
BYGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Bygrave Parish Council was held in the Church of St. Margaret of Antioch on Tuesday 13th February 2024 commencing at 8pm.

Present: Cllr. P Hills (Chairman)
Cllr. C Phipps
Cllr. J Northern

Mrs K Clark (Clerk)

In Attendance: 9 members of the Parish

1. Apologies for absence

District Counsellor Tom Tyson and County Counsellor Steve Jarvis

2. To approve and sign the minutes of meeting of 11th December 2023

Approved

3. To seek to co-opt Councillor vacancies.

Two members of the Parish who are interested in the vacancies were welcomed to their second meeting; requirements of the role emailed to them.

4. Finance – expenditure approval and accounts.

David Eagle	Reimbursement History project	£75
K Clark	Reimbursement for Microsoft 365 licence	£59.99
K Clark	clerks float	£50.00

Approved

5. To approve Planning applications as notified by the District Council

- **Full Planning Permission : Ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm including battery energy storage; continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure, security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works (as amended by information received 29 January 2024) Land West Of Ashwell Road, Bygrave, Hertfordshire, SG7 5EB Please quote the following reference: 22/00741/FP on all correspondence. Amendments to the above planning application have been submitted to the Council. I shall be glad to know whether you have any observations to offer on the amended proposal.**

See update in item 7 – a meeting has been requested with PACE and awaited response. 108 feet of hedging will be lost, and proposal to replace with fences which will not screen the solar farm. We object to it being sited in the field right next to houses when there are plenty of other fields that could be looked at. Laying of cable to the Letchworth grid will cause disruption and verges will be destroyed.

- **Full Planning Permission: Erection of four link-detached 3-bedroom dwellings with garaging following the demolition of the existing commercial storage buildings. Downs Barns, Ashwell Road, Bygrave, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 5EE Please quote the following reference: 24/00151/FP on all correspondence.**

Cllr James Northern declared an interest in this application as he is the applicant so meant the Parish Council was not quorate to make comment. The councillors will make comment online as residents. The properties are on the same footprint as the existing buildings.

6. Updates on Baldock Expansion

No further updates. Concerns raised about Ashwell Road from the new proposed roundabout where the new road through the new estate joins the Ashwell Road will become a greenway i.e. there will be no vehicles allowed into Baldock from this point. This will mean for Bygrave and Ashwell we will have to turn left onto the new road and join the roundabout at the A505 and Royston Road Junction. At peak times Bygrave and Ashwell will be joining the new estate traffic (from 3000 dwellings) to enter the new road. In addition to go to Baldock down the Royston Road will mean that we will encounter all the HGVs and vans servicing the expanded industrial area. • It is proposed that under the railway bridge there will be single line traffic both ways to allow sufficient room to install a cycle track. This single lane will be operated from another set of traffic lights aligned with the ones at the junction. These two sets of lights may cause holdups if not aligned properly • It is not intended to increase car parking at the station. If one lives 2miles or less one is expected to cycle or walk • It is proposed that there will be no left turn at the filter from Whitehorse Street into the A507 Great North Road preventing vehicles to get to the station or return from Tesco's from town. Instead, the route will be via South Road up to the Buntingford Road and then straight across at the Whitehorse Street traffic lights. BYGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL • There is a possibility that the Surgery may be moved to another location so parking may become an issue if parking is not allowed. 20mph speed limit requested and designated green spaces. To keep Bygrave village separate strongly requested.

7. Update on Solar Farm

Bygrave Parish Council is in favour of a solar farm but not on the site put forward by PACE the developer on land immediately adjacent the upper village and encompassing the last dwellings. BPC set up a separate working party 'BAG' to deal with this specific issue. The Team have spent an inordinate amount of time researching and composing reports for HCC Highways; NHDC Planners and for the Planning meeting itself. We have contended that PACE have not been entirely open book with their submission and in turn HCC and NHDC have not challenged PACE sufficiently on what has been submitted. The Planning Application has been heard by NHDC and they voted to obtain further information and the next time the application will come before the Planning Committee will be in February 2024

8. Speed through the village.

Options for speed measures will be designed and considered by the County Council in the next financial year.

9. Defibrillator update

An application is being made through the British Heart Foundation to have this asset in the village a decision will be known in March 2024.

Another option to explore is a re chargeable battery operated one, possible funding streams to be explored.

10. Fairs festival plans

Adverts for August bank holiday weekend, 12th/15th June cereals festival with a lot of farm machinery. Advertising for weddings and private events. Licence obtained for events but no consultation with Bygrave Parish Council.

11. District and County Councillors items

District Councillor Tom Tyson

Solar farm re consultation: I remain opposed to the proposal for all the reasons previously stated. Bygrave Action Group have meetings attended by Phil, minutes of which are presumably being forwarded to the parish council as a matter of course, so I'm sure you know the latest developments. I am unable to speak as Member Advocate when the application comes to the Planning Control Committee because I have an interest as a nearby resident, because of my close involvement with the Bygrave Action Group, and because of the financial mitigations requested by Bygrave Parish Council and offered by the applicant, therefore my intention is that another NHC member will

speak on behalf of the objectors when this comes to the Committee, as was the case in September.

Baldock expansion: U&C, the company hired to do the master planning, were grateful for all the feedback they had from the latest round of consultation events in Baldock – including from me on behalf of Arbury parish councils (email to U&C sent on 15 December 2023) and responses directly from the councils themselves. They expressed an interest in consulting further with Bygrave councillors collectively or potentially with all villagers in the wake of the points made. There is an online forum, “Baldock Community Forum”, which could also capture more views from affected villagers. It was set up by NHC, originally focussing on Baldock, but I have asked them and U&C to involve the villages more. U&C have expressed willingness to do this.

Speeding through the village: I had positive responses last year from parish councils to my idea of pooling resources to operate a Drive Safe scheme in the Arbury villages, and worked with the local police at the time, who were and remain very supportive. As the biggest village, Ashwell put forward councillor Vinny Hall vinny.hall@ashwell.gov.uk to coordinate a response and I understand he has contacted the Chairs of our parish councils in the ward with a view to getting some supporters together. He was away at the last Ashwell PC meeting but would be pleased to hear back from Bygrave councillors, I’m sure.

Festival plans: I have seen the social media publicity for an event over the August Bank Holiday weekend and general ads from the events management company trying to drum up interest in the site. Two years ago, I got Alex Farr to agree to give advance notice of what was planned for Bygrave Woods and have reminded him of this. Have yet to hear back.

County Councillor Steve Jarvis

I have included the design of traffic calming work for the village, potentially including village gateways, in next year’s Highways Locality budget. This work will be done sometime after April, probably in the summer, with the aim that this is complete in time for the implementation to be programmed for 2025. There may well be an opportunity for a site meeting to discuss proposals and the parish will certainly have an opportunity to comment on the proposed design once an initial proposal has been prepared.

In addition, there has been a problem with failure to clean drainage highways on many rural roads. There is now a programme to deal with this. Those in Bygrave should be dealt with in early March.

12. Correspondence

Circulated via email.

L02-23 | POWER TO FUND WORKS TO PROPERTY RELATING TO
AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH OR HELD FOR AN ECCLESIASTICAL CHARITY
(ENGLAND ONLY)

13. To confirm date and time of next meeting at 8pm on

Tuesday 21st May 2024

Tuesday 17th Sept 2024

Tuesday 26th Nov 2024