

Black Torrington Parish Council

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To All Black Torrington Parish Councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend an **Extraordinary Meeting of Black Torrington Parish Council**, which will be held on Monday, **6th February 2023**, at the **Village Hall**, Black Torrington, at **7.00 pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 members of the public are welcome to attend.

Members of the press and public requiring access to any of the documents mentioned in this agenda are asked to contact the Town Clerk (electronic links to documents are provided where available).

AGENDA

- 1. To receive and accept apologies** (Please make any apologies known to the Parish Clerk)
- 2. Declarations of Interest** - To receive declarations of personal interest and disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda.
- 3. Public Question Time** - At the discretion of the Chairman, to receive questions from members of the public relevant to the work of the Council. Matters raised may be added to future agenda. Answers may be given in writing.
- 4. Planning**

Torridge District Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Parish Council on the following planning applications:

Reference: 1/1300/2022/FULM

Proposal: Installation of 7.6 MW solar farm including transformers, sub-stations, antenna and ancillary equipment

Location: Land At East Rightadown Farm, Brandis Corner, Devon

Deadline for comment: 25th February

- 5. Coronation of King Charles III** – Are there any decisions needed before the next scheduled Meeting?
- 6. Close**

Black Torrington Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Black Torrington Parish Council held on Tuesday, 6th February 2023, in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs, M Moulton (MM)(Chair), P Mills(PM) D Haywood(DH), C Lock(CL), E Barnes(EB), W Frost(WF), E Heesom(EH)

In Attendance: Three members of the public (MoP) & Clerk

EXT/01 To receive and accept apologies –

Apologies were received from Councillor M Down, Ward Councillors P Hackett & P Watson

EXT/02 Declarations of Interest – None.

EXT/03 Public question time

The following observations were made by MoP's and Councillors regarding the Planning application in Item 6:

- The proposed solar farm is in Bradworthy & Cookbury Parish and not in Black Torrington Parish; it is however, right on the border and will overlook areas of Black Torrington Parish.
- It is a small site by the standards of these things.
- The majority of those present had no fundamental objection to solar farms in general and this one in particular. There is a perceived need for increased renewable energy production. This view was not unanimous however.
- Construction will generate a lot of heavy traffic in an area which is already an accident black spot.
- The land is of poor agricultural quality as it has not been actively maintained for some years but it has been better quality land in the recent past.
- The fencing is likely to have an impact on movements of wildlife.
- It is close to the Cookworthy Forest and Whitley Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest so it may have an environmental impact.
- There were concerns as to whether there were adequate facilities to recycle the panels when it is time to dispose of them.
- It may be that production by the solar farm load the Western Power's infrastructure to such an extent that it will limit the amount of power that domestic solar and wind systems are allowed to export to the grid.
- It was felt that this might be a pilot scheme which would be expanded in future should it get permission.
- There was concern that the manufacturing may not be to the highest ethical standards depending on the country of manufacture.

Some of these are not planning matters but none the less were considered important.

EXT/04 Planning

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Proposal: Installation of 7.6 MW solar farm including transformers, sub-stations, antenna and ancillary equipment

Location: Land At East Rightadown Farm, Brandis Corner, Devon

This was discussed in public time.

It was **resolved** that the parish council should ask Councillor Hackett to call in the application as it is the first such application in the area.

It was **resolved** to write a general comment to Torridge District Council expressing the concerns of the Parish Council regarding access from the highway during the construction phase and the environmental impact and sustainability of the site.

EXT/05 Coronation of King Charles III

The Royal Family has published its wishes for community involvement in the Coronation.

- Saturday 6th May is the Coronation in Westminster Abbey
- Sunday 7th May is 'Lighting up the Nation' and the 'Coronation Big Lunch'
- Monday 8th May is the 'Big Help Out' where people will be encouraged to volunteer to help their local communities.

The Clerk informed the meeting that road closure orders for street parties are free. The Clerk was asked to apply for a road closure order for the 7th May.

Coronation mugs might not be wanted.

The Coronation Big Lunch could be held on the playing fields or as a street party.

It was suggested that the proposed new defibrillator could be funded and named as part of the Coronation. It was suggested that a Coronation bench could be purchased similar to the QEII Platinum Jubilee Bench.

A band should be found for the Big Lunch, PM will ask if the Dartmoor Pixy Band is available.

It was agreed to budget £750 for Coronation events.

EXT/06 Close The meeting closed at 20:40 pm