

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25TH MARCH 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM.

Present: Cllrs. Graham Bentley, Mary Clothier and Simon Howes (acting Chairman).

In attendance: The clerk (Chris Fry) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: - Cllrs. Marion Dethier, Mark Holder and Rodney Young.

2. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)

Reference: 18/23/00011 and 18/23/00012.

Type: Full Planning Permission.

Applicant: M Culliford.

Location: Banfield Barn, Higher Road, Chedzoy Bridgwater TA7 8QT.

Proposal: Installation of 26 solar panels externally along the northern boundary of site and associated meters and distribution boxes.

The Chairman invited the councillors to give their views. They were all in favour of the PC supporting low impact carbon reduction power generation measures, as represented by solar panels. It was felt the impact on neighbouring properties was limited.

The Chairman opened the meeting up to allow public participation. Following a discussion the following reservations emerged. A written submission from a parishioner was also taken into account. These reservations are as follows: -

- a. Although screening will ensure the solar panels will be out of site of the property (predominantly a single storey structure), there is no such screening to the northern side so the panels will be fully visible to walkers using the public footpath which runs beside the property, and this might create an undesirable precedent.
- b. The possibility of “glare” nuisance to the neighbouring property to the east (a two-storey structure), from the panels at certain times which could affect the upper storey windows.
- c. It is understood that, when the listed status was applied to Banfield Barn, it was assigned simply to “Manor Farm”. The PC assumes there will be no adverse impacts from this.

A vote proved unanimously in favour of PC support for these applications and the Clerk was asked to mention the above three points when submitting comments.

A copy of the comments submitted to the planning department is attached to these minutes.

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 7.50 pm.

