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**Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council**

**Thursday August 8th 2024 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Gordon Lishman, (Chair), Roger Frost, Michael Greenwood, ,Libby Lalor, Pippa Lishman, John Marlow, Michael McFarlane.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor C Towneley, Mark Atkinson (Amberside Energy), PCSO Jody Hudson, R Greenwood (Temp Clerk), 14 members of the public.

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| The Chair opened the Meeting and welcomed all to the meeting. | | | |
|  | **Actions by Clerk** | **Cllr Support** | |
| **23/24/155 Announcements** | | | |
| All were informed that the meeting would be recorded for training and monitoring purposes and to ensure the accuracy of the minutes. |  |  | |
| **23/24/156 Apologies for absence** | | | |
| Cllrs Balmer and Sagar gave their apologies and reasons for absence. These were accepted. |  |  | |
| **23/24/157 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** | | | |
| Cllr R Frost declared a non-pecuniary interest in Planning.  Cllr V Balmer declared a family interest in the Battery Storage Development. |  |  | |
| **23/24/158 Minutes of the last meeting** | | | |
| The minutes of the meeting were signed as a true record. |  |  | |
| **23/24/159 Matters outstanding from the minutes** |  |  | |
| As requested at the last meeting, Chair G Lishman has written to Oliver Ryan MP, drawing his attention to the urgent need for investment in the Borough’s deteriorating housing stock. He added a personal note proposing the inclusion of community facilities when agreeing planning permission for new estates. |  |  | |
| **23/24/160 Police Report** | | | |
| The Police report was presented by PCSO Hudson and tabled below. |  |  | |
| **23/24/161 Battery Energy Storage: Proposed Planning Application** | | | |
| Cllr R Frost introduced the pre application process by Amberside Energy who are looking for the public’s views and feedback to the proposal. At present there is no application to Burnley Borough Council.  Cllr G Lishman and his fellow Borough Councillors have requested that:   * The consultation area for the application be extended to include from Casterton Ave roundabout to the site * The risk register for the development is published * Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service comments are published * Appropriate wildlife surveys are undertaken * That the Councils are made aware of any further applications of this sort by Amberside Energy Cllr G Lishman said that the Borough Councillors will not be expressing an opinion on the application or the time being until they have taken advice on their right to vote at relevant meetings of the Borough Council.   Public Observations, Questions and Concerns were taken. Comments included:   1. Concern that the rendered visuals used by Amberside are not to scale and give a false sense of scale. 2. Concerns were raised that the battery site would generate constant industrial noise. 3. Questions were raised that not everyone in the vicinity had been leafletted to be made aware of the consultation event and process. Mark Atkinson said that 600 postcards had been delivered by Royal Mail and 89 members of the public had attended the consultation event. 4. Observation This development is not in the Borough’s agreed Local Plan. There was a call for local objections. 5. Observations were made that whilst there was support for Green Energy, energy storage on this scale came with too many risks to the environment. 6. Question – was the road infrastructure able to cope with 16 journeys per day for 9 months; these are rural roads and this volume of heavy traffic would have a negative impact. Mark Atkinson Amberside) stated that they used a company called Motion who conducted road studies for them. 7. Questions – why was this not being considered for an industrial site rather than a rural location – Mark Atkinson stated that Industrial estates were too expensive and that they preferred to work with landowners leasing the land rather than buying. 8. Concerns that this is a minimum of 9 months to construct the site. During which there would be parking restrictions on the local roads, impacting on local residents. 9. The life of this site will be 40 years. Could BES explain how they would restore the land after the site has closed? Mark Atkinson explained that Amberside had a Bond and which meant that they were insured in case Amberside ceased to trade before the end of the project. 10. Question – could Motion (the traffic surveyors) pay particular attention to the road, from the crossroads (Hare and Hounds) to the bends. Mark Atkinson confirmed this could be done. This is particularly due to the subsidence on the footpath.11.Question – as the batteries would need to be replaced every 4 to 6 years, would the residents be subject to heavy traffic moving old battery units out and bringing in new ones? 11. Question – how are the batteries decommissioned at the end of the project or if leakage is discovered? 12. Question – each 30 ft battery storage unit is capable of holding 2.5k watts.? As each battery starts to fail it becomes less efficient, what is the battery management plan, particularly in line with monitoring cooling of less efficient batteries? 13. Concern – site monitoring for explosion, contamination and public safety. C. Cllr C Towneley has written to Lancashire Fire and Rescue for a definitive answer about the protocol of handling such events in a rural location. It was also stated that the Fire and Rescue consultation had been done at a national level and not with local services. 14. Question – when electric vehicles are on fire, they are put in a holding tank to ensure that they can safely burn themselves out, as these batteries generate their own oxygen. These storage tanks cannot be moved into holding tanks, How will the toxic gasses release during a fire be contained? 15. Question – battery storage sites need an entrance and an exit. This so that in the event of an emergency, traffic can move freely. The visuals only show an entrance, where will the exit be situated? 16. Question – any escaping of gases will leak into the water course; how will Amberside ensure public safety? Mark Atkinson – the water course will be valved to create a line of defense and water will be regularly taken from the site to be tested. 17. Question – where will the water come from for any firefighting? Can Amberside prove they can access enough water? 18. Question – how tall would the largest structure on site be? Mark Atkinson – the largest structure on site will be 5 metres tall. 19. Question – how will the area be screened as the rendered visuals? Mark Atkinson: there is a 15-year programme to develop tree screening. 20. Question – what track record have Amberside of building and running battery storage sites? Mark Atkinson, this is the first one, BES has no history of running such sites. 21. Question - what is the velocity of an explosion of one of these battery storage units? Mark Atkinson – Amberside would have to go back to the manufacturer asking what the statistic are. 22. Concern – will there be a negative impact on resident’s home insurance particularly those close to the intended site?   The Chair said that comments and questions would be collated and posted on the Council’s website and Facebook page and sign-posted on other Briercliffe sites. Amberside would be asked to answer any outstanding questions. There would also be a request for residents who wanted to participate in an Action Group to contact the Chair of the Council to arrange a meeting. In the Chair’s absence on holiday, the Vice-Chair, Cllr McFarlane would arrange postings  **LBC/2024/0297** Monk Hall, Todmorden Road, Briercliffe. There has been a planning application for Monk Hall, some of the proposals are not suitable for the character of the building. Cllr Frost to write a letter. | Clerk | MTM | |
| **23/24/162 Communication Working Group** | | | |
| The Parish Newsletter is ready to be delivered to residents. Volunteers will be delivering this in the next two weeks.  Work is continuing to take down the old website, the parish council official website is at [www.briercliffe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.briercliffe-pc.gov.uk)  All Councillors have new email addresses, these are on the website and live. |  |  | |
| **23/24/163 Contractor Working Group** | | | |
| Work on the allotment footpaths has been carried out by volunteers.  The interim Lengthsman continues his duties. Later in the year, this role will be put out to tender. | | | |
| **23/24/164 Allotment and Garage Group** | | | |
| 6 people are on the waiting list for allotments, there are no vacant allotments.  14 allotments have been inspected, 8 of which have been asked to improve.  Rents 23/24 – all but 2 rents are paid in full, these 2 are no longer tenants.  Rents 24/25 – 70% of rents have been collected.  2 new paths have been laid, with waterpipe relaid, 2 new ditches dug and a new car park surface by volunteers; these volunteers were thanked for their work.  3 people are on a waiting list for garages.  1 garden extension has been requested for reletting, Proposed PL, Seconded MG and all in Agreement. It was resolved that this will be sent to the new tenants’ solicitor.  There has been a report of children turning, and leaving taps on, across the allotment site. Wildlife cameras are being used to monitor.  There has been a theft of new fence posts from the allotments, this is now with the Police.  Monitoring continues of dry-stone walls after recent thefts. |  | |  |
| **23/24/165 Project Working Group** | | | |
| The bed race has been postponed for this year.  The Bonfire, a BBQ and the Reindeer Trail are all planned for later in the year.  The Garden Competition has been judged this week and certificates for the winners will be presented at the Flower Show on the 24th August 2024  Anyone is invited to join the Litter Picking Group; they meet on the allotments on the first Sunday of each month 11am to 12 noon.  It was proposed that Cllr Lalor be added to the Project Working Group. Proposed MG and Seconded PL. All in favour. It was resolved that Cllr Lalor be part of the Project Group. |  | |  |
| **23/24/166 Policy Working Group** | | | |
| A Complaints Policy has been circulated to all members for their contribution and information. Proposed MG, Seconded PL. All in agreement.  It was resolved that this policy be accepted and uploaded to the website. | Clerk | |  |
| **23/24/167 Formally adjourn the Public Participation.** | | | |
| A question has been sent to the Parish Council asking why the trees on the Woodland Walk are so overgrown. Cllr P Lishman is to look into this.  Community Centre and Library land sale. The land at the Community Centre and former library building are to go to auction. The Parish Council’s Surveyor has found the former Library building not fit for purpose. C. Cllr Towneley assured concerned residents that the County Council was intending to offer a new 15-year lease to the Community Centre lease and that there would be a right of access across the carpark to the Community Centre. It was felt that on both sides there had been a lack of joined up communication resulting in the process time being extended.  The auction is tabled for September 2024 but is not yet live on the website.  Stirling Court foot path has been closed for 9 months with no further work being carried out since the building was demolished. C Cllr Towneley has had conversations between LCC and the Landowner. C. Cllr Towneley will follow up with LCC to see when this might be reopened. The Love Clean Street app was recommended for public to contact LCC regarding concerns.  There has been a report of overhanging bushes on Shore Avenue making walking along the footpath problematic. The clerk is to write to the homeowner. | Clerk | | PML |
| **23/24/168 C Cllr Report** | | | |
| There has been a speeding incident on Robin House Lane, which has been reported to the Police and dashcam footage obtained. The result of this incident was damage to a dry-stone wall.  Queen Street Mill: the library will move into the Mill and a grant has been secured for works needed to the northern lights/ roof space.  Cockden: there is to be a Road Safety Measure in place. United Utilities are repeating maintenance work after the last works failed.  C. Cllr Towneley stated that there were grants available for any constituted group who wished to apply. There are also further grants for specific groups via Community Champions. |  | |  |
| **23/24/169 Borough Councillors Report** | | | |
| The Borough Councillors written report has been received and tabled below. |  | |  |
| **The meeting was formally reconvened.** |  | |  |
| **23/24/170 Finance.** | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Expenditure** |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Website |  | DD |  | Easyweb | 36.96 |  | | Newsletter Printing |  | cheque 1897 | | Hello Print | 456.95 |  | | Boundary planter flowers | | cheque 1898 | | Garden Centre | 21.00 |  | | Allotment |  | cheque 1899 | | Water Pus | 228.30 |  | | Allotment |  | cheque 1900 | | Various | 66.95 |  | | Allotment |  | cheque 1901 | | Screwfix | 41.20 |  | | Grant |  | cheque 1902 | | Fun and Games Group | 240.00 |  | | surveyor |  | cheque 1903 | | AJP Surveyors | 900.00 |  | | Legal advice |  | cheque 1904 | | Croner x 2 invoices | 773.22 |  | | Allotments |  | cheque 1905 | | Howarth Timber | 63.74 |  | | Office |  | cheque 1906 | | Post office | 8.35 |  | | Training |  | cheque 1907 | | LALC | 105.00 |  | | Lengthsman |  | cheque 1908 | | D Joss | 120.00 |  | |  |  | STO |  | Steven Watson | £457.80 |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3,519.47 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |
| A Grant request to the Fun and Games Group that meet in the Community Centre was considered. This will be a one-off grant to this group. Proposed JM seconded P All in Agreement. It was resolved that a cheque would be passed to the Community Centre for this grant.  All funding to community groups has now been allocated for this financial year.  Internal Audit – the books are scheduled to go to audit late on the 27th August 2024, a request for the paperwork for the financial year 23/24 will be made to the Clerk | Clerk | | MTM |
| **23/24/171 Orchard Grant** | | | |
| All details are complete for this application for 8 apple, 8 pear and 8 plum trees. | | | |

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| September 5th 2024  October 10th 2024  November 7th 2024  December 5th 2024  January 16th 2025  February 6th 2025  March 6th 2025  April 3rd 2025  May 8th 2025 (Annual) |

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| **The meeting closed at 22.06hrs.** |

Police Report.

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| BRIERCLIFFE AREA 7th July – 5th August 2024 | | | |
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| INCIDENTS REPORTED - 76 | | | |
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| NO | TYPE OF INCIDENT | LOCATION | DETAILS |
|  | | | |
| 0 | Burglary |  |  |
| 2 | Criminal damage | Sandiway Drive  Burnley Road | Believed to be isolated incident.  2 people fighting on inft vehicle and caused a dent to inft vehicle. |
| 1 | Theft | Lydgate | Bike stolen from rear yard |
| 2  3 | Vehicle crime  Theft of vehicle | McLindon Court  Croasdale Avenue  Townley street  Stirling Court  Milton Street | Items stolen from within a vehicle.  Item stolen from within a vehicle. Vehicle was insecure, items taken.    Van stolen from the street by unknown means.  Whilst victim was collecting items from resident his van has been stolen with keys left inside.  Motorbike stolen from rear yard. |
| 1 | Nuisance | Shore Avenue | Report of 6 youths blocking the road. |
| Many thanks Jody Hudson PCSO 7738. | | | |

**Borough Councillors’ Report – August 2024**

1. **Briercliffe Energy Storage** This is the applicationto build an electricity storage centre on land off **Halifax Road past Holt Hill**. There will be a display and consultation meeting in the afternoon before our meeting at Hill Lane Baptist Schoolroom. The consultation period lasts until August 23. **Residents can comment online at** [**www.tinyurl.com/brierclifeenergy**](http://www.tinyurl.com/brierclifeenergy)**.** The Borough Councillors were briefed by the applicant in a Zoom meeting last week, although this was probably no more than will be at the display. We asked for the consultation to be extended to cover the main road through **Harle Syke from Casterton Avenue** roundabout to the site, which is the route construction vehicles would take if the development got planning permission. The construction period would be 9 months. There would be one large delivery to the site and others using smaller lorries. We also asked questions about fire risks and security. We shall welcome views and questions from the Parish Council and residents.
2. **Councillor Maggie Lishman** met the new (and former) **Police and Crime Commissioner**, Clive Grunshaw, this week and emphasised the need for more community engagement locally with the police and more neighbourhood policing. She asked if our local police could come to the Parish Council meeting at least once a quarter. She also discussed recent events in towns and cities around the UK and potential risks in Burnley.
3. Building at the **Standen Hall site** is due to commence at the end of August with the construction of a road onto the site and sewer work. Money has been set aside with the Borough Council to do work to reduce flooding from the existing stream and Maggie has asked when and how this is being done. This is good news for Rockwood Close residents. The site will not use the existing stream route for waste surface water.
4. **Councillor Maggie Lishman** met a representative from **Lancashire County Council Highways** Department and discussed the poor state of the roads, which they say they are addressing. In addition, she pointed out the deplorable state of white lines, zebras etc. A list is being compiled of critical sites which they are asked to repair, e.g. the **yellow box junction** at the hospital for the ambulance station and the stop signage at the **Haggate** junction.
5. We welcome and support the Parish Council’s initiative in writing to our new MP to stress the importance of investment in older housing in addition to their plans for new house-building.
6. **Councillor Anne Kelly** has reported several cases of fly-tipping, which have been promptly cleared by the Council’s Streetscene.
7. There will be a visit to Briercliffe by the **Chief Executive of Burnley Council** at the end of August. We are making a list of places to take him. If there are any issues or sites the Parish Council would like us to raise, please let us know.