

## **BELCHAMP ST PAUL AND BELCHAMP OTTEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 22 August 2023 at 7.30pm at  
The Community House, Gages Road, Belchamp St Paul

**Present:** Councillors David McKee (Chairman), Harvey Bamford, Holly Chaplin, Robin Lock, Sarah Mardon, Tony Money, John Pheby and Hannah Rumsey. 3 members of the public were also present. In attendance: Diane Smith (Clerk).

### **2767. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Ruth Carter and David Middleditch plus County Councillor Peter Schwier and District Councillor Iona Parker. There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **2768. Public Forum**

No matters were raised by the public present.

### **2769. Proposed Solar Farm off Bakers Road, Belchamp St Paul – Planning application 23/01413/FUL**

Since the last PC meeting, Members noted that the planned Public Meeting, to discuss the solar farm proposal, had taken place at St Andrew's Church BSP on Thursday 3 August. BSR Energy had unfortunately declined the PC's invitation to give a presentation at the Public Meeting. A total of 88 local residents had attended the meeting and many of those present had actively engaged in the discussion process. Residents were encouraged to complete PC Voting Slips, indicating whether they supported or opposed the planning application. Further Voting Slips and 3 collection boxes were subsequently made available around the 2 villages until the deadline of 10 August at 5pm. Residents were also encouraged to submit their individual comments on the planning application direct to BDC.

The Clerk and Chairman had counted the resident's Voting Slips and the results had been published on the PC website on 12 August. A total of 130 valid Voting Slips had been received of which 99 opposed the planning application and 31 supported it. In line with the position expressed by a majority of those who voted (see Item 2764.3 at the 4 July PC meeting) the PC would accordingly be submitting a submission to BDC in opposition to the solar farm proposal.

A draft 'main submission' had subsequently been circulated to Councillors for consideration, along with drafts of two separate supplementary comments covering the Agricultural Land Classification Report and the recently commissioned Archaeological Ground Survey respectively. Since circulation, Members had highlighted a small number of typing/spelling errors and these were noted and corrected by the Clerk.

It was proposed by Cllr John Pheby, seconded by Cllr Harvey Bamford and unanimously agreed that the corrected 'main submission' be submitted to BDC, opposing the solar farm planning application. It was also proposed by Cllr John Pheby, seconded by Cllr Harvey Bamford and unanimously agreed that the two supplementary comments be submitted separately to BDC.

The Chairman wished to record the Council's thanks to Clive Waite for the invaluable advice and assistance he has provided to the PC on this matter and also thank the Clerk for dealing with the increased workload involved. He further wished to thank so many residents for taking the time to submit individual relevant and well-reasoned submissions to BDC.

### **2770. Public Forum**

No matters were raised by the public present.

**2771. Urgent matters and proposals for future Agenda**

**1. Defibrillator at BSP** – Members noted that the defibrillator at The Community House, BSP was currently out of service because of a battery problem. The Clerk had been in contact with the East of England Ambulance Service to resolve the issue.

**Next meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 September at 7.30pm in The Community House, Gages Road, Belchamp St Paul.

The meeting closed at 7.53pm

Signed: ..... (Chairman) 5 September 2023