

STOCKING PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2017 at the Village Hall at 7pm

Present: D Nicholls (Chairman) P Lucas M Hutchins R Whitefield
 A Brown R Banks J Lucas (Clerk)

Action

38:17	<p>The Chairman welcomed Bob Jones (Project Manager) and Rachel Barker (Community Relations), representing the National Grid, to the meeting and invited them to brief the SPPC re the future works planned at Pelham Substation.</p> <p>Bob Jones explained that National Grid is installing a new shunt reactor which will help the network to operate efficiently. The increase in the use of renewable sources of energy means that improved control over the stability of power supply is required and a new transformer device will make this possible. The new shunt reactor will occupy an existing free space within the compound and will not require planning permission. The site is already being prepared by contractors (Amey).</p> <p>The new device is being constructed in the Netherlands and will soon be ready to travel to Tilbury in the UK. It is classified as an abnormal load delivery and approval is being sought from Highways for a journey to Pelham Substation on Sunday 10th December. Residents will be informed of the actual traffic management plan via a letter drop and details will also feature on local radio and in the local press. The proposed route is to enter the village via the road from Washall Green and turn left at the pub. The transformer will be transported on a 12-axle trailer and its passage through narrow roads will be slow-moving (walking speed). A police escort may be involved. The width of the trailer means that residents along the route will be asked to remove all parked vehicles from the highway. SPPC were provided with contact details. It was noted that the Battery Storage works located outside the compound, is a commercial venture (Statera Energy) and is entirely separate from the National Grid.</p> <p>Rachel Barker took the opportunity to draw attention to the National Grid Community Grant Programme. It is aimed at community, charity and non-profit organisations in areas where National Grid operations and site activities impact local people. Eligible projects are those that meet local needs and have social, economic and/or environmental benefits.</p> <p>Councillors were invited to ask questions.</p> <p>In response to SPPC comments about the ongoing problems associated with the lorry traffic for the Battery Storage works (lorries travelling via Stocking Pelham instead of using the agreed route through Berden and some lorries arriving outside of the permitted hours), Bob Jones said that these breaches would be followed up. See also item 4.3</p> <p>Questions were asked about the management of the area surrounding the Pelham Substation (including the Pelham Nature Reserve, formerly an education centre run jointly by Hertfordshire and Essex Councils and the Essex Wildlife Trust). The Education Centre/Nature Reserve is now closed and is the responsibility of Essex County Council. The green area around the substation, (which includes a public footpath) is in a state of neglect. This concern needs further investigation and will be the subject of continuing communication with the National Grid.</p> <p>It was pointed out that in the past, the local community have been invited to Open Days at the substation. These have been discontinued due to current Health & Safety regulations. The opportunity to apply for Community Grants was welcomed.</p> <p>Bob Jones and Rachel Barker were thanked for their presentation before leaving the meeting.</p>	
39.17	<p>2. Apologies: Graham Mackrell</p> <p>3. Minutes of the last meetings: The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2017 were signed as correct.</p>	
40.17	<p>4. Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>4.1 The papers for Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Code of Conduct and Disclosure of Pecuniary interests were handed to Andy Brown for signature.</p> <p>4.2 Enquiries re the Nature Reserve at Pelham Substation. A representative of the Herts</p>	

	<p>& Middlesex Wildlife Trust has made contact with a representative of the National Grid to discuss a way forward re the current state of neglect of the green area surrounding the substation. It is accepted that ongoing construction at the substation is a factor.</p> <p>4.3 Lorry traffic for the Battery Storage site that is in breach of planning guidelines: David Nicholls has raised the issue with the company concerned and is waiting for a response. Work at the site is almost completed.</p>	DN
41.17	<p>5. Planning</p> <p>5.1 3/16/1659/FUL application for change of use from vacant pub (A4) to residential (C3) at the Cock Public House.</p> <p>This application was refused subject to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal would result in the loss of an essential local facility in a rural location; would be detrimental to the well-being of the local community and result in the loss of a facility that plays an important role in social cohesion. 2. No evidence has been provided to demonstrate that there is insufficient demand to make an alternative local community facility viable at this site. <p>The applicant has a period of one year in which to lodge an appeal against the decision to refuse the application for change of use to residential.</p> <p>Although there is widespread satisfaction with this outcome, there is some concern that point 2 opens the way for possible grounds for an appeal.</p> <p>A local newspaper has asked for an official response from the SPPC. It was agreed that David Nicholls and Paul Lucas will draft a written response and circulate this to councillors for approval prior to release.</p> <p>The unoccupied caravans have not yet been removed despite the expiry of the deadline. Mike Hutchins will find out if and when the Enforcement Officer will take further action. Concern was expressed that the pub site could be occupied by travellers during the festive season and whether SPPC should take steps to prevent this. After considering the legal implications, SPPC agreed to take no action.</p> <p>5.2 Other planning:</p> <p>3/17/2295/FUL Erection of 3 bay, open-fronted field shelter at White Hart Farm.</p> <p>Details of this proposal were circulated. It was agreed to make no comment on this application.</p>	DN/PL MH
42.17	<p>6. Highways</p> <p>Details of the current traffic speeds in the village and the possibility of installing a Solar Speed Indication Device have been passed to Martin Wright, Assistant Highway Manager for the Eastern Locality Team at Hertfordshire County Council.</p>	
43.17	<p>7. Finance</p> <p>The current bank balance is £5219.27. It has been agreed that the honorarium paid to the Clerk will be increased by £50.00 pa as of this month.</p> <p>David Nicholls proposed that the SPPC donate a sum of £200 towards the £600 bill for servicing the lawn mower (owned and used by the Cricket Club to mow the Recreation Ground). He also proposed that SPPC apply for a grant from Stansted Airport. This was agreed. The Village Hall committee have agreed to donate a further £200.</p>	DN/GM
44:17	<p>8. General Parish Business</p> <p>8.1 The Clerk requested that the SPPC become members of Hertfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils, at a special rate of £17.60 for the remainder of this year (until 31st March 2018) and at an annual rate of approximately £100 thereafter. Membership of the National Association of Local Councils (and access to the NALC website) is included in this. This was agreed. The clerk will forward details to Graham Mackrell.</p> <p>8.2 Ruth Banks reported that John Banks has sent emails re the lack of service visits to the Mead View Sewage Treatment Works and is waiting for a response.</p>	JL/GM
45.17	<p>9. AOB/Date and Time of next meeting</p> <p>The next SPPC meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 13th December 2017, at the Village Hall.</p>	

