

**A meeting of the Stukeley's Parish Council held at Great Stukeley village hall on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013 at 7.00.pm.**

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	Mrs. S. Parkin, Mrs. N. Sly, M.Monk, R. Hulstrom, P. Hobson, P. Vincent, P. Ryan & Mrs. S. Smith. County Councillors Sir Peter Brown and Peter Ashcroft, District Councillor K. Baker, Ms. Rebecca Britton of U&C, Seven team members supporting the Abbey Group Solar Panel Development Company and three members of the public.
<b>OPEN MEETING</b>	<p>The principle part of the open session was taken up with a ‘Drop in session’ staged by representatives of the Abbey Group who were planning a Solar Panel Farm on 58 hectares of land to the south of Abbots Ripton but interestingly mainly within the Parish Boundary of the Stukeleys. It was comprehensively explained how the system would be developed, how it would work and how long it would last for. It was explained that sufficient power would be developed to power the equivalent of 6500 houses. It was explained to be on a well screened site between the main East Coast Railway line and the new development at Alconbury Weald. It had a proposed lifespan of some 25 years. Delivery vehicles would be routed via the A1 and would not travel through the villages of Great &amp; Little Stukeley or Abbots Ripton, there would be approximately five deliveries per day during the construction phase, which itself would be phased over a period of twenty weeks which was the estimated build time. It was thought that the work force would be ‘bussed’ in and that there would possibly be up to ten small vehicles attending the site on a daily basis.</p> <p>Mr. Ryan said that although he was in favour of the use of renewable energy he was greatly concerned about the use of grade two agricultural land for this purpose and thought that brownfield sites such as RAF Alconbury should be sought together with more panels on buildings, the answer was that most land in Cambridgeshire was grade two, but that the County needed to provide an energy source and also that it was uneconomical to provide all of the requirement from roof panels. It was said that as the panels were pile driven into the ground with little concrete being used and that this would facilitate that the land could very quickly be converted back to agricultural purposes. It was ventured that this facility proposed would eliminate any present need for more wind turbines in the immediate area. It was stated that the facility being a temporary project lasting 25 years meant that if the need be the land could be returned to agriculture. It was further explained that by providing extra protection on the panels, the grazing of sheep would be possible on the site, this together with the planting of wildflower plants and natural grasses would encourage the generation of many extra species of wild life in a safe and chemical free environment, as had been proved on existing sites including one at Waterbeach. There followed a very fruitful question and answer session with many concerns being addressed in a professional manner by the group proposing the project, one specific area was the CIL/Section 106 payments for the project, it was intimated that these could amount to some £25.000 which would be payable to the Stukeleys Parish Council. The chairman thanked them on behalf of the members and the public for coming, being so frank and answering all of our concerns.</p>
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Were received from H. Raby who was busy harvesting.
<b>78. MINUTES</b>	On a proposal by Mr. Hulstrom, seconded by Mr. Monk, the minutes of the meeting of the 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2013 after some minor alterations in the County Council report, agenda item 63, were approved by members and signed by the

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	chairman.	
<b>79. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>	Both Mr. Ryan & Mr. Hulstrom declared a non prejudicial interest in matters relating to Urban & Civic because of their involvement in the promotion of the 10k run staged on their land at Alconbury Weald.	
<b>80. COUNTY ISSUES</b>	Peter Brown reported that the national fire brigades union had called for strike action but at this point he was not aware of what the effect would be locally. He also reported that he had been invited to a meeting at Pathfinder House at which the Highways Agency were to give a briefing on the latest position with the A.14 upgrade. He said that both he and Peter Ashcroft were to attend a meeting at Pathfinder House for a briefing on the Alconbury Weald planning process position. Mr. Ashcroft said he had nothing to report further on footpath 13 and that he awaited an update from Rebecca Britton on the latest information.	
<b>81. DISTRICT ISSUES</b>	Mr. Baker said that he had also been invited to attend these meetings but unfortunately he was unavailable at the times proposed. He handed a document to Mr. Ryan which contained an HDC economic growth forecast for the area.	
<b>82. ACCOUNTS</b>	<p>1.(a)The following monthly accounts were agreed for settlement on a proposal by Mr. Monk, seconded by Mr. Hulstrom and approved by members after the relevant invoices and cheques had been examined and approved by the finance committee. EON Electric for July supply £60.29. Easiprint for September Magazine £180.00. M. J. Newman, clerks August Salary of 31 hours @ £10.55. = £261. 65. nett. Plus agreed office space allowances £28.00. The Clerk for office expenditure August £36.00.. T&amp;S Gardening for grass maintenance £624.44. The Play Inspection Company for equipment inspection £143.88. Printerbase for ink cartridges £51.46. Jewson for allotment padlock £10.20. Mr.BS for fifteen allotment keys £45.00. Staples for computer paper £29.00. Avast for internet security £24.99. HMRC for Income Tax £126.00. Littlejohn for audit fee £120.00.</p> <p>RECEIPTS</p> <p>2.Magazine Adverts           £140.00. 3. Eleven allotment rentals £185.00. Eleven key deposits       £110.00.</p>	
<b>83. NEW CLERK</b>	Mrs Parkin reported that there had been eight applications for the post and that the elected interview committee would go through these applications shortly and then make a decision on those persons whom they wished to interview. A lively debate then ensued as to the format of how the selection process should be conducted with both Mrs Smith and Mr. Vincent expressing the view that a larger body of members should conduct the process, after much debate it was agreed to stay with the procedure adopted at the August meeting. The Clerk also reported that CPALC had provided a list of selected categories on which the prospective candidates could be evaluated, if needed that completed list could be returned to CPALC who would then advise a recommended salary based on those qualifications. The elected committee members agreed to conduct the interviews and when a decision had been agreed the process of why certain individuals had impressed was to be discussed with the full council at the next meeting in October, when it was hoped that a selection could be agreed, a salary defined and the person nominated be invited to accept the position as clerk	
<b>84. PLANNING</b>	<p>A. There was no news yet as to the results of the Cambs ACRE housing needs study questionnaire.</p> <p>B. Application No 1301218FUL for a Solar Panel Farm south of Abbots Ripton but within the Stukeleys Parish. This item was again fully reviewed in</p>	

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	<p>light of the presentation by the applicants in the Open Session of this meeting. Mr. Ryan again expressed his reservations about the use of grade two farm land for this purpose, and that he considered that fossil fuels would still be needed to back up this type of system, but Mr. Monk ventured that although he had sympathy with this approach, he felt that there were insufficient planning reasons to refuse the application given the fact that the site was well screened visually, was to be used for some form of agricultural use during the process, could be returned to full agricultural production after 25 years and that it would encourage wildlife. After more lengthy discussion, Mr. Hulstrom proposed, seconded by Mr. Vincent, that the application be approved, in the following vote six members were in favour of the motion with one against. The reasoning; well planned development that caused no adverse impact on the local environment or neighbouring properties. The fact that the nature of the panels allowed grazing by sheep and the type of wildflower and plant seeding encouraged the establishment of all types of fauna and flora in an insecticide free environment was thought to be advantageous as was the fact that construction methods meant that it was easily removable for the return to agricultural use.</p> <p>C. Application 1301037 FUL already determined with Approval recommended.</p> <p>D. Application No 1301288FUL for temporary change of use at Alconbury Airfield for Mole Solutions. This was considered entirely appropriate for the site and with ecological benefits. Approval.</p> <p>E. Listing of Buildings of Character by HDC. It was agreed on a proposal by Mrs. Sly, seconded by Mr. Monk that a letter be sent to the planning department of HDC deploring the fact that such a list did not exist and strongly urging that one be compiled as a matter of urgency.</p>	
<b>85. RIGHTS OF WAY</b>	<p>The chairman declared at this point that the Council came out of committee to allow Rebecca Britton to contribute to this agenda item. She informed the members that in relation to footpath 13, she had had two of U&amp;C's preferred contractors look at the job, the first estimated that the cost factor would be in the region of £1500/£2000 to undertake the work as previously decided, however the second firm indicated that a bridge of some form may be the best solution to the flooding problem at the Ermine Street end, but that she was awaiting costing figures from them.</p> <p>Ms Britton indicated that they were now hoping to fit the gate at the top of Owl End at it's junction with bridleway 10 but at present, the County advised unit will not fit easily into the existing situation, permission was required from the adjacent landowner on the south side, believed to be Mrs. Pond to use a small part of their boundary to enable the fitting.</p> <p>She intimated that with footpath eleven at Grange Farm, they were looking at it again to see if it can be graded to form part of a ROW link with the Great Fen Project, she said that to this end she had a meeting arranged with Simeon Carroll of the County to talk about the viability of such a plan.</p> <p>At this stage the Council reverted back into committee.</p>	
<b>86. ALLOTMENTS</b>	<p>Mr. Vincent reported that there was still one full plot and one half plot available, it was agreed that these be advertised in the Parish Magazine and if there is no uptake following that strategy, the spare plots will be offered to neighbouring village residents. He also complained about the seeding rubbish growing on the ground surrounding the allotment outer fence, as this was supposed to have been seeded with a special grass mix it was agreed that Tom Baker of U&amp;C was to be asked what the council could do about this problem.</p>	
<b>87. TRAFFIC ISSUES</b>	<p>Mr. Monk reported that due to holidays the meeting of the 'Traffic Group'</p>	

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	<p>would now take place in late September. Early October, he also said he had received confirmation from Laine Kadic that she was prepared to attend these group meetings in her capacity with the MTTTS.</p>	
<b>88. PLAYING FIELD</b>	<p>Mr. Vincent said that the appointed contractor for the erection of the new rabbit fencing had now failed to meet his commitment on two separate occasions. It was agreed that Huntree Fencing be sent a letter to say that the Council expected them to start the contract on their suggested date of 16<sup>th</sup> September and complete within two weeks, they were to be given three working days to respond and informed that if they did not honour their contract on this occasion a new contractor would be appointed to complete the project.</p> <p>The chairman read an email from the secretary of SMYFC in response to the letters sent by both the clerk and the chairman relating to complaints about teams other than SMYFC using the playing field, in which she sincerely apologised for the unauthorised use of the playing field by a team of senior players, she intimated that if it had not been for illness she would have attended tonight's meeting. In the same email several requests were made of the Council, after discussion it was agreed that no extra bins were to be provided, the club were to be informed that the Council had fully supported the clubs planning application and also that notices were to be acquired and displayed in prominent positions explaining that organised team games were only allowed on the facility by express permission of the Council. These notices were to be drafted by Mr. Hulstrom and ordered by the clerk from London House Signs of Brampton. The matter of illegal exercising of dogs in the area was also condemned and the Council asked that the pictorial evidence of such practice be forwarded to the clerk ASAP.</p>	
<b>90. POCKET PARK</b>	<p>No further information.</p>	
<b>91. EUROSTAR</b>	<p>It was reported that letters had been sent and that a response had been received from the Huntingdonshire MP which to say the least was fairly non-committal.</p>	
<b>92. ITEMS TO REPORT</b>	<p>Mr. Monk reported that Urban &amp; Civic had agreed that Tim Slater be retained as Planning Advisor to the Stukeleys Parish Council.</p> <p>Mr. Monk also reported that he had had discussions with our Highway Warden, Mr. Reynolds about some signage in Church Road warning of the danger of 'Children Playing' 'Slow Down Please' being erected in the area, Mr. Reynolds was to consult with the Divisional Surveyor of the County Council and report.</p>	
<b>93. NEXT MEETINGS</b>	<p>On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in the village hall, Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.</p> <p>On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the village hall, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.</p> <p>On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 in the village hall, Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.</p> <p>On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in the village hall, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm Not Booked.</p> <p>On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 in the village hall at Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm Not Booked.</p> <p>On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 in the village hall, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm Not Booked.</p>	

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