

**Minutes of East Down Parish Council Meeting  
at 8.00 p.m. on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at East Down Village Hall**

**Attendance:** Cllr. R. Tarr (Chair), Cllr. Mrs E. Kempf, Cllr. K. Phillips, Cllr. M. Smith, Cllr. M. Wright, District Cllr J. Tucker, Mr. M. Mant, Mr. R. Kilburn and Mrs M. Done (Clerk).

Cllr Mr. Richard Tarr welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Mrs S. Black, Cllr. R. Fry and County Cllr Ms A. Davis

2. **Declarations of Interest/Dispensations.**

The Chairman reported that both he and the Clerk had taken advice this week from DALC and their recommendation was that any Councillor who declared an interest but who was allowed to speak and not to vote should leave the room while the vote is taken. DALC also indicated that Councillors with an interest should normally not vote.

Cllr M. Smith declared an interest in Agenda Item 13.Honeywell Wind Turbine Appeal and asked that it be minuted that he did not wish to speak or vote on this item.

Cllr M. Wright declared an interest in Agenda Item 13.Honeywell Wind Turbine Appeal and was allowed to address Council before they decided on the dispensation which was to speak and to vote as a representative of the parishioners affected by this appeal. Following this it was resolved to approve Cllr Wright's dispensation.

The Interests book was signed by both councillors.

3. **Public Participation.**

Mr. Mant reported to the meeting that he had been in contact with Oliver Block, of North Devon Council Legal Department regarding Agenda Item 12. Application 56004/12863 for a certificate of lawfulness at Lower Churchill, East Down. Mr Mant had been able to confirm that all was in order since the roof work etc. had been started during the time limit. The Chairman thanked Mr Mant.

Mr Mant also wished to speak about Agenda Item 11 Himalayan Balsam.

It was resolved to bring this matter forward.

**Part A**

11. **Himalayan Balsam.** Mr Mant had brought in contact details of the Probation Service Community payback. The Probation Service provide skills, labour and equipment at competitive prices. The workforce is supervised.

Discussion of the problem of the spread of Himalayan Balsam in the parish resulted in an offer by Cllr Wright to undertake a survey to identify the areas most affected. The best way to eradicate this problem is by pulling each plant out and the best time is in June when they start to grow. It was suggested that parishioners be invited to join and that we could arrange to have a barbecue for all working on this when the job was finished. Resolved that this was a project for next year.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Probation Service to investigate the details of the Community Payback scheme and report to the next meeting.

Mr. Mant then left the meeting.

4 **County/District Councillors' Reports**

**County Councillor Andrea Davis' report covered:**

Health checks for 40 -74 years olds

Appeal to National Bus Pass holders

Notice of Temporary Road Closure 4<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Councillors had received full report by email.

**District Councillor Joe Tucker's report covered:**

Fullbrook Wind Turbines not working for last two weeks owing to general maintenance and correction of noise problem,

Notification of Parish Forum and encouragement to parish councillors to attend.

Council Resolved to move Agenda Item 10 TAP Fund forward for discussion.

**10. TAP Fund.**

Arlington's Strimmer £196.70 + VAT of £39.34 = £236.04

East Down's Table Tennis Table £183.31 + £36.66 VAT = £219.97

The Clerk reported that we did not need any of Cllr. Tucker's Councillor Grant to cover the shortfall of East Down's purchase. Mr. R. Kilburn, Chair of Arlington Parish was in agreement that as East Down is the lead parish in this venture he had no objection to the Clerk approaching Cllr. Prouse for a contribution to Arlington's shortfall. Arlington Parish would approach their County Councillor.

Council Resolved to move Agenda Item 13 Honeywell Farm Wind Turbine Appeal. forward for discussion.

**13. Honeywell Farm Wind Turbine Appeal dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Reference**

**APP/X1118/A/13/2201533/NWF.** The Chairman advised Council that the request we had received regarding this application was to notify the planning inspectorate if we wished to make any comments, or modify/withdraw our previous representation. It was resolved to forward the following comments:

East Down Parish Council discussed at length the proposal and agreed unanimously to recommend refusal of the application. Including the additional comments which appear underlined.

The reasons being:

This application does not address the Inspector's concerns when refusing the previous application.

There is an increase in the noise levels owing to larger blades from the first application to this one.

The detrimental impact on tourism.

It would appear that the Wildlife Survey Report is two years out of date.

The residents most closely situated to the proposed turbine attended the meeting to voice their concerns which covered:

- the blades will be larger and lower than the previous application a 17% greater sweep
- Noise levels - tunneling down the valley and the impact on tourism owing to the industrial structure of the turbine in a rural area
- 20-25 years cannot be considered a short term.

Concerns that a precedent will be set and further turbine applications will follow.

Surrounding properties likely to be affected by devaluation of 20% - 50%

Only a fraction of the energy generated would be required by the farm which goes against the reasons given by the applicant

The resident pipistrelle bat population could be dramatically negatively affected.

It is believed that the output of the turbine has been grossly overestimated

No support of the application was received.

District Councillor J. Tucker then left the meeting.

**5. Minutes of the Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013.** Resolved to accept. Minutes then signed.

**6. Matters arising from the minutes.** Letter from Village Hall Trustees regarding the request for help with obtaining warning signs. The Chairman agreed to contact Cllr. Davis.

**7. Election of Vice Chairman.** It was resolved to defer this to the next meeting.

**8. Election of Parish Paths Co-ordinator.** It was resolved to defer this to the next meeting.

**9. Financial Statement of accounts for the year to date and agree m payments.**

Bank Balance of P3 £619.87; Parish Council Account £3615.58. All cheques presented.

**12. Planning Application 56076. Erection of Agricultural Building for livestock at Higher Viveham, Muddiford, Barnstaple.** After studying the plans and discussion it was resolved to recommend approval of the application. The Clerk to advise the Planning Department.

**Consents and refusals by North Devon Council** (for information only)

**Application 55734. Erection of One wind turbine (height 61 metres, height to hub 35m, blade diameter 52m) at Hartland View Farm (land at OS 258550,139000), Shirwell, Barnstaple.**

Permission refused by NDC 5<sup>th</sup> August 2013

**14. Chairman's items:**

It was noted that the potholes had been filled.

Lengthsman to be informed of the following problems:

- the lack of guttering between Higher Churchill Farm and Ashelford.
- Ashelford Corner – drain fills and overflows when it rains.

Clerk to ask why the hedge is cut between Bowden and Twisthead on one side only.

Concrete surround is needed opposite Bowden Wood halfway between Bowden Corner and Indicott.

Highways are aware since they have put reflective posts there.

**15. Correspondence.**

P3 Information sheets. Clerk to complete form

Barnstaple Town Council Planning School – no representative

NDC Parish Forum – two places to be booked

Highways Conference – bring to next meeting

North Devon and Torridge Councils Green Infrastructure Strategy Survey – to next meeting

Rural Fair Share petition – to next meeting

**Magazines and Leaflets**

Healthwatch

**Members Services Notices now received and forwarded by email**

**16. Date of next meeting.**

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Monday 2nd September 2013.

Agenda Items carried over:

Election of Vice Chair

P3 Co-ordinator vacancy

Mr. Kilburn was thanked for attending and asked to leave the meeting for Part 'B'

**Part 'B'** (Confidential Restricted information)

Resolved by approval of Council to move to confidential session under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 for discussion of a personnel matter raised under item 14.

The meeting closed at 10.40 p.m.