**CALVERT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of Meeting held on 7th January 2021**

**– Virtual Zoom meeting 1930**

**Signed: Chairman Phil Gaskin**……………………………………………………………………………

The meeting is being recorded and will be uploaded to the website.

The meeting proper then began.

Attendance and apologies

**Attendees:**

Chairman Phil Gaskin (PG)

Cllr Liza Bangham (LB)

Cllr Kirsten Gittins (KG)

Cllr Thelma Watson (TW)

Cllr Adele Decent (AD)

Cllr Sheila Thiyagarajah (ST)

Clerk Tracy Horsfield (TH)

3 members of the public

**Apologies**

Cllr Angela Macpherson (AMP)

Cllr Carl Blakeley (CB)

1. **Declarations of interest**

**PG** solar farm, no application as yet. I rent land from FCC so I will step back from discussion.

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 3rd December 2020**

Agreed and signed

1. **Apologies**

Cllr MacPherson

Cllr Carl Blakeley

1. **Cllr Macpherson update**

No update to date.

1. **Public comments**

**PG** Following a training course I attended recently, we have decided to introduce a 15minute session for the public.

Open to any questions. CD work roads on Gawcott road, why do they need so many security guards**. PG** this is part of the HS2 section I will cover later. KW I also saw the same people, I see the black masked security guards, my concern is why is HS2 working in there? I am liaising with Greg Smith and sending him photos. **PG** can you share those with me also please, KW yes. DR I have some photos too, I will email to you.

1. **HS2. East/West rail**

**PG** In our parish and surrounding area, we don’t have to deal with E/W rail as it comes under HS2 for our parish. Most of the issues are other parishes, I attend the meetings. My update tonight is around HS2, we have raised many concerns. The generators and lighting in the compound. They did say they would turn off everything for the two-week period over Christmas, they did not. This is being investigated, the lighting is being looked into to see if they can be lowered. I wrote with the other parishes to Greg Smith. As a consequence of this he arranged for myself to give evidence at the parliamentary select committee. It is very long; I will share the link on Facebook and our Website. It was interesting that everybody seemed to support what I was saying. Now it has been given royal assent and notice to proceed, they can do what they like. The £1million pound mitigation fund, we found that when we tried to access this, we were told it could only be for mitigation, we feel HS2 should be doing this themselves so we have asked if this could be changed for the benefit of the community. That money has also accrued interest, it has been agreed that we will split that between parishes and because it is not part of the £1million we can use it for other things ie, bollards in the parish. I just hope it makes a difference. **TW** Is there an opportunity for you to go back to see how its progressing. **PG** It is unusual for witnesses to be asked, so unsure, I hope we do. DR so the fund can only be used for mitigation? **PG** we are asking for this to be changed. **PG** because we are in lockdown, HS2 have asked there staff not to use local shops etc. I will raise it with HS2 that they are using our local shop**. TW** I fell fowl of them today, you cant assume they are HS2. DR the cement works. **PG** It was on my list but time ran out. Since the meeting we have had enquiries about the Cement works and the Nature Reserve. **LB** You have been quoted in the Construction magazine. **PG** yes I have been quoted on many publications.

1. **Dunsty Hill/ Planning applications**

**PG** we unanimously voted to object when this planning application came in at the last meeting. To date we have had two applications, both we have to respond by the end of January. One we need to make a decision tonight. **KG** the developers own the whole of Dunsty hill, the first one was to change one of the out building, to change to a brick structure. I emailed the developers, they explained it was part of a few applications they will be submitting. They said it will be for a Hotel. The second application change the classification of the building. With regards to changing a property from metal to brickworks we have nothing to object on. **PG** there is only certain criteria we can use; we need to object for the right reasons**. KG** I agree, I feel the second one is a legitimate objection. They have now said they are intending to put in the planning for housing under the rural exception scheme end of Jan early Feb**. PG** They cite a previous application in 2016 which was objected due to access. On their second application there are aiming to improve the access. CD Do they need the rural exception if it was to be apartments, **KG** no its not residential. CD Hinkley Island Hotel started as a café, it now has 200 rooms and a ballroom. **KG** because they are doing it this way, will our argument be as strong when they put in the main application so we should be careful. **PG** On the change of use we need to be careful how we object. **PG** any members of the public have any views. KW It is quite obvious for them putting planning in for changing from metal to brick. The bottom line is the developers paid a few million for the land, they buy cheap land to try and get planning on it. We live on a disused brown field site, so we should fight to keep as much of our green land as possible. We don’t need a hotel; we should object to everything. **KG** We are on a brown field site and the history of Calvert green was it was rejected 3 times; it was overridden by John Prescott. We can object but only with valid reasons. **AD** does it change the whole site to brown field or does it still stay greenfield. **KG** I will ask the planning office. CD What objections can we use. **PG** typically it is noise, disturbance, loss of daylight. So none of those, **PG** there are a couple more. We could use highway safety and wildlife. DR access they have learnt their lessons to get this pushed through. **PG** We have to make a decision by the 14th. **LB** would we benefit in having advise from a planning expert. **PG** we don’t make the decision as to whether this goes ahead or not. **KG** we need to make a decision, based on what we can object too we do not have grounds to object. **PG** we can have an extraordinary meeting to decide the 2nd one. **TH** can we not object because of all the works around us at present. **PG** no. **KG** its just changing it from metal to brick. **TH** can we ask for an extension, **PG** We could use the wildlife objection. **KG** will make enquiries to an extension due to an environmental study. All agreed, extraordinary meeting on 21st January 2021 at 1945.

1. **Prison Consultation**

**PG** This was put in at short notice but has now been extended. Other parishes have been quite active about their objections. Can I ask for a show of hands in favour, those that object, all objected. **PG** feel our objections should be the same objection as Edgcott, **ST** will take onboard and liaise with the other parishes. **TH** to submit when **ST** has put it together including objections under the infrastructure and other big construction going on in the area.

1. **Solar Park**

**PG** A company has contacted us, they have given an argument that it is a good location**. PG** It is a green project, can I hand over to you. **KG** Yes, what are other councillors’ thoughts. It is a green project; my question is what are the benefit to us as a community. **TW** How does it impact on the village, where is their access. **KG** current access off the A41. **AD** Is it going to be built on the slope? **AD** also they are very good for wildlife. **KG** I will go back and ask the questions. **PG** we could ask them to come to a PC meeting.

1. **Parish Precept**

**PG** This is revenue we get from Council tax, we put it up last year to cover increased hours for the PC Clerk and to accrue towards some additional bollards. I’m hoping we can access some funds from HS2 to help with these projects. This year we have been told by BCC that due to the pandemic more families are claiming council tax relief. Therefore, we won’t be getting any more and possibly less. **TH** BCC will be raising their portion, and we will lose due to less houses qualifying. **PG** can we vote, proposed by **AD** all in favour of not raising our precept. All in favour.

1. **Play around the Parishes**

This is something we do normally with CGCA, **KG** do we still have to pay if we are in lockdown **TH** to ask the question. **TH** to contact the CGCA to see if they will pay half. **PG** proposes to go ahead, seconded by **TW**.

1. **Neighbourhood plan**

**LB** I have had an update from planning today, they had 23 responses we should get a response by early February. Neil Homer has responded and said he is ready to go when we get the funding. Neil also guided me through the funding, I will prepare the form once we have the area designation. I have put together an advert for the steering group, I have asked **TH** to advertise on Facebook, website and notice board. **TH** confirmed this had been done. **LB** has already had four residents contact her. **PG** asked **ST** if we could cover the questionnaire at the next meeting.

1. **AOB**

**Community boards and funding requests**

No funding requests at present. **PG** we should put some consideration in about asking for funding for anything that meets the criteria.

**CGCA Handover**

No update as yet.

**Village updates**

**TH** email received today about some wellbeing packs for older residents. **TH** needs input for the Claydon’s Magazine. PG to send over about the Parliamentary meeting.

**TH** noticeboards**, PG** can you circulate in advance of the meeting on the 21st.

1. **Financials**

Were checked and agreed for sign off.

**Meeting ended 21.45**

**Next meeting 4/2/2021 @19.30**