

Minutes of the Meeting of Yeohed & Castleton Parish Council on 5th September 2024 at 7.30 pm in Poyntington Village Hall

The following were present: Councillors Buckland, Lacey, Perryman and Simnett, Dorset Cllr Legg , the Clerk, 3 people representing RWE and five members of the public.

24.41 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Stubbs

24.42 **Declarations of interest:** None declared

24.43 **Public participation session:** Representatives of RWE gave a presentation about the proposed solar farm at Wyke and then answered questions from councillors and members of the public. It was confirmed that the generating capacity will be 49.9 MWs which is just below the \limit requiring development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero. Councillors also asked about the plans for biodiversity improvement of the land and were told there would be low intensity sheep grazing amongst the panels, wild flower meadows, fruit trees and tree planting, with 2m deer fencing/3m high hedgerows around the perimeter. At the end of the 40 year lease the land will be returned to how it is now. Other questions concerned the possibility of extra traffic on surrounding roads, flooding risks and employment. There will be a £400,000 community chest over the lifespan of the project. RWE intends to finalise its plans after the public consultation which finishes on September 23rd and expects to submit a planning application in December.

24.44 **The minutes of the meeting held 11th July 2024** were confirmed and signed.

24.45 **Matters arising:** None

24.46 **Adjournment Session**

Cllr Legg reported that he had attended the RWE public consultation at Yeovil Golf Club and heard them speak at several parish council meetings. He commented that it would be in the community interest to ask probing questions throughout the consultation period.

24.47 **The financial report for the year 2024-25** to date was received and accepted. Payments in accordance with budget were approved: Clerk salary: £309.60; HMRC (PAYE): £77.40; Poyntington Village Hall £15

24.48 **Banking arrangements:** The clerk reported that the new Lloyds account is now open, but unfortunately the request for internet banking was not acted upon by the bank and must now be reapplied for. Former councillor Ruth Dimond is continuing to sign cheques until the new account is in operation.

24.49 **Planning Matters**

Planning matters dealt with since the last meeting or at this meeting are in bold in the table below:

Name	Details /Reference	Status
Castle Gardens, Sherborne	P/FUL/2024/04029 Install 36 panel roof mounted solar array on existing greenhouse roof. Install 24 panel roof mounted solar array on existing butterfly house roof.	No objection
The Stone House, Osborne	P/HOU/2024/02656 Replace failed joists supporting the mezzanine floor in the garage with new timber to strengthen the floor and reintroduce its structural integrity. Existing joists that have not failed will be retained, existing old floorboarding will be retained and any damaged flooring to be replaced..	No comments – structural repairs Granted 26.07.24

Mushroom Farm Cow Lane Poyntington	P/FUL/2022/02416 Erect 2 No. dwellings (Class C3), new vehicular accesses and associated works. Demolish existing agricultural buildings and polytunnels.	Objection Refused16.07.24
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- 24.50 **Proposed new solar farm at Wyke:** It was agreed that RWE should be invited to the next meeting to update the council on any revisions to the plans made as a result of the public consultation. This should include photographic evidence of the sight lines of the farm from the surrounding area.
- 24.51 **New Councillors and RoWLO for Castleton:** Janet Dillon was co-opted as a new member for Castleton. Janet has experience of being a parish councillor in Kent and lives near Wyke.
- 24.52 **Rights of Way:** No issues.
- 24.53 **Highways Issues:**
- a. Sheeplands Lane: The clerk has received no more information from Dorset Highways. Cllr Legg suggested that unless Sherborne Castle Estates gives permission for a bridleway across their land there is little that can be done to resolve the situation.
 - b. Clatcombe Lane junction: A representative of Sherborne Golf Club has written to Cllr Legg to suggest imposing a 40mph speed limit from the junction to Sherborne. As yet Dorset Highways has not responded.
- 24.54 **Hedge and verge maintenance:** The clerk referred to emails received since the last meeting about hedge and verge maintenance in Poyntington and Osborne. It was noted that since then, some of the verges in Poyntington have been cut again by Dorset Council and that the period when landowners/managers are allowed to cut hedges has just started.
- 24.55 **Items for the next Agenda:** Send to clerk.
- 24.56 **Dates of future meetings:**
- 7 November, Osborne
 - 2025:
 - 9 January, Poyntington
 - 6 March, Osborne
 - 1 May, Osborne
 - 3 July, Poyntington
 - 4 September, Osborne
 - 6 November, Poyntington

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.