

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT GROUP	RHC	DB
<i>P & D Group In abeyance during Frontrunner/NP</i>		BT
Planning Applications	All Councillors	
Memorial Hall	SM	AD
Playing Field	DH	AD
ENVIRONMENT GROUP		
Environment Agency	SM	JP
Flood Committee	FC Chairman (Arthur Thring) reports to PC through SM.	
COMMUNITY		
• PCC	RHC	None needed
• Countess Gytha School	JP	DH
• Medical Centre	PPC	JP
YOUTH (was Youth Council)	CB/DH	two joint leaders
COMMUNICATIONS GROUP		
website/notice boards/magazine/welcome pack/AVM	RHC	PPC
Broadband	BT	<i>(with Pete Naylor)</i>
Article for magazine following PC meeting.	PPC	JP
PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION		
Financial Monitoring	CB	With RFO
Records & Systems	RHC/JP	With Clerk
Employment Regulations	DB	With PC Chairman

Please note that all formal communications from the Council, whether by e-mail or letter, should always be via the Clerk or the Chairman, where appropriate.

22. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

23. Standing items

- a. **Safety and behaviour** – there was nothing to report.
- b. **Police Matters** – In the absence of PCSO Mead, there no issues reported.
- c. **Highways Drains / Signage** – It was noted that there had been no further information regarding drain clearance works in Sutton Montis Rd. and Bindwell Lane. The Council agreed that there needs to be a review of the number of signs within the Parish.
- d. **SID Location**
It was agreed that the Vice Chairman would deal with this issue.
- e. **Community Transfer of playing field land between SCC and QCPC** –
It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda for the time being.
- f. **Broadband for MM Exchange** –
The Council thanked Mr. Naylor for his recent display.
- g. **Additional Dog Poo Bin** –
It was agreed to contact Mr. Stevens, Clerk for an update, reference its location.

24. Advance Notices

- a. South Somerset Together AGM July 2nd at SSDC Brympton Way, Yeovil.
- b. Community Council AGM October 17th at Stoke St. Gregory
- c. Chairman Training at Somerton.
- d. SSDC Area East Committee June 12th Wincanton – application 13/01345/ADV to be determined.

25. Correspondence / Reports

a. The Late Mr. Peter Lacey - SALC

The Council discussed and approved the payment of £10 to SALC towards a memorial bench/seat in his memory.

b. Engagement of temporary Clerk

The Chairman introduced Philip Horsington, Clerk to Ilchester & Yeovilton Parish Councils, who has agreed to cover until a new Clerk is appointed.

c. New Clerk

The Chairman reported that the Clerk's post is being advertised with a closing date of July 12th. Interviewing will take place after that date.

26. To adopt amended Financial Regulations –

The Council, after some considerable discussion, agreed to defer the adoption of the Financial Regulations, not being definitive, as it contained written amendments by Councillors, and a further meeting of Councillors is to be held to agree and produce a definitive document for approval at the next meeting.

It was agreed to consider and agree the final version of a Grant/Donation Awarding Policy and application form at the July meeting.

The Councillors were each given a copy of HMRC VAT advice leaflet from the acting Clerk.

There was a question raised concerning the Declarations of Interest & Granting of Dispensations, it was agreed that the acting Clerk would endeavour to provide some information & advice to the next meeting.

27. Planning matters.

The Council noted that applications 12/03288/COU and 12/02094/FUL at Steart Hill Farm, West Camel have gone to appeal. As the Council had already made their response to these applications, it was agreed not to make further comment, as the Council's views stand as part of the appeal papers.

13/01897/COU – for Mr Peter Oxley, at Land & buildings to the east of Queen Camel House, High Street for change of use of buildings and land to Equestrian for continued use of racehorse training on a commercial basis. The Council considered the application and agreed to 'no objections' to the application.

13/01697/FUL- for Mr. P. Maclaren on land OS 4200, Sutton Montis Road for Solar PV development and associated works. To include the installation of ground based racking systems, mounted solar panels, power inverter stations, transformer stations, sub station and comms building, fencing, associated gates and tracks, and CCTV security cameras mounted on free standing support poles.

The Council debated this at length, with each Councillor giving their opinions. Among the points raised were concerns at the height of the panels, loss of prime agricultural land, proximity to a watercourse, visual impact, fencing proposals, opportunity for ecological improvements, would damage historic landscape, need to encourage alternative green energy as future generations will suffer if there is insufficient electricity, too many solar sites being promoted in the area and doubt as to the length of life of the panels, as twenty five years is being stated, and these solar sites would not be viable without the very generous Government subsidies.

Mrs. Pilgrim proposed, seconded by Mr. Turner proposed that the Council support the application, including observations on the application. On being put to a vote, the proposition was not accepted on a vote of two in favour, four against, with two abstentions.

The Council agreed to oppose the application giving the following reasons –

- a) Loss of prime agricultural land
- b) Visual impact on the landscape
- c) The proposed height of the panels – should be lower than shown on the plans
- d) The impact of the height & design of the proposed fencing around the site
- e) The Council felt that the application drawings were inaccurate in showing the distance from the adjacent watercourse
- f) That there will be insufficient ecological benefit from the proposals
- g) The Council agreed that there needs to be a Condition that states that at the end of twenty five years the area is returned back to agricultural use.

The Council received advice by Email from SSDC on Solar Farms stating that there can be Community benefit from these developments, however, it was noted that each Community was advised that it was for them to negotiate what financial gain could be achieved, as SSDC is only giving this informal advice for information, not as part of their policy.

13/02014/FUL- at Hazelgrove Preparatory School, Sparkford for the erection of an extension to existing Grounds Department storage building to incorporate Maintenance Department.

The Council considered the application and agreed 'no objections' to the application.

28. Financial matters

The Council expressed an opinion that, as produced, the Internal Auditor's report, its print was too small to read. This was noted.

Cheques to approve –

£61	Memorial Hall – room hire (April to July) plus Annual Parish meeting
£102.29	L. Stevens - Clerk's expenses & postage
£199.88	Annual Parish meeting - Supply Stores refreshments
£63.25	R. Heath – Coleman – various expenses
£10	SALC – memorial to Peter Lacey

The Council approved and signed these cheques for payment.

There were no balances reported, or matters to report from the Audit.

29. Urgent Matters of Report or for the next Agenda

- a. Other Matters of report – none.
- b. Matters for future business – none

30. Date of next Parish Council Meeting –

The Council approved Monday 15th July 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Marples Room of the Memorial Hall.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed:

Date: