

RUFFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 5.30 pm in the Markham Suite, Rufford Mill, Rufford

Present: Councillors:

D. Fernley (Chair)
 B.Bates
 A.Drane
 J Pearce

In attendance:

C. Millward (Clerk)
 J.Peck (County councillor) (until 6.20 pm)
 Representatives of BPLightsource
 Member of the public (x2)

	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS	ACTION
RPC/35/19	<p>Election of Officers: Councillors completed their acceptances of office and register of interest forms.</p> <p>The following were elected unanimously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chair – Mr Fernley b. Vice-Chair - Mr Pearce c. Accounts scrutiniser – Mr Fernley. <p>Councillors thanked Mr Bower and Mr Franks, former councillors for their service. They noted that they had three vacancies following the elections. Co-option of new councillors to be agenda item for the July 2019 meeting.</p>	
RPC/36/19	<p>Apologies for absence: There were no absences.</p>	
RPC/37/19	<p>Declarations of interest: Mrs Bates declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 13 a i on the agenda (Planning applications - 19/00701/FUL) and Mr Drane in item 13 iii (Planning applications - 19/00620/FUL).</p> <p>There were no other declarations of interest, direct or indirect, in any item of business on the agenda.</p>	
RPC/38/19	<p>Dispensations: No dispensations required.</p>	
RPC/39/19	<p>10 minutes public speaking time: The members of the public introduced themselves as the prospective applicants for planning permission for the solar farm. Otherwise, nothing raised.</p>	
RPC/40/19	<p>Lightsource BP – Solar Installation – Presentation: The BP Lightsource representatives introduced themselves. Councillors asked question of both the representatives and landowners throughout the presentation. Areas covered by discussion focused on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BP Lightsource’s strong track record in constructing and running solar farms across Europe 2. BP Lightsource’s sound financial position 3. BP Lightsource’s business model now that subsidies have been withdrawn. This is to focus on large scale solar farms only in order to achieve the necessary economies of sale 4. The minimal environmental impact of the farm in terms of 	

	<p>noise and traffic once construction works have been completed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The limited visual impact of the farm given the locations of the chosen site. 6. The poor quality of the land at the proposed site in and its consequently limited farming use. 7. The continued use of the site for grazing sheep alongside the solar panels 8. The high quality, durable panels used by BPLightsource 9. The absence of any reflected light from the panels, these being designed to absorb rather than reflect light. 10. The scope, if any, for the local community in the parish to benefit from the installation of a solar farm within its boundaries. 11. BPLightsource's forthcoming public information event to which councillors were invited. <p>Councillors thanked the representatives for attending and will await the planning application which they will determine on its planning merits in the ordinary course.</p> <p>The representatives and public left the meeting.</p>	
RPC/41/19	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 March 2019: The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2019 were approved.	
RPC/42/19	Matters arising – for information only: There were no matters arising.	
RPC/43/19	Reports from district and county councillors: Councillor Peck had nothing to report. He apologised that he had another commitment and left the meeting.	

RPC/44/19	Reports from Councillors: None	
RPC/45/19	Code of conduct - Adopt: Councillors adopted the code of conduct, noting that it was in the NSDC standard format. The clerk will circulate a copy to all councillors by email.	Clerk
RPC/46/19	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>a. Financial position as at 30 April 2019: Councillors considered and noted the clerk's report showing the precise financial position at 30 April 2019. This was noted with particular reference to the budget. The chair verified the stated balances against the reserve bank statement.</p> <p>b. Accounts for payment: The council unanimously approved seven payments totalling £553.97. An eight payment, cheque 90 to Via East Midlands, was approved subject to verification that a payment was due in respect of a grit bin. The clerk will clarify with NCC.</p> <p>c. 2019 schedule of fixed assets: Approved subject to clarification of the position in relation to the grit bin (discussed at b above).</p> <p>d. To agree the 2018/2019 annual accounts: Agreed.</p> <p>e. To certify exemption from limited assurance review under section 9 Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015: Councillors certified that, as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Both the council's annual gross income and expenditure for 2018/19 were less than £25000, and 2. The council had been in existence since before 1 April 2014, and 3. The external auditor had taken no step in relation to 2017/18 which precluded exemption and 4. The court had made no declaration under section 28(3) of the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 <p>the council was exempt from a limited assurance review and authorised the clerk and chair to sign the certificate of exemption.</p> <p>f. Review system of internal control and internal audit system effectiveness: Councillors discussed the operation of the system of internal control and agreed that it remained adequate and continued to operate effectively. Councillors also reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit system and agreed that, taking account of the straightforward nature of the council's transactions this year, it operated effectively on an annual basis.</p> <p>g. Risk assessment 2019 – 20: Councillors considered and approved the draft revised risk assessment for 2019-20 circulated by the clerk.</p> <p>h. Insurance matters: A confidential matter. Deferred to the close of the meeting and minuted separately.</p>	Clerk
RPC/47/19	<p>Planning matters:</p> <p>a. Applications:</p> <p>i. 19/00701/FUL Replacement dwelling Sawmills Farm Rufford Lane Ollerton NG22 9DG: Having declared an interest at RPC/37/19 above, Mrs Bates withdrew from the meeting. Councillors considered the application at length and unanimously decided to object to the proposal on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The design was excessively large with a footprint approximately 50% bigger than the existing building 2. The existing building is single storey. That proposed is substantially higher being two storey 3. The existing building is unobtrusive. The proposed building would be obtrusive and have a significant visual impact. <p>They also questioned the validity of the application, bearing in mind that the site was an agricultural site for which permission</p>	

	<p>had been given to convert a chicken shed to a single story dwelling within the existing footprint. Mrs Bates returned to the meeting.</p> <p>ii. 19/01971/RMAM - Reserved matters application for 113 dwellings with associated access, drainage infrastructure, landscaping, open space, car parking and ancillary works. Approved reference 16/01618/OUTM: Councillors had no comments.</p> <p>iii. 19/00620/FUL Erection of timber frame and timber clad building, with sloping felt roof. Center Parcs Sherwood Forest Holiday Village: Having declared an interest at RPC/37/19 above, Mr Drane withdrew from the meeting. Following discussion, councillors unanimously decided they had no objection to the proposal. Mr Drane returned to the meeting.</p> <p>iv. 19/00772/FUL Use of land on the Abbey Meadows for temporary overspill parking to maximum of 90 days per annum Nottinghamshire County Council Rufford Abbey Old Rufford Road Rufford: After consideration of the application, councillors unanimously decided to support the application provided that the permission granted is subject to the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There to be no parking on Lime Tree Avenue going forward 2. Appropriate signage is erected preventing parking on Rufford Lane and Maylodge Drive and the problem of people parking to avoid payment is actively managed 3. Provision is made for proper traffic management on A614. <p>b. To note planning decisions by NSDC: F/3833 - Land at Rufford Hills Farm, Off Rufford Lane, Rufford, NG22 9DQ – Borehole, erect units, mine gas extraction, electricity production - Approval noted</p> <p>c. Enforcement matters including possible commercial activity on land adjoining Old Rufford Road: No developments.</p>	
RPC/48/19	<p>Parish environment and appearance including:</p> <p>a. Rufford Lane speed sign: Speed sign installed.</p> <p>b. Rufford Lane – Parking on pavement: No traffic enforcement has yet taken place in relation to parking on Rufford Lane. The clerk will contact councillor Peck to press for this to take place as soon as possible.</p> <p>c. War memorial project: Noted that the project will not now be proceeding.</p>	Clerk/ JPeck
RPC/49/19	<p>A614 improvements – Consultation: The clerk reported that she had learned in another capacity that there had been developments in relation to Ollerton roundabout. Councillors were disappointed that councillor Peck had left without giving an update. The clerk will contact him for details of the developments.</p>	Clerk/ JPeck
RPC/50/19	<p>Service faults: None reported</p>	
RPC/51/19	<p>Correspondence: Noted.</p>	
RPC/52/19	<p>Agenda items for next meeting: As above</p>	
RPC/53/19	<p>Date of next meeting: Financial governance matters meeting to be held on Tuesday 18 June 2019 at 5.30 pm Next regular meeting to be on Tuesday 16 July 2019 at 5.30 pm Meeting closed to the public. The meeting reverted to item 12 h on the agenda (Insurance matters).</p>	

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm