

TRUDOXHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Extraordinary meeting held on 17th June 2013 to discuss Planning Application 2013/1118 Solar Farm at Monkshaw Farm

PRESENT: R Lewis, P. Candy, C. Midgley, P.Cloney J Symes, P Allen
Cllr G Cawood
Approx 100 Parishioners.

CLERK: Georgina Blackshaw

The evening was formally introduced by the Chairman, Rod Lewis, to explain that the meeting would be in 2 parts. The initial session would be for any Parishioner to state their opinions to the Parish Councillors and the subsequent formal session for the Councillors to consider the Planning Application.

The Clerk then explained that each speaker would be allowed 3 minutes to express their view and there would be no opportunity for debate. At the start of the formal meeting, Parishioners were welcome to stay but could not participate in the proceedings.

Parishioners input.

18 Parishioners took the floor to express concerns about the Planning Application and none spoke in favour. A show of hand at the end of the session indicated that an overwhelming majority were in favour of **rejecting** the scheme. The Chairman advised that it was important for all concerned Parishioners to write immediately to express their views to Laura McKay, Case Officer, at Mendip Planning Authority

This section of the meeting closed at 8.15pm when about half of the Parishioners left the Hall

Parish Council debate

The formal part of the meeting started with the Chairman explaining the options available which were:

- 1) Recommend Approval.
- 2) Recommend Refusal of Permission.
- 3) Recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses.

Each Councillor was then asked for their opinion in turn and all expressed the dilemma of the need for renewable energy against impact on the visual amenity of the site. They were grateful for the feedback they had received from Parishioners who had attended the meeting or had been in contact with their thoughts before the meeting.

The Chairman then asked for the vote and the Application was Recommended for Refusal by 4 Councillors and Recommended for the Planning Officer to make the decision by 2 Councillors. The Parish Council therefore will **Recommended Refusal of Permission**

The Clerk and the Chairman will write to the Case Officer to inform her of the decision

The Clerk will post a copy of these Minutes and the letter on Notice Boards and the website within the next 3 days.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 4th July 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Trudoxhill .

For the attention of: Mr R Lewis, Mr P Allan, Ms C Midgley, Mr P Candy, Mr. P Cloney, Mr J Symes, Cllr Cawood and Cllr Stevens