

**HEATH & REACH PARISH COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 17th August
at Heath Village Barn 11.00 a.m.**

**In attendance ; Cllrs Beilby (chair) Ellis, Green, Hawes and Owers.
Five members of the public.**

1 Apologies: F Shepherd (clerk)

2 Declarations of interest: None

3 Planning applications

Stone Lane Quarry – Caravan siting Application No CB/15/02826/MWNM.
There was no comment, subject to there being no increase in traffic.

6 Banwell Place – extension Application No CB/15/02898/FULL
There was no comment.

Tree Works Order Coach House CB/TRE/15/00267
This application was supported.

4 Update on previous planning applications.
None available.

5 Other planning matters

Wind Turbine proposal

Members of the public were asked to address their comments to the committee.

It was suggested that the lack of high speed broadband had a greater adverse affect on the village than a second turbine and that discussions should take place with A White to see what they may be prepared to give in return for cooperation.

At the public meeting that had taken place on 8 August there was a strong feeling that the turbine was not wanted. However, it was commented that no strong case against the turbine had emerged. Clear planning arguments are required to support any formal objection. The visual impact of the turbine and potential further interference with TV signals were two points that were suggested.

A member of the public cautioned that the second turbine might be a precursor to a future application for housing development.

The point was made that there should be no delay in gathering views and preparing our case, either for or against the turbine, as the application could be made at any time.

It was agreed the PC should consider an approach to A White to explore and see what, if anything, the village could gain from the situation.

This will be put on the agenda for the September PC meeting, as will discussion on how best to communicate with villagers in order to gather and disseminate information.

Community Infrastructure Levy

It was clarified that CIL is already in place and that this consultation relates only to the draft charging schedule.

The need for a variable rate was questioned. If a variable rate is to remain then it is proposed that Heath and Reach be included in band A. Opportunities for developments in the parish are very restricted and as such should attract a premium rate.

The Clerk is requested to convey this view to CBC by 23 August, by e-mail at ldf@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

or by post to: Sally Hicks, Strategic Planning and Housing, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ.

Planning conference

It was confirmed that Cllrs Ellis and Hawes are to attend.

6 Environmental Matters

Branches from a tree within the grounds of the old Methodist Chapel are overhanging the car parking area and are reported to need cutting back.

A tree in the garden of 1 Emu Close is overhanging the pavement. Hedges at 4,9 and 29 Abbey Walk are encroaching on the footpath and at 31 Abbey Walk a tree is overhanging the streetlamp and needs cutting back. The Clerk is requested to contact CBC and ask them to deal with these matters.

There is a silver birch tree on Heath Green that overhangs the pavement and the PC will be asked to approve work to trim back the offending branch.

7 Matters arising from previous meeting

Cllrs Hawes and Owers confirmed they had attended the quarry liaison meeting together with the Clerk and Cllr Owers is producing a note of that meeting.

8 Any Other Business

Cllr Green referred to the 'Secrets of the Sand' partnership programme document recently circulated which invited our participation in the scheme. It was agreed this should be added to the agenda for the PC's September meeting and also it was suggested P3 consider how they could help.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm.