

WESTONZOYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SITE MEETING **HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2013 AT 4.00 PM** **COMMENCING FROM THE SEDGEMOOR INN**

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Fisher (Chairman), Cllr Beale (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs Carson, Evans and Lamb

Cllr Nobby Turner, District Council Ward Member was also present, except at Rugg's Farm/Drove

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Alder, Mrs Ballard, Burge and Griffiths

52/13 Penzoy Farm Wind Turbine (Planning Application 53/13/20)

The Parish Council followed up discussion at the last Parish Council meeting and having heard representations from residents, conducted a site inspection and viewed the position of a proposed wind turbine (as per grid reference), on locations in the village, on the A372, from Penzoy Farm and Rugg's Farm and Drove. Members considered the application and submitted documents in full and noted coverage and response to a series of issues raised by members at a preliminary pre-consultation.

RESOLVED:

1. That no specific objections be raised to the proposal;
2. that the issues, concerns and objections raised by local residents in public session at the Parish Council, which are summarised below, be referred to SDC:

proximity to residential properties on edge of village;
noise, possible nuisance when turbine operating and particularly when wind direction is towards the village;
adverse visual impact sited in relative open countryside on this part of the Somerset Levels;
adverse impact on ecology (wild bird movement), across the Levels;
possible danger to aircraft movement given the location in relation to Westonzoyland Airfield;
possible adverse effects on drivers on A372 on open fast stretch of road by way of access during construction and maintenance;
flicker value – possible health concerns for residents and distraction for drivers on A372;
location close to site of historic interest detracting from Battle Field Monument, and possible effect on archaeology of the area (would require condition if approved);
lack of detail of any Community Fund to be offered to locality in the event of approval;
precedent if this application approved to prevent mass numbers of similar with commulative impact on the countryside.

Other issues not necessarily impacting on planning merit of scheme:

devaluation of property prices;

distance to nearest electricity sub-station to gain access to national grid and future maintenance.

3. that the Parish Council also recommend that if approval is to be considered the Development Committee should arrange a site meeting and invite the applicant/agents to provide a “mock up” (to illustrate the height of the proposed turbine) on the precise site to illustrate the visual impact on the landscape of a structure some 77m high;
4. that SDC be advised that it appears the property at King's Farm (possibly the closest property in the village) and properties in Sycamore Close, have not received individual notification;
5. that confirmation be requested that Chedzoy Parish Council have been formally notified;
6. that members of the public who made representations and so requested be informed of this decision.

The meeting finished at 5.45 pm.

Signed:
Chairman: