

BLACKWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Blackwell Parish Council held at Hilcote Miners Welfare and Community Centre, New Street, Hilcote on Monday 3 August 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor N J B Willens (Chairman)

Councillors: D G B Bullock: I G Cox: T J Gascoyne: S Gill: C R Moesby: A Naylor: I J A Newham: R A Poulter and B Stocks.

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ALSO PRESENT

Mr Paul Brundell, Senior Acquisition Manager, Global Renewable Construction Ltd, Mr Spencer Powell, Planning Consultant, LDA Design, and twenty four parishioners.

108/2015

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R J Sainsbury

109/2015

GLOBAL RENEWABLE CONSTRUCTION LTD - PROPOSED PLANNING APPLICATION FOR A SOLAR ARRAY AREA AT TWINYARDS FARM, HUTHWAITE LANE, OLD BLACKWELL.

The Chairman welcomed to the Meeting Mr Paul Brundell, Global Renewable Construction Ltd and Mr Spencer Powell, Planning Consultant, LDA Design.

Mr Brundell and Mr Powell gave a comprehensive overview of the Planning Application submitted to Bolsover District Council in connection with the first phase of the proposed Solar Array Area at Twinyards Farm, Huthwaite Lane, Old Blackwell – the Planning Application is available for inspection on the District Council Website.

All power generated from the site would be fed in to Western Power Distribution and subsequently to the National Grid.

The Chairman then opened the Meeting to Members and Parishioners present to ask any relevant questions/ answers are summarised as follows:

1. Access/route to Site – Mr Brundell and Mr Powell gave an assurance to try and find an alternative access/route to site avoiding Berristow Lane/New Lane, Hilcote (Average 1 HGV per day)...Post Meeting Note - a route via Huthwaite Lane, Huthwaite.
2. Once Planning approval is given by Bolsover District Council the timescale for completing the installation of the Solar Panels is 16 weeks.

3. Government Financial Support for the installation of Solar Panels has now been withdrawn but the current Planning Application is not affected).

4. The Local Conservation Area, Old Blackwell, not affected by the Planning Application.

5. Liaison with Statutory Consultees has been carried out.

6. No tree removal is involved and extra hedge planting will be take place providing a habitat for wild life.

7. Solar Panels are installed at 20 degree/25 degree angle.

8. Solar Panels designed to absorb light not to reflect it so glare should not be a problem.

9. A contribution of £20,000 towards the provision of new Play Equipment at the Councils New Street Playing Field will be made with £10,000 for each of the two phases of the project.

10. The likely life Span of the Solar Panels is 25 years after which the site would be decommissioned and the land returned to agricultural use.

11 On site security will be in the form of fencing and CCTV

12. Land can still be used for grazing purposes e.g. sheep.

13. All energy produced from the scheme would be fed into Western Power Distribution and then to National Grid. It would not be in the "Feed in Tariff" Scheme.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brundell, Mr Spencer and Parishioners for their contribution to a lively Meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 8.00 p.m.