

Diptford Parish Council Meeting

Diptford Village Hall

Tuesday 11 June 2013 at 7.30pm

Proposals for Coombeshead Farm solar farm were presented by Tom Jones, AEE Renewables

Surveys were being completed in preparation for submitting a planning application in July, and a leaflet drop and public exhibition would be held once the details had been finalised, in about 3 weeks.

Two sites were proposed, with a total area of 30ha (75 acres), providing 11-12 megawatts. Screening would be provided and deer fencing could be used to minimise the wind whistle experienced in some security fencing. Electricity would be fed into the grid via underground cable to a substation and into the pylon, and 11 inverter houses would be erected in green prefabricated metal. No security cameras or lighting would be included in the planning permission, although there was a possibility they could be added later.

During construction, larger vehicles would unload materials in a temporary hardstanding off the ridge road, with smaller vehicles distributing them to the rest of the site. The build period would be 3 months, with intensive building for 6 weeks, in December/January. Local fencing contractors would be used, but installers and electricians were from Poland and the panels from Germany or China. A Construction Management Plan would be approved with the SHDC and issued to contractors, which should minimise the impact on the community and highways, and the lanes and hedgerows would be reinstated after the development.

A blog would be set up, with a link into the Diptford website.

Members of the public were concerned about the visibility of the solar farm, and suggested that it be set back 50-100m from the ridge road.

Police Report PC Hopper attended the meeting and reported on 2 crimes in May, one of which was noted by Neighbourhood Watch. Complaints were received about speeding vehicles entering/leaving Avonwick, which she would follow up.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Franklin(Chairman), Crocker, Gopal, Hill & Peach

13.061 Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Babbott, Foster & Steer

13.062 To note declarations of interest and Dispensations in items on the Agenda Cllr Gopal declared a non disclosable interest in Item 13.064 (owns adjacent land)

13.063 The Minutes of the Meetings held on the 21.5.13, as previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman

13.064 Planning Review – See Appendix 13.064. The Clerk would ask for an update from Cllr Steer on the unauthorised change of use at Beenleigh Meadows and the junction improvements at Shorter Cross, before submitting a Planning Breach Notification relating to the hedge cutting at Blue Post solar farm.

13.065 Amenity Trust Report – Funds: Acc 00196602 £135.44; Acc 02042009 £6808.40. £100 license fee had been received from the school.

13.066 Broadband provision – Cllr Hill had attended a meeting held by BT. Government funding of £94m was provided to supply broadband at fibre speed of 24 Mbps (megabits per second) to 91% of all properties by 2016. The remaining properties should receive 2 Mbps. A number of fibre optic hubs would be provided, irrespective of telephone exchanges, and the spin-off from those hubs was yet to be determined, as inclusion in the 91% would not be decided until 6 months before the end of the programme.

Cllr Hill had arranged for Diptford to be placed on BT's list of communities, and had been appointed as a Digital Champion, to co-ordinate consultation at the local level.

The school currently used higher speed broadband through copper wire and, as its contract was due to end in July, it was interested in local initiatives.

Satellite broadband of about 6 megabits per second could be provided by a number of suppliers at a cost of about £25/month, and it may be possible for one individual to host the supply and provide wifi facilities to his neighbours, although speeds would reduce with the number of users.

13.067 Overgrown hedgerows Details of overgrown hedges were given to the Clerk, who would write to the owners. Complaints were received that SW Roads had cut down an area of orchids prior to gritting.

The Clerk would write to Simpson Farm, complaining that its silage equipment had undermined the lane hedgerows two years running.

Steve Mason, SHDC would be advised of growth on the riverside wall opposite Rannoch.

13.068 Finance

1. Cheques passed for payment:

Cheque	Description	VAT	Gross
0590	S Woodman – May pay		150.51
0591	S Woodman expenses: Office £50.35, travel £27.00	2.22	77.35
0592	HMRC - PAYE		112.20

2. The Financial Statement was received

Lloyds Current Account to 29.4.13	6505.45
Less payments & unrepresented cheques	1390.09
Plus uncleared receipts	0.00
Total Current Account	5115.36
Santander Account to 31.3.13	12.39
Total funds	5127.75

Earmarked Reserves

P3 Footpaths	574.29
Winter Emergency Planning	800.00
Total Reserves	1374.29

Total uncommitted funds £3753.46

3. Resolved to pay a £50 membership fee to the Community Council of Devon (*chq 593*)

13.069 Correspondence received

1. SHDC: Twitter & Facebook – details would be included in the magazine
2. SHDC: Neighbourhood Planning Workshop 17 July – No one would attend

13.070 Reports on Meetings Attended

Cllr Peach had attended the Clinical Commissioning Group meeting at Harbertonford, in which the public had its say on health and social matters.

Meeting ended 9.15pm

Date of next Meeting 16 July