WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd August 2021 at 8:02pm

 in the Old School Room, Winterborne Whitechurch

**PRESENT**

 Mrs Aideene Turley (Vice Chairman)

 Mr Steven Pringle

 Mr Martyn Gleaden

This meeting was delayed from 6pm to allow a member of Naturalis to provide an update on the application plans submitted to Dorset Council Planning and take questions from members of the public prior to the start of this meeting.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mr R Turley (Clerk), and No members of the general public.

**A01/21.** Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests on items contained within the Agenda and to consider any written dispensation requests received. None Received

**A02/21. Apologies for absence**- Mrs Emma Parker

**A03/21.** PLANNING APPLICATION

P/FUL/2021/02622 Proposal: Construct solar farm and erect electric vehicle charging station, form vehicular access, parking, landscaping, and carry out associated works including installation of equipment, batteries and necessary infrastructure.

**A04/21. Public Participation –**. None

**A05/21** As no public present at the PC meeting as all had left as Chair was opening the meeting No actual comments made to the PC at the meeting. The PC after reviewing the written and verbal comments previously made to them and on the Planning Portal considered the application also listening to the questions asked by the public to a member of Naturalis at the event prior to this Parish Council meeting.

It was felt that many of the questions were not a planning consideration as were some of those comments on the planning portal and those made to the PC previously.

The Parish Councillors felt that the project was in the only planning-related aspects

were discussed in the PC meeting to reach a decision, all other matters having been

 dealt with by Naturalis in the earlier meeting.  The PC meeting wasn’t a vote solely

based on public opinion but also on how the planning application would affect the

village.

One of the positives we discussed to support the application is that it would provide a

needed amenity for the village as vehicles changed to all-electric in the future.

**A06/21.** A vote was then taken with 2 in favour followed by a third agreeing to vote in favour also. The Decision did however have concerns on certain points as well.

 This was the final response to Dorset Planning Department

Winterborne Whitechurch Parish Council has given support to this application for the following reasons

The benefit long term in protecting the agricultural land around the village and help keep the village a village

The green credentials of the scheme in protecting the environment with the aid of hedgerows for the wildlife etc in the future.

Help to produce local employment.

There are some concerns however regarding the landscaping of the large area of site buildings and that more mature native trees etc should be planted instead of saplings for visual shielding with more dense foliage.

There is also concern regarding the use of an extended footpath behind Blandford Hill affecting privacy and security of residents’ properties there. The issue with the speeding traffic, regularly overtaking vehicles entering and exiting on Blandford Hill is of concern with the proposed entrance /exit from the site.

A full archaeological survey should be carried out regarding the possible extent of nearby ancient sites.

The parish council are very aware that this application has support and objections from residents and would encourage all to make their comments known on the planning application on the Dorset Council website.

The Meeting Closed at 8:34pm