

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

Minutes

THURSDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2024

7 **CHAIR'S WELCOME**

The Chair advised that the Strengthening Relationships with Town/Parish Councils Working Group had met and a meeting for the Clerks had also taken place. Both meetings had been productive and work was taking place around the ideas and suggestions discussed at the meetings.

8 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors; Barlow, Bedson, Biddulph, Garrett, Jebb, Knowles, Malyon, Roberts and Shufflebotham.
Further apologies were received from Clerks; Sally Dartnell and Sarah Haydon.

(Parish and town representatives in attendance provided at Annex A)

9 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 June 2024 were approved.

10 **RURAL POLICING UPDATE - CHIEF INSPECTOR MARK BARLOW**

Due to work commitments, Chief Inspector Barlow was unable to attend the meeting, however, Deputy Commander Karen Cooke was in attendance and provided the update to the Assembly. Topics included the latest figures relating to various crimes and detection rates, key arrests and the harm Reduction Hub.

Discussion took place around CCTV, ways in which the public could be encouraged to report incidents due to the speed 101 calls were answered, the impact early releases from prison may have in the area and how this would be monitored.

In response to a question relating to the investigation of fly-tipping, the Officer advised incidents of fly-tipping were primarily investigated by the Council.

A query was raised in terms of a reduction in the presence of Police in rural areas, to which the Officer explained that there had been a reduction in the number of PSCOs. Workload was prioritised and where possible, Officers worked proactively.

An example of successful crime detection undertaken by one of the PSCO's was described to the Assembly and the excellent work carried out by these Officers was noted.

The Officer was thanked for attending the meeting and providing an informative update.

11 **PLANNING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY (PRESENTATION) - BEN HAYWOOD, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

The District Council's Head of Development Services provided the Assembly with a presentation on Planning for Renewable Energy. This included the following topics:-

- Background information
- Plan Led System
- Local Plan Specific Renewable Energy Policy
- Other relevant policies,
- NPPF
- Green Belt/National Park
- Draft NPPF consultation
- Wind energy
- Non-material considerations
- Planning Practice Guidance
- Conditions on BESS regarding fire risk and safety
- Safety Legislation applicable to BESS
- Summary and concluding comments

The Wind Turbine Landscape Sensitivity Study retained its status and would be referred to should any relevant application be received by the Council.

In response to a query in relation to expertise to deal with large scale renewable energy projects, the Officer advised that the Council had a lot of in-house expertise but if necessary, external advice would be sourced to examine applications. Large scale schemes generated high fees which covered such costs and Planning Performance Agreements also protected against additional costs being incurred.

An overview of the Planning process was described, and in relation to due diligence being in place for BESS schemes, the Council could not duplicate other regulatory requirements or legislation or the function of other regulatory bodies.

Discussion took place around the feasibility of brownfield sites being identified for renewable energy schemes.

12 **PARISH UPDATE**

It was reported that an event had been organised to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the re-opening of the Caldon Canal taking place on 21st September in Cheddleton. Details would be circulated to after the meeting.

A successful photographic initiative which showcased gardens in Endon was highlighted to the Assembly.

A member read out a statement which detailed concerns relating to devolution and combined authorities. The Chair agreed to discuss this with the Leader and provide a response for all members of the Assembly and Clerks.

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13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 21 November 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

_____ Chairman _____ Date