

Hemyock Parish Council
Planning Meeting - Planning Application 12/00456/FULL
Highlands Farm, Hemyock - Erection of 1 50kw wind turbine
held in the Parish Hall at 8.00pm on 24th May 2012

Subject	Action
<p>1. Present Mrs H Stallard (Chairman), Mr I McCulloch (Vice-Chairman), Mr R Brooke, Mr R Calcraft, Mr S Clist, Mr L Povah, Mrs L Clist, Mr J Edwards, Mr R Hart, Mr S Major, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk), 6 members of the public.</p>	<p>All to note</p>
<p>2. Planning Application The application was discussed in great detail and a summary of the key points is as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height – the proposed turbine would be 2/3rds the height of the Wellington Monument. • The height of the proposed turbine is twice that of the surrounding trees • A community fund had been mentioned by the agent i.e. a percentage of the profit/income from the proposed turbine might be paid into a community fund. • If this turbine were to go ahead, would it set a precedent? • The claimed wind speed figures were disputed. • Due to the location of the proposed site, the turbine would have a greater visual impact. • AONB – the turbine would impact on the tranquillity and beauty of the area, affecting both residents and tourists. • The impact of the turbine’s noise might be greater (and therefore more intrusive) than claimed by the applicant. 	
<p>3. Mr Brooke thanked Mrs Stallard & Mr McCulloch for the way in which they managed the meeting on 17th May.</p>	
<p>4. Decision Mr Major proposed the council rejects the proposed application for the following reasons:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The unacceptable visual impact. 2. Strong concerns around the environmental impact of the noise, which could be considerable. Because of the height of the proposed turbine, the noise would not be buffered by hedges/trees. 3. The council concur with the comments made by the AONB <i>‘The renewable energy report concludes that this scale of wind turbine has the potential to detract from the characteristically strong landform, small-scale landscape patterns and high levels of tranquillity associated with the protected landscape, and would not generally be appropriate in the AONB. This particular site is at the edge of the plateau landscape character type bordering the steep scarp slope, and in this regard the report goes on to note that turbines would not be suitable for prominent hill-top, ridge or escarpment locations. Adverse effects on key considerations including long views across the open plateau, undeveloped skylines and local landmark feature of the Wellington Monument should be avoided.’</i> <p>The council would make the following additional comments:-</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant could consider a wind turbine more proportionate to its surroundings. • The visual impact should be assessed from several critical viewpoints, including:- from Culm Davy, Culmstock Beacon, Penn Cross Hill, Withy Lane and Rosemary Lane. <p>Mr Clist seconded the proposal. The proposal was passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>5. Other Business - QDJ Celebrations</p> <p>When the council held an Open Meeting on 10th September 2011 it was agreed that: the village would celebrate the QDJ; a steering group/sub-committee would be set up to organise QDJ events; and the council would support and guide the group. Mrs Clist proposed that the QDJ Committee be considered an official sub-committee of the council, Mr Calcraft seconded the proposal and it was passed. Mr Clist abstained from the vote.</p>	

Signed.....*Date*.....