

ORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2015 in Orton Market Hall at 7.30pm

Present Cllr S Dunning (Chairman) Cllrs, M Coates, E Potter, M Mawson and
D Potter.
Clerk, C J Elphick
District Councilor, Adrian Todd

12+ members of the public

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Kyle Blue and Menna Lewis

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest on any item on the agenda.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2015 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Presentation on proposed 25 acre Solar Farm

Prior to the opening of the meeting a presentation was received from Mr Axel Puttkammer, representing "New Energy for the World GmbH" who are proposing installation of a 25 acre Solar Panel (PV) generation plant between the two carriageways of the M6 extending north from Tebay services.
This company and others are currently proposing PV installations at several locations in Cumbria. See **Appendix 1**

Footway Lighting

Notification received that a new lighting standard will be erected at Brookside by the end of July. Notice reads: "Eden District Council is in the process of replacing lights on our have been agreed with the Parish Councillors on their site visit with Chris Slater."

"Please note that the following light is due to be replaced by the end of July:
Light No 10 – Outside Becksides"

"The whole process is likely to take a few weeks as there are a number of steps to follow: the column is to be concreted in place; the lamp head will be put on at a later date (this is to let the concrete set without the chance of the column being moved in high winds should the head be installed at the same time); the electric supply can be connected by ENWL once the column is in position."

Children's Play Area

Funding for replacement springer units is in place. Quotations for groundworks are outstanding.

Finance

Accounts for payment

Lynne Potter (75)	£ 210.00
C J Elphick (Month 3)	£ 415.98
HMRC (Month 3)	£ 15.22
C J Elphick (admin expenses)	£ 120.12
Scottish Hydro Electric	£ 33.64

The foregoing five items were approved for payment

Planning

- No. 15/0452 Variation of planning conditions re. holiday-let restriction
Location Barn conversion, Bretherdale Hall CA10 3TA
Applicant Mr J Anderson
Parish Council Support this application. It was considered that greater use for permanent occupation of the premises is preferable to intermittent holiday lettings. The proposed lifting of restrictions would increase the versatility and therefore potential occupancy.
- No. 15/0447 Proposed extension to south gable.
Type Full Application
Location Gill Farm, Scout Green CA10 3QZ
Applicant Mr & Mrs D Winchester
Parish Council It was considered that the design, scale and external appearance of the proposed extension in this location would be visually unacceptable. The area of glass proposed is excessive against this traditional building in open countryside.

Kelleth

The proposed replacement Notice Board is being constructed by local joiner Malcolm Sedgwick.
It had been requested that a Dog Waste bin be provided in Kelleth. Clerk advised that dog waste is permitted in ordinary waste bins. It was resolved that a waste bin be installed near the public seat and notice board.

Public Participation

It was noted that walkers on the Coast to Coast walk were frequently missing the route at the south end of the village and continuing towards Tebay. It was suggested that a direction sign could be added to the "cycle route" signpost. Clerk to contact footpaths officer.
The surface of Knott Lane is in need of urgent attention. Clerk to contact Highways.

Correspondence & Publications Received

CALC Circular – June 2015 (circulated)

Date of next meeting Monday 20th July 2015

Signed

Chairman

Date 20th July 2015

Appendix 1

Presentation on proposed 25 acre Solar Farm 15th June 2015

Prior to the opening of the meeting a presentation was received from Mr Axel Puttkammer, representing "New Energy for the World GmbH" who are proposing installation of a 25 acre Solar Panel (PV) generation plant between the two carriageways of the M6 extending north from Tebay services. This company and others are currently proposing PV installations at several locations in Cumbria.

The production of "Green Energy" is encouraged by government as an alternative to using fossil fuels and supports PV installations with subsidies. Output figures were quoted but these only referred to "Peak Output" around midday in sunshine. The Mean Output would be substantially lower, probably as low as 20-25%, taking into account cloudy weather, early morning and late evening reductions as well as NO production at night. Conventional generating equipment would need to be kept running on "standby" in readiness to compensate for these variations.

It was noted that vast areas of PV panels would be intrusive in the environmentally sensitive landscape and visible for great distances from the Lake District National Park as well as the proposed extended Yorkshire Dales National Park. When the M6 was constructed through the Lune Gorge in the 1980s the design received a Civic Trust Award for Design, blending in reasonably well with the countryside while retaining a wilderness feel. It is considered that a 25 acre solar farm would industrialise the landscape of our parish.

The visual effect on traffic approaching, particularly from the south, would detract from the natural beauty of the Cumbrian landscape and deter visitors, potential residents and business. Residential property values along the route would be adversely affected without recourse to compensation.

It was stated that, once installed, the equipment would require minimal maintenance. It follows that the proposal would not bring any new jobs to the area nor make any contribution to the local economy.