Parish Council meetings on the village notice board and the website.

During the period since the last Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council has dealt with the following issues:

Planning applications

There were a small number of routine planning matters that the Council were asked to consider this year plus the Bicton Wind Farm. There was nothing remarkable regarding the 4 routine issues. There have been no enforcement issues.

Proposed Bicton Wind Farm

As parishioners will be aware, a revised application has been submitted.

The Council has received copies of a number of letters objecting to the application and will be meeting to discuss this next week.

We have spoken to our new County Councillor and District Councillor who are willing to support any decision that we take.

Finance

During the year the Parish Council dealt with its financial obligations including both an internal and an external audit. The results of both of these audits were satisfactory.

The precept has been set at £3,300 for the 2013/14 fiscal year, the same as last year.

Repairs and maintenance

Relocating the post box to a site next to the telegraph pole outside the Chapel is still an on-going issue.

The village cross work is progressing very slowly and I will ask David Stowell to give a brief update on this later.

We need to have working parties on the near future for:

- ~ Repainting the phone box - nearly finished thanks to Steve Butcher and Andy Griffiths.

Repairs to verges . thanks to Sue Humfryes for pursuing this with Anglian Water.

Health and Safety

Martin Allen regularly inspects the Parish Council assets to ensure that there are no health and safety issues. Where necessary, appropriate action has been taken to ensure that any potentially dangerous matters are dealt with.

The play area equipment is regularly inspected by Wicksteed.

Speed limits

Last year I reported that we had made a bid under the Local Highway Minor Improvements Scheme for a reduction to 30 mph. The cost of reducing the speed limit is just under £1,400 and we agreed to make a contribution of at least 10% of the cost.

I attended a panel at Cambridgeshire Highways to put our case on 25 April 2012. The outcome of that was that there was a list of 10 confirmed projects with Stow Longa being nominated as a reserve in case any other scheme did not come to fruition.

Given previous police objections, we had to recognise formally that the police would not be able to enforce the reduction.

That being said:

- ~ We have organised our speed watch campaign and we will do some more . thanks to David Stowell for organising this and those parishioners who helped.
- ~ We will be writing to the Kart Club asking them to advise their members that there has been a change.
- ~ The matter has been published in the parish magazine.
- ~ We will ask out local community police officer if she will do some enforcement.

Finally

I would like to express my thanks to all the Councillors and the Clerk for their support and work over the last year.

I would also like to thank those members of the village who regularly contribute to the matters we have discussed such as Max Turner with the Cross, and also Anne Beszant with flowers around the village sign.

3. Parish Council Financial Report for 2012/13

The Parish Clerk, Mr D Stowell, presented the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013.

- 4. Town Lands Charity** . Mr John Keal having declared that he wished to stand down as a trustee if at least one replacement could be found, the Chairman invited nominations to fill two vacancies. Jacqui Young and Amy Howard expressed a willingness to be nominated. The meeting welcomed these offers and resolved to pass their nominations to the Parish Council with the recommendation that they be appointed as trustees.

5. Reports from other organisations (if any) - none

6. New Planning Application for Bicton Wind Farm, 1300512FUL

The Chairman invited comments on this new application. These (which are summarised below) and written comments received from residents will be taken into account by the Parish Council on 28 May when deciding its response to HDC.

- ~ No change from last time, the reduction to 3 turbines and re-siting of them notwithstanding. There may be a detrimental effect on the view from the Church.
- ~ Broadview are untrustworthy having provided false information in their photo montages previously.
- ~ There are insufficient local funds available to perform research into their claims, regarding noise for instance, to substantiate or refute them.
- ~ Why here? The site seems to be of poor quality for wind power
- ~ The site is marginal, but just windy enough. The driving force is the subsidy combined with the landowner's agreement.
- ~ Will they get approval for three turbines and then return with further applications to add more?
- ~ Approval would change the land use. Further applications could not be defended using the argument that the site was unspoiled.
- ~ Other developments are very visible and this would be seen from a wide area.

7. **Open Forum** . The following matters were raised
- ~ 2 residents thanked the council for their efforts to achieve the reduction in the speed limit to 30mph.
 - ~ The 30mph repeater sign sited opposite the playground sign on Church Lane gives the impression that it is acceptable to go at 30mph past the play area.
 - ~ The street sweeping, that clears the road, leaves the pavements unswept so that debris remains and then washes back into the gutter at the first sign of rain and blocks the drains again.
 - ~ Large lorries passing through the village are unsuitable for the roads. Can we approach the companies receiving these vehicles within the 17T weight restriction zone to ask their suppliers to use smaller vehicles?
 - ~ Parking on the green outside Stow Inn is causing a problem, restricting access to the turning and obstructing the footpath. The blind turn coming from Kimbolton into Church Lane is made much worse by the presence of such parked vehicles.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council would note these matters and take action as appropriate.

In the absence of any further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49 pm