

WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall **on Thursday 30 June 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Batchford, Cllr Jacobs, Cllr Taylor (Chairman), Cllr Wada, Cllr Watt. Also present: Clerk P Palfreyman and 4 members of the public

432.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr Bond

433.DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON ITEMS SHOWN ON THIS AGENDA - None

434.PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS Carole Randall, Energy & Low Carbon Project Development Officer, Essex County Council, gave a brief talk about accelerating the decarbonisation of the Parish. South East New Energy is an EU-funded programme of support designed to remove the barriers to decarbonisation. Their work concentrates on doing that at a 'whole community' level and in the first instances addresses the barriers represented by difficulty/affordability of accessing expert assessment of a community's energy generating potential. SENE does that in two ways, firstly by offering a free at the point of delivery geospatial analysis of an area (defined by you/the community) which identifies the **potential** for energy generations (in this instance PV plus battery storage as we all need electricity and it's a proven and investable technology). This is designed to help focus ideas and hopefully pleasantly surprise the community in terms of how energy independent it could potentially become. Further information is in the report attached, including answers to questions raised at the meeting.

435.FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) To note the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022 - the accounts as previously circulated were agreed.
- (b) To receive the report from the Internal Auditor – the report as previously circulated was noted. The matters arising were noting the resolution for

payments in the minutes, recovery of VAT (which was already in hand), risk assessments for the Village Hall and reviewing the format of the assets register. The clerk will review these points in time for the next Internal Audit.

- (c) To approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section1) – following discussion the Annual Governance Statement (Section1) was agreed.
- (d) To approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2) – following discussion the Accounting Statements (Section 2) was agreed.
- (e) To notify the Exercise of Public Rights dates – the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights are 1 July 2022 to 11 August 2022.
Details are available on the website.

436.CO-OPTION

(a)To agree the co-option of Lynne Brown – the Council welcomed Lynne to the Council, and it was also confirmed that Lynne would also be appointed as the new tree warden.

437.VILLAGE HALL

(a)To discuss allowing the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's White Colne free use of the village hall for their meetings – following discussion the Council agreed to offer the hall free of charge to the Church for their meetings/events. It was discussed that this might be every two months but occasionally more often. The clerk will contact the Church to confirm the details.

438.. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a)To discuss the TPO application no 2201200/TPO Brook House (formerly Chalkney House) and consider further actions – the Council felt that this work might affect the integrity of the other trees in the area. All the lower growth of all the trees has been removed and there is now little habitat for wildlife. The clerk will work with Lynne to discuss a response to oppose the application, as agreed by most of the Council.

439.TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RECEIVED SINCE THE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT - none

There being no further business the parish council meeting closed at 20.30pm