

Portbury Parish Council

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 13th November 2012

Village Hall, High Street, Portbury

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Marshall Cllr Chilcott Cllr Hale

Chairman: Cllr Cooke

Clerk: Cllr Meek – (Minutes taken by Sara Thompson)

Others: Mandy Bishop – NSC
Brian Weekes
Haydn John
39 members of the public

Mr I Stone – National Grid representative
Ms Aileen Smith – National Grid representative

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

No	Item	Action
PC/11/01	Apologies – Mr Summerfield, PC Clark and Mr Ball	
PC/11/02	National Grid – Hinkley C to Seabanks preferred routing Portbury area It has come as a complete surprise to the Council, and residents, that National Grid has issued details of a new draft route to carry the 400Kv overhead lines through the Portbury area. The proposed route does not fall within the preferred routing corridor that has been discussed over the past few years and, if approved, will run in parallel (North East) to the M5, and Portbury village. Lines would then cross the A369 at the Sheepway junction, passing within close proximity to Elm Tree Park. In view of this announcement by NG, representatives were invited to attend the meeting to hear residents' concerns and questions. Cllr Cooke gave a brief history regarding previous consultations and has to how the preferred corridor had been agreed upon. Representatives from NG were then introduced (Ivan Stone & Aileen Smith), Cllr Cooke stressed that they were not attending in the capacity of 'technical experts' but as PR personnel; they would answer questions, if able, and feedback the comments to the connection group.	

Cllr Cooke invited questions from the floor.

Mr Hall, representative of Elm Tree Park residents, advised that he had had an 'on site' meeting with NG that day. Residents were opposed to the draft route as they considered the visual impact to be high and in contradiction to National Grid's Draft Route Overview Report which states '*we have tried to minimise the visual effects of our proposal*' and '*The Draft route has been designed carefully to maximise the distance from homes*'.

Several other questions were raised such as;

Why had the route been changed?

NG advised that having given consideration to the landscape and ecological concerns, they felt that this revised route would be the most beneficial.

Being 1 km shorter than the original route, was the reduced cost a deciding factor?

NG advised that the cost saving was minimal and that it was not part of the decision process.

Were there any known side effects from the electro magnetic fields surrounding the cables?

NG advised that there was no evidence of a direct link between health issues and EMFs. NG operates within the guidelines laid down by World Health Organisation; further information can be obtained from their web site;

http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/06256C22-B0B1-4860-9B58-2AB645556458/41472/NG_EMFs_Factsheet2.pdf

Could the lines go underground?

Due to cost, this option had been ruled out.

Was the wildlife at Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve a consideration when moving the route away from that area?

NG advised that it was one of several factors taken into consideration.

As part of the above discussion, NG advised residents of several 'benefits';

- a) An existing overhead 132Kv line would be removed
- b) The second existing overhead line would be buried
- c) By running the overhead cables in straight lines, fewer angled pylons would be required thus reducing the visual impact.

They also advised that a 'final' route had not been agreed upon but when it was, it would be subject to approval by a Government Inspector.

Cllr Cooke thanked IS and AS for attending.

After the NG representatives left the meeting, the following course of action was agreed upon;

1. PPC and volunteers to leaflet drop all residents; drawing attention to the proposed draft route. If residents object to this routing, they are requested to register their objection by either a) an online comment to National Grid or b) writing a letter.

Option 'a' – Comments can be made on <http://www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk/have-your-say.aspx>

**JM/
SC**

	<p>Option 'b' – Letters written can be handed to any PPC Councillor, handed in at the village hall or PPC office (residents of Elm Tree Park can give their letters to Mr Hall). All letters will be photocopied and may be used in future correspondence relating to this subject, therefore residents must advise if they do not wish copies to be made.</p> <p>2. PPC will request a further meeting with NG so that the technical aspects of this proposal can be discussed – open to all residents.</p> <p>3. PPC will engage with Dr Liam Fox MP and Cllr Nigel Ashton to express the views of the Council and residents.</p> <p>Cllr Cooke thanked residents for attending</p>																																	
PC/11/03	<p>Minutes of October's meeting held 02.10.12 signed as a true record of proceedings.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Hale Seconded: Cllr Marshall All in favour</p>																																	
PC/11/04	<table> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>Nett</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>VAT</u></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><u>Gross</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PBS – Administration/Coordinator Nov 2012 S/O</td> <td style="text-align: right;">795.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">795.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fountains – Dog Bins September 12*</td> <td style="text-align: right;">48.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9.60</td> <td style="text-align: right;">57.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian Weekes – Maintenance Oct 12</td> <td style="text-align: right;">203.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">203.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian Weekes – Drain clearance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">49.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">49.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EDF – Electricity supply Aug to Oct 12</td> <td style="text-align: right;">126.94</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6.35</td> <td style="text-align: right;">133.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GB Sport & Leisure – Sign (play area)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">50.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CPRE Membership</td> <td style="text-align: right;">29.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">29.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proposed: Cllr Meek Seconded: Cllr Cooke All in favour</p> <p>* Cllr Meek advised that the dog bin (Station Road/Footbridge) had not been emptied – Mandy Bishop will liaise with D Mawn NSC.</p>		<u>Nett</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>	PBS – Administration/Coordinator Nov 2012 S/O	795.00	0.00	795.00	Fountains – Dog Bins September 12*	48.00	9.60	57.60	Brian Weekes – Maintenance Oct 12	203.00	0.00	203.00	Brian Weekes – Drain clearance	49.00	0.00	49.00	EDF – Electricity supply Aug to Oct 12	126.94	6.35	133.29	GB Sport & Leisure – Sign (play area)	50.00	10.00	60.00	CPRE Membership	29.00	0.00	29.00	MB
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PC/11/05	<p>Crime & Disorder</p> <p>a) Neither Mr Ball nor PC Clark were available to attend the meeting but had previously advised that there had been no reported crime during the month of October.</p>																																	
PC/11/06	<p>Parish Plan and Website</p> <p>a) Parish Plan – Cllr Marshall to collect the feedback documents from St Mary's School</p> <p>b) Cllr Chilcott circulated a protocol document detailing the procedure for uploading information to the web page and to Facebook.</p>	VM																																
PC/11/07	<p>Planning</p> <p>a) Applications received; 12/P/1939/F – Shipway Farm. Conversion of two existing redundant barns into holiday accommodation. As the application was not available to view on NSC's planning portal, comments would be made when councillors were able to review.</p>																																	

	<p>b) Port Liaison Meeting update – Cllr Chilcott Cllr Chilcott had recently attended a Port Liaison meeting on the Council's behalf. He advised;</p> <p>1. Due to the resignation of Cllr Tarr, the position of vice-chair was available and it was hoped that a Portbury Councillor would be able to fill this position. As meetings are held during the day, it would be difficult for a Councillor to do so due to individuals work commitments. The Port would be approached to see if they would consider holding the meetings in evening.</p> <p>2. Woodchip Storage Silos – It had been agreed that once the silos were constructed they would be finished with a grey paint.</p> <p>3. Biomass Plant – No commencement date available due to consideration being given to wholesale energy prices, and also the PM.s instruction to consider the feasibility of a Severn Barrage.</p>	PBS
PC/11/08	<p>Council Administration Nothing new to report</p>	
PC/11/09	<p>Maintenance</p> <p>a) To monitor outstanding issues with NSC, a Task monitor specifically for this purpose will be introduced. Items would include drains, pavement repairs and potholes etc.</p> <p>b) To assist NSC with the disposal of fly tipped rubbish, Brian Weekes enquired as to whether the NSC could issue him with a pass to allow him to take the rubbish directly to the recycling centre.</p>	PBS MB
PC/11/10	<p>Transport and Traffic</p> <p>a) A request was made regarding the siting of a grit bin at the Station Road end of the footbridge. PBS will request current costs from NSC.</p> <p>b) Cllr Marshall advised that the No. 66 bus route was to change and that it would no longer use the Sheepway; new timetables would be issued in due course.</p>	
PC/11/11	<p>Community Reports</p> <p>a) St Mary's Church The Friends of St Mary's Church are reviewing fund raising initiatives. The church's electrics need to be inspected/repared as a priority in order to comply with the insurance renewal (March 2013).</p> <p>The feasibility of under seat heating is also being costed. This type of heating would reduce running costs to the church, as only the seats being used in a service are heated, compared to the whole building.</p> <p>Church members would also be hand delivering Christmas cards to all households, a calendar of events, being held over the festive period, would be included</p>	

	<p>b) St Mary's School Nothing new to report</p> <p>c) Village Hall 1. The outside scaffolding has been removed. 2. The Community Café continues to be well attended 3. The Village Hall AGM was recently held and an increase to turnover, over the previous year, of £6k announced.</p> <p>d) Christmas Trees As per previous years, PPC will purchase two trees; one for the village green and one for Moorgate. Cllr Chilcott suggested that it would be nice if the village children could make decorations for the tree.</p> <p>e) PPC Xmas meal A reservation had been made at the Priory Inn 19.12.12.</p>	
PC/11/12	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) Reed Bed located at Jct 19 M5. There had been numerous reports on an unpleasant smell emanating from the reed bed – Highways Agency to be contacted.</p> <p>b) January 2013 meeting – Cllr Marshall asked other Councillors if they would consider holding the meeting on the 9th January, as she would be unable to attend on the 8th.</p>	PBS
PC/11/13	Date and time of next meeting 4th December 2012	

Meeting finished at 9.20 pm
Portbury Parish Council
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