

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CALNE WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT LANSDOWNE HALL, DERRY HILL  
MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024

CALNE WITHOUT COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

Present (P): Apologies (A): Did Not Attend (X)

John Barnes (Chair)	P	John Armstrong	P	Lucy Campbell Rogers	P
Pauline Crane	P	Sue Deedigan	P	Rob Hislop	P
Jurgen Kronig	P	Bruce MacInnes	P	Jay Nugent	P
Doug Price	P	Ioan Rees	P	Keith Robbins	P
Andrew Turton	P	Philippa Todd	P		

Wiltshire Council Unitary Councillor (Calne South) Sam Pearce-Kearney attended  
Wiltshire Council Unitary Councillor (Calne Rural) Ashley O'Neill sent his apologies.

**340/24 Apologies**

To receive apologies.

All councillors were in attendance.

**341/24 Public participation/ Correspondence**

341.1/24 Public participation

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee.

341.2/24 Correspondence

For the Clerk to report any correspondence not circulated.

The clerk informed the council that she had shared the update from PCSO Cook via email.

**342/24. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations from Councillors of any disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Orders 13b) or other interest (Standing Orders 13c) in respect of matters being considered by the Council.

No declarations were declared.

**343/24. Chairman Announcements**

Cllr Barnes reminded the councillors to be alert to Phishing attempts after the recent scam emails purporting to be from Cllr Barnes.

He reminded everyone to feedback to Cllr Deedigan regarding the green thread initiative and potential sites.

The Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Working groups to provide updates on work in the last year.

**344/24. Minutes**

**Recommendation:** That the Committee approve the Minutes of the meetings held on [13<sup>th</sup> December 2023](#), [21<sup>st</sup> December 2023](#) and [Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024](#) as a true and fair

**reflection of the motions agreed by the Committee and the discussion that took place and that these be signed by the Chairman as such.**

*It was resolved by majority to approve the minutes for the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 as a true and fair reflection.*

*It was resolved by majority to approve the minutes for the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023 as a true and fair reflection.*

*It was resolved by majority to approve the minutes for the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 as a true and fair reflection.*

### **345/24. Clerk Report**

For the clerk to update on actions noted in the previous month's minutes.

The clerk reminded everyone to do any training that has been paid for.

All planning applications have been responded to and the planning appeal responded.

Cherhill pta have been informed of the grant and they are coming back with the info about match funding.

Date being proposed for a west ward spring clean is Good Friday, have liaised with Peter Prater about a link up with the community committee.

### **346/24. Accounts**

346.1/24 Payments

Recommendation that the following payments be approved:

Lansdowne Hall	Hall Hire	£110.40
Clearwater	Website assistance	£90 (inc vat)

And any other payments received since the issue of the agenda.

*All payments were approved by majority vote.*

346.2/24 Balance and Expenditure

To consider and approve the [balance and expenditure](#) for the period ending 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Recommendation: That the Council approves the balance and expenditure for the period ending 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

*The Report was unanimously noted and approved.*

### **347/24. Planning – Cllrs**

347.1/24 To consider the planning applications currently out for consultation. List below.

<p><b>PL/2024/01599</b> Erection and operation of ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels and associated works</p>	<p><b>Sands Farm Quarry, Low Lane, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8TE</b></p> <p><a href="https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ30000044ZL3">https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ30000044ZL3</a></p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 deadline for comments</p>
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Cllr Barnes outlined the application, Cllr Saddler Smith, attending from Cherhill Parish Council discussed attending the consultation meeting. Gave a short summary of what happened and information provided at the meeting.

The Cllrs discussed the application.

Cllr Barnes; summarised his thoughts and circulated a document with the following points;

The **Pre-Planning Consultation** has been poorly executed. The proposal is located well inside the boundary of Calne Without Parish Council: we have received no contact from Valencia Waste Management and were unaware of the proposals prior to the submission of the planning application. Misleading information was provided in the consultation in respect to construction access. No fliers were delivered to residents along the proposed construction access route (Anchor Road and Low Lane). Only two feedback forms were received and just 67 website views.

**Construction access route.** This needs to be properly thought through and consistent. Four different access routes are given in the documentation:

The public consultation stated that construction access will be from Gloucester Road, Lower Compton, which is a narrow residential road and a cul-de-sac.

The Statement of Community Involvement (p4) goes on to state that this was incorrect and that access will be Low Lane (and presumably Anchor Road). These streets are unsuitable for significant HGV traffic.

The Planning Information Pack (p17) states that it will be taken from the existing junction of the B430: this is near Bicester.

Elsewhere, the Planning Information Pack (p41) states that access will be Sand Pit Road and Spitfire Road, using the existing landfill access route. This would appear to be the best option.

There are further inconsistencies in the assessments of construction traffic. The Planning Information Pack (p17) describes 20 HGV deliveries (40 movements) per day over three months, but also (p82) a maximum of 10-15 HGV movements per day. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (p11-12) refers to a 6-month Construction Phase preceded by 9-12 months of soil importation, during which 81,000m<sup>3</sup> of soil will be imported.

**Ecology.** Sections of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal appear to have been redacted. In the interests of openness, full disclosure of findings and recommendations should be made. We would expect to see an application such as this putting forward clear proposals to deliver a biodiversity net gain in accordance with Core Policy 50. There is no biodiversity net

gain calculation put forward as part of the application, although one is apparently referenced on p8 of the Planning Information Pack.

**Community Fund.** Applications for other solar farms in the locality have included a Community Fund, so that the local community receives benefit from the installation. We would expect to see a proposal included as part of the application.

**National Cycle Route 403.** The Sustrans National Cycle Network route 403 passes through land owned by Valencia Waste Management to the north of the site (along the alignment of footpath CALW16). The Parish Council has been unsuccessfully trying to make contact with Valencia Waste Management for a year about restoring the surface of the cycle track. This should be included as part of the proposal.

**Foundation proposals.** We would expect further details to be provided of the proposed foundations for the solar panels, with supporting technical evidence to demonstrate that there would be no risk of the landfill capping layer being breached. (Typical mounting for solar panels installed on landfill sites consists of concrete blocks over a gravel base.)

**Glare & Glint. Housing** – 34 of the 50 assessed dwelling receptors show that glare is geometrically possible. The planning application assess that this will be mitigated by existing screening vegetation. Most of this screening is deciduous in nature and not on land owned by the applicant. Glare from winter / spring sun could easily impact the dwellings and there is a possibility that the owners of the land could remove the screening vegetation at some point in the future. As it is not in a conservation area planning permission would not be required to do this.

**Visibility from the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and glare into it.** The North Wessex Downs National Landscape is very close to the site. The applicant quotes in section 5.22 of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment that the White Horse is 3.75km away and says that the solar farm would be a “distant view”. It fails to mention that this part of the downs which is furthest from which the solar farm; Blackland Down is approx. 2.5km away and the solar farm would clearly be visible from there ruining the view. The Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan, which is currently going through Regulation 14 Consultation, wishes to protect several views, including the one from the North Wessex Downs National Landscape towards St Mary’s church in Calne. The downs are also in the arc through which glare would be present in the afternoon / evening.

The Cllrs discussed the points in the document further.

Cllr Barnes proposes an objection with the comments as outlined in paper. It was unanimously resolved to object to the development and send comments based on these above.

347.2/24 To consider the [planning delegation scheme](#) and amend where required.

The document was considered and subject to slight amendments.  
*The scheme of delegation was unanimously approved.*

### **348/24. Update from Neighbourhood Plan,**

To receive a verbal update and review the [timeline for submission](#) to Wiltshire Council.

An update was provided and the emphasised the importance of the joint meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

There was a further discussion about contact with other parish councils.

It was noted that it was important to respond to the plan and comment on both the things you like and don't like.

There was a query about if there was a target for engagement and it was noted that the survey is difficult to complete when you have to look at another document to be able to respond.

### **349/24. Defibrillator project**

To consider the [update](#) and [proposed flyer](#) for the defibrillator project.

#### **Decision Sought.**

1. Agree the format of the flyer and how residents will feedback their interest to us.

Cllr Price outlined the update as attached.

Cllr Barnes, Deedigan and Crane agreed to leaflet Pewsham Ward, Sandy Lane and Mile Elm respectively.

Responses to the leaflet would be required within a month.

Cllr MacInnes gave an update on the future of the VETS scheme. Its likely to be an app-based system.

Once finalised the clerk will print the leaflet for each area.

### **350/24. Circus of science proposal**

To consider the attached [proposal](#).

**Recommendation;** that the Council organises and promotes the Circus of Science Event as part of the Priestley 250 celebrations planned for the Summer of 2024, with a budget of £850.

**Budget;** Public Participation, Exhibitions and Events

**Power;** Local Government Act 1972 s144

The cllrs discussed the proposal. The clerk to double check the insurance requirements of the proposal and all experiments must be risk assessed.

*It was unanimously resolved to organise and promote the circus of science event with a budget of £850.*

**351/24. Update from the Playground Working Group**

Cllr Todd provided an update, Wiltshire Council and Bowood estate are both in agreement to push the project forward.

WC have offered a play areas design officer to assist.

A meeting with those concerned will be arranged to move the project forward.

Further discussion about the 'humps' on petty acre being a potential safety issue. Cllr Pearce Kearney agreed to raise with Wiltshire Council.

**352/24. Civility and respect pledge**

To consider the attached [report](#) and taking the Civility and Respect Pledge

There was a discussion around possible mandatory training. HR committee to look at any further amendments as required to the training policy.

*It was unanimously resolved to take the Civility and respect pledge.*

**353/24. Flexible working policy**

To consider and adopt the attached draft [flexible working policy](#)

*It was unanimously resolved to adopt the flexible working policy.*

**354/24. Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 21.12.