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Minutes of a meeting of the **BUCKLAND MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL** held at **MILTON COMBE VILLAGE HALL** on **WEDNESDAY** the **8TH JUNE 2016** at **8.00pm**

Present: Cllrs M Fowler (Chairman)(MF), S Britton (SB), D Butland (DB), S Challiss (SC), L Larkin (LL), L Wood (LW), Val Bolitho (VB)

In Attendance: M Allen, D & E Simkins (local residents)
Mrs K Johns (Parish Clerk)

Elaine Simkins made a speech regarding the recent planning application which the Parish Council had made, to place solar panels on Crapstone Field and the subsequent public meeting to discuss the potential future uses of the field.

They stated that after consideration of all the information provided on the scheme, that it was their opinion that the solar panels would not provide any benefit to the local community. They went onto clarify that whilst they are not against biodiversity, the scheme was not of value to the local community and would prevent use of the field for other purposes over the 25 year period of the lease for solar panels. Finally, they reiterated the large public outcry against the solar panels at the recent public meeting and said that the Parish Council must take this into account when making their decision whether to place solar panels upon the field.

LW agreed that the force of opinion of local residents at the meeting had been noted. SB stated that it was not only the monetary benefit from the scheme which should be taken into account, but also that it fulfilled one of the key local needs identified by the Neighbourhood Plan; to provide sustainable energy.

MF thanked Elaine Simkins for voicing their concerns and attending the meeting.

233/16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllrs Baird, Bolitho, Cheadle and Davis.

234/16 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** None.

235/16 **FINANCE:**

a) Accounts and Annual Return 2015-16:

Copies of the summary of the accounts, supporting notes, bank reconciliation and Annual Return 2016 form were circulated to all Members. Following consideration of the papers and figures, it was **AGREED** to approve:

- i. The 2015-2016 summary of accounts and for them to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting and Clerk.
- ii. The bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2016 and for it to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting and Clerk.
- iii. Sections 1 (Annual Governance Statement) and 2 (Annual Return) of the Annual Return 2016 and for them to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting and Clerk.

236/16 **CRAPSTONE FIELD:**

a) Councillors' debated at length the subject of whether to agree to lease part of Crapstone field to Tamar Energy Community (TEC), for the installation of solar panels upon the field.

Councillors discussed many topics including; the cost of removal of the panels, the strength of public opinion against the installation of panels, the need for a green space increasing in the future within the area, concerns that the scheme could leave the PC liable for costs in the future and that the Neighbourhood Plan consultation had identified a clear need for sustainable energy projects within the Parish.

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Following the debate, LL proposed that the Parish Council should not rent part of Crapstone Field to TEC for the installation of solar panels, but not to withdraw the planning application. The proposal was seconded by DB. Councillors **AGREED** the proposal.

- b) Members discussed the setting up of a steering group to look at future potential uses of Crapstone field. SB proposed that the group should be a working group, rather than a steering group and that Councillors and other interested members of the public should spend some time putting ideas together prior to the first meeting of the group. DB reiterated that the field should be used for recreational purposes.

At 9.10pm Council broke to discuss the opinions of the local residents present who had asked to sit on the working group formed by the Parish Council. Marilyn Allen stated that it was important that the group was not too big, that there must be at least one representative from the Stonemoor Estate and that there must be a clear remit for the group.

At 9.14pm members went back into council and it was **AGREED** that there would be further discussion on the subject at the next meeting and that interested individuals would be contacted once clear terms of reference had been decided upon. There will be an article placed in the next edition of the Moorlinks magazine asking for local residents to come forward with their ideas.

237/16 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Arrangements for Clerk's absence
E-Agendas

238/16 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Tue 28th June: Planning Committee meeting at 7.00pm at Yelverton War Memorial Hall (Committee Room) followed by a meeting of Full Council at 7.30pm
Wed 13th Jul: Planning Sub-Committee at 7.30pm at Milton Combe Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.35pm
