

## **Bishopton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7:00 pm.**

#### **557. Attendance**

**Present:** Cllrs: N. Melaney (Chair), G. Preston, D Latham, P. Watson

**In Attendance:** Ward Councillors Deborah Laing, Colin Pease and Yvonne Renton. S. Rose [Parish Clerk & Minutes]

**Agenda Item 2 only:** Representatives of Byers Gill Solar (JBM) – M. Baker, Sophie Tiernan, Mary Fisher & David Brown & 4 members of the public

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor P. Watson

#### **558. Chair's Welcome**

Cllr. Melaney welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that, following apologies, there would be a full presentation about the proposed Byers Gill Solar by representatives of the project from JBM.

#### **559. Public Participation**

4 members of the public were present.

#### **560. Presentation about proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm by Michael Baker from JBM Solar**

A detailed presentation was made by the representatives of the proposed Byers Gill Solar Farm. The presentation included some feedback from previous questionnaire consultation including:

- Proposals to relocate entrance to site and also now using access from A1, not A66, as a priority;
- Details of a reduction in size whilst still maintaining 180mw target;
- Confirmation that the planning application would be submitted in January 2024 and that full consultation and comment would then be welcomed;
- Any queries or comments to be sent to dedicated Byers Gill Solar Enquiries Line;
- The presentation was promised to be circulated by Michael Brown.

Following the presentation those present expressed unanimous opposition to the proposals based around the following headings:

- Scale of proposals so close to village settlements of Bishopton and Great Stainton in particular;
- Lack of extensive or appropriate consultation. This included criticism of not holding detailed dialogue with residents in most affected areas whilst undertaking consultation in Stockton Town Centre with people not affected;
- Aesthetics of the project and destruction of local environment;
- Disruption to village caused by necessary works linked to proposals – especially if consent not granted by landowner for location of power cable to Norton substation;

A full record of this part of the meeting is attached.

This item ended at 8.45pm.

**561. Vacancies for Parish Councillors:** No nominees were proposed for vacancies `

**562. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda:**

Cllr. Preston expressed an interest in anything to do with Mill Lane.

**563. Previous Minutes:**

The minutes-of the previous meeting were read and approved and were duly signed by the Cllr. Preston as a true record of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Proposed by Cllr. Latham and seconded by Cllr. Melaney.

**564. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

Due to lack of time, these to be addressed at the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**565. Finance**

**565.1 2023/24 Budget monitoring & current financial position:**

The clerk gave a verbal update on recent payments and lack of development with banking arrangements;

**565.2 Petty Cash Payments:** £100 for plants (previously approved); £66 for Christmas sweets for children & £15 for stationery – approved Cllr. Preston proposed and seconded by Cllr. Latham;

**566. Planning Applications - full list not discussed but one new application noted**

**566.1** No. 23/00920/FUL Erection of 2 No. wooden field shelters (1 No. retrospective) - Dogwood Adventure Play, Redmarshall Rd Stockton On Tees TS21 1EX. NO OBJECTION

**567. Matters Raised by Councillors & the Clerk:**

**567.1 Remembrance Day:** Cllr. Melaney reported the event went well and was especially grateful to Grace Dobson who laid the wreath on behalf of the Parish;

**567.2 Christmas arrangements:** All arrangements in hand for 21<sup>st</sup> December. Special thanks to Peter Wood & Peter Robson plus a number of volunteers for undertaking the setting up of the Christmas Tree.

**567.3 Precept:** It was agreed to ask for a 2.5% rise in precept to help cover costs whilst also being mindful of the financial pressures that residents have been facing;

**567.4 Newsletter:** A draft newsletter was approved to be distributed 15/16 December

**568. Village Green – issues to be discussed at next meeting**

**568.1 Tree removal from The Green:** DBC Councillor Pease offered his apologies for not following correct procedures

**569. Date of Next Meeting:** 7:00pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in the Village Hall.

N.B. This date may be subject to change due to councillor's availability – details published on the Bishopton Parish Council website.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Councillor Norman Melaney

Date: 10.01.2024