

SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLDEN HILLS PARISH CLUSTER GROUP & PACT

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Polden Hills Parish Cluster Group & PACT
held in the Lounge, Woolavington Village Hall on
Tuesday 28 May 2013 at 7.00pm**

Present:

Jenny Lawrence (Chairman)
Phil Knibb
Julia Marshall
Martin Dare
Richard Young
Brian Tilbury
Bruce Poole
Cynthia Galloway
Cllr Alison Hamlin
Cllr Stuart Kingham
Cllr Mark Healey

Representing:

Ashcott PC
Bawdrip PC
Catcott & Edington PCs
Cossington PC

Edington PC
Puriton PC
Woolavington PC
Sedgemoor District Council

Somerset County Council

Also Present:

Nick Tait
(Agenda Item 5)
Paul Sobczyk
(Agenda Item 6)
Bob Brown
Leila Nicholson

} Sedgemoor District Council

Sarah Ashton
(Agenda Item 4)

Village Agents Scheme

Apologies

Cllrs D Alder, D McGinty and D Hall
Rachel Fraser (Catcott), Margaret Blakemore (Ashcott)

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 February 2013 (previously circulated) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. PARTNERS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Although Lora Bray (PCSO) was not in attendance at this meeting, it was confirmed that she had been attending the Belfrey coffee mornings at Ashcott as previously requested.
There were no other matters arising.

4. VILLAGE AGENTS

Sarah Ashton from The Community Council for Somerset attended the meeting to explain about a new scheme that had been set up in Somerset. The Village Agents are trusted members of their community employed by the Community Council for Somerset to signpost local people, particularly the vulnerable, to appropriate agencies and services in order to solve problems and improve quality of life. The agents live in the community and help all vulnerable people (unlike other Counties where their schemes are age restricted); they deal with all types of queries and attend various events and meetings in the area or set up meetings etc to meet people. They interact with a wide range of services and are consistently being up-skilled and also pass information back to these services for improvements to be made or where a gap in service has been identified.

An information sheet was distributed to those in attendance at the meeting and the Chairman thanked Sarah for attending to update the Parishes.

5. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Nick Tait from Sedgemoor District Council attended the meeting to give a short update on the Community Infrastructure Levy due to come into force in 2014. The Levy would provide a flexible non-negotiable funding stream for infrastructure that will allow the Council to set its local priorities for what the funds should be spent on, giving greater transparency for local people to understand how new development was contributing to their community and the money was being invested., it would also enable the fixing of development costs early in the process and payment would be payable once development commences.

The District would need to balance the levy for things like flood defences, roads and local facilities etc but it will need to be carefully balanced so that there would be no deterrent to development. It was noted that the draft charging schedule was similar to other local authorities in the area.

The draft CIL charging schedule will be examined by an independent Inspector (probably Autumn 2013 now), and it was hoped the document would be adopted by Council ready for 1 April 2014.

6. NATIONAL GRID

Paul Sobczyk attended the meeting and distributed a guide to decision making and mitigating impacts of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects; this explained that large scale developments were submitted to the planning Inspectorate for examination and ultimately determined by a government minister.

A briefing note was also distributed on Hinkley C Connection Project (National Grid) giving details of the background on the process and the current position – this document has been attached to these minutes.

Members were informed that there were issues with undergrounding in this area due to the water table but there were also issues through the Mendips as there would be a need for a 65 metre swathe or ditch for undergrounding, it was also noted that the proposed pylons would be 50 metres high and therefore the base would be larger.

7. HINKLEY POINT C PROJECT

A briefing sheet was distributing covering the following subjects:

- EDF Energy reduces activity at Hinkley Point C site
- Legal Challenges made to the Government`s decision on Hinkley Point C
- Prime Minister confident about Hinkley Point C project
- Current activities on Hinkley Point C
- Consultation on nuclear waste

In response to a question from Cllr Healey about waster going to the ROF site, it was confirmed that a consultation was being undertaken and a nationwide discussion on nuclear waste depositories.

8. PURITON PLAYING FIELD PROJECT - UPDATE

A brief update was provided to the meeting and it was confirmed that the Boules Pitch and table tennis table had been erected.

9. PARISH ISSUES/ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Election of Cluster Chairman
Woolavington and Puriton - Monies received from Big Lottery funding
Neighbourhood Plan – Ashcott PC
YMCA activities in the District
Fire Service funding cuts and effects on Parishes.

10. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 August 2013 at 7.00pm, to be held in the Lounge, Woolavington Village Hall, Woolavington.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

CHAIRMAN