



Wendy Sweet <knowstoneparishclerk@gmail.com>

The Good News and the Bad News

2 messages

jane faust <janelfaust@googlemail.com>

10 March 2019 at 18:00

To: Wendy Sweet <knowstoneparishclerk@gmail.com>, Reg Howe <howereg@gmail.com>, rackenfordparish@gmail.com, sarah child <cocksandchild@hotmail.co.uk>, ParishClerkRose Ash <tracey.ayre@btconnect.com>, Denis Cronk <cronkdr@gmail.com>, tim hatcher <timhatcher@talktalk.net>, Frances King <frances.king@gmail.com>, Mary Dalton <marydalton42@gmail.com>, richard <richarddelf@btinternet.com>, Murray Hammick <mphammick@yahoo.com>, David Morgans <davidroachill@hotmail.com>, "David Cocks (2)" <david.j.cocks@gmail.com>, diknowles@btinternet.com, diknowles@btopenworld.com, Phillip Bratby <phillip_bratby@hotmail.com>, Mike Hulme <devoncroftvolvo@btinternet.com>, Dudley Haestier <djhaestier@yahoo.co.uk>, Chris Haestier <chrishaestier@gmail.com>

Dear All,

Re last Thursday's Special Overview & Scrutiny Meeting for Batsworthy Cross:

You can (just about) listen to the council's recording of the meeting: <https://democracy.northdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=917&Ver=4>

The draft minutes are still to be published:for approval.

The Good News: It made the press and the delivery of the noise compliance process has been escalated within the council!

www.northdevongazette.co.uk/news/batsworthy-cross-wind-farm-noise-council-meeting-1-5925185

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2019/03/08/batsworthy-cross-wind-farm-not-being-monitored-for-noise-properly-say-nearby-residents/>

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee were clearly concerned about the duration of the compliance process. Subsequently a motion was forwarded and passed that reports on the compliance process be submitted on a monthly basis to the Executive Committee, until compliance is complete. The advantage of this is that:

- it puts the process in the public eye (previously it was hidden in the secret SMT, Senior Management Team Meetings)
- the Executive Committee comprises solely of councillors (whereas the SMT includes officers)
- the Executive Meetings are minuted and publicly available and the minutes are forwarded to the Full Council Meetings
- the public can attend the Executive Meetings and the Full Council Meetings (unlike the SMT meetings)
- the public can submit written questions ahead of the Executive and Full Council Meetings and answers are delivered at the meetings.

<https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/council/councillors-and-committees/taking-part-in-meetings/public-questions/>

The Bad News: Having gone to the trouble and expense of holding a Special O&S Meeting, there was no scrutiny whatsoever of the council's actions!

Because Ken Miles and Cllr John Patrinos would be attending the meeting, we knew the odds were stacked against us as they had done their best to prevent this matter going to O&S in the first place. (Ken Miles is the council's solicitor and monitoring officer; and Cllr John Patrinos, is an ex council officer of 30 years and now chairs the O&S Committee.) Further, officers had been invited to provide material before the meeting for the information pack but residents had not. Even so, the idea that, after our presentation and restricted response to the officer's response, we would be gagged, was inconceivable. However that's exactly what happened (see below).

In short the chair gave the officers carte blanche to tell the committee how well they'd performed in these difficult circumstances. How did this in any way hold the officers to account? How did this in any way improve the council's services?

If, upon reviewing the recording, our parish council's wish to write to the council about their lack of scrutiny, please feel free.

Cllr Patrinos, the O&S chair had set out the meeting format in the agenda:

- Two appointed spokespersons will be invited to address the Committee on behalf of the Batsworthy residents, each spokesperson will be given 10 minutes to address the Committee.

- Officers from North Devon Council will be invited to respond, each officer will also have 10 minutes to address the Committee.
 - The Batsworthy residents will then have an opportunity to respond, which will be limited to 5 minutes.
 - Councillor Ley will be invited to address the Committee for 10 minutes.
 - Councillors R. Cann and Yabsley to address the Committee, each for 10 minutes.
- (NOTE: Changes to this format will be at the discretion of the Chairman).

When questioned as to what would happen after the presentations, how the process of scrutiny would be fulfilled, and when the committee would have opportunity to scrutinise the evidence etc, Ken Miles had written:

- "If the Committee wish to seek further information in order to reach a conclusion, they can do so."
- "Members may have questions after the presentations which might be for residents or officers. Debate amongst Members will then follow."
- "As part of the debate, questions may be put by the Committee to officers or to residents. In that respect, challenge will happen at the meeting at the discretion of members of the Committee and Chair"

The actuality unfolded as follows:

David Morgans and I gave our presentation (attached)

Rather than respond to our presentation, Andy Cole and Matthew Brown then delivered a pre-prepared presentation (attached)

We responded to the council's presentation

During his opportunity to address the meeting, Cllr Ley said he was more interested in hearing the details from each side.

When we tried to interject, we were told "the meeting was closed to the public".

Jeremy Mann was allowed to interject to propose that Robert Davis spoke, which he did.

Later Cllr Ley asked the chair if they should ask the residents if they had anything to add. Cllr Patrinos responded that he 'didn't think it was appropriate for the public to ..I'm sorry' and shortly after that he closed the meeting.

We're going to have to try and get some questions before the Executive and Full Council meetings and find another route to breach the facade of democracy.

I'm sorry it wasn't a more productive outcome.

Thank you for all your assistance and support.

Best wishes

Jane

On Tue, Mar 5, 2019 at 12:42 AM jane faust <janelfaust@googlemail.com> wrote:

Dear All,

I sincerely apologise for this late notice:

The council's performance on the Batsworthy Cross wind turbine noise compliance assessments will be considered by a Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

on THURSDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2019

at 10.00 am

in the Barum Room at the Brynsworthy Environment Centre, Roundswell, Barnstaple, EX31 3NS

If you are able to attend, it would be great!

The meeting agenda and information pack can be found here:

<https://democracy.northdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=917&Ver=4>

Driving directions and a map can be found here:

<https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/do-it-online/contact-us/visit-us-for-a-public-meeting/>

Best wishes

Jane

01884 881559

On Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 6:52 PM jane faust <janelfaust@googlemail.com> wrote:

Dear All,

Mrs Holm and Mr Davis visited today to install check monitoring equipment alongside the operator's equipment and it seems NDC has at long last decided to require noise measurements at a third location east of the turbines.

If they cannot get the operator to take these measurements they will take them themselves. This means that:

- a) assessment of whether the turbines are compliant with their noise limits will be attempted at 3 locations
- b) assessment of whether the minimal and questionable noise reductions for properties east of the site have eliminated breaches of the noise limits, will also be attempted.

Mrs Holm says official confirmation of this position will be released soonish.

It also seems that the overview and scrutiny of NDC's performance on the noise compliance process will start in the first week of March.

Thank you to everyone for persisting in requiring NDC to fulfil their function.

Best wishes
Jane

2 attachments



Presentation on Council's Timeline final (with highlights).pdf

103K



Council's presentation from the Special Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 2019.03.07.ppt.pdf

390K

Wendy Sweet <knowstoneparishclerk@gmail.com>

12 March 2019 at 12:42

To: Tony Moore <tonymoore@knowstone.org.uk>, Jeremy Filmer-Bennett <jeremyfilmerbennett@knowstone.org.uk>, Timothy Browse <timothybrowse@knowstone.org.uk>, Reg Howe <reghowe@knowstone.org.uk>, John Stanbury <johnstanbury@knowstone.org.uk>

Wendy Sweet
(Knowstone Parish Clerk)

Tel : 01398 341692

Please send all email responses and communication of an official nature to:

parishclerk@knowstone.org.uk

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2 attachments



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