



Minutes of the Wilbarston Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting Held on
Wednesday 24th July 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: N Richards (Chair), A Smith, L Dale, R Willatts, K Walkling, S Dalton, D James

Clerk: Becky Jones

Minute No.		ACTION
19/324	<p>Apologies received – County Councillor Allan Matthews, Borough Councillor David Howes, Clerk Becky Jones RESOLVED: The apologies were accepted</p>	
19/325	<p>Declarations of Interest by Councillors – No pecuniary interests (Cllrs Dalton, Smith and Walkling are allotment plot holders, this is noted for the records.)</p>	
19/326	<p>Representations from Members of the Public – None present</p>	
19/327	<p>To consider and resolve the proposal for a solar powered irrigation at the parish allotments at a cost of approximately £2,500 Written quote from Free Aqua £2,406.05, or £2,883.05 with 'grant-finding' fee. The former falls within the range for which additional quotes should be obtained if possible but are not essential. The latter would need to be considered against other quotes. It was felt the council could make its own enquiries about grant aid. The existing water system at the site had to be shut down during a dry spell in 2018 and problems are again being experienced this year. Existing plot holders can make do in the short term but it is desirable to find a sustainable solution. Funding even temporarily from council resources would be a significant drain on reserves without any form of local consultation and could create problems if any other unanticipated expense arose. The Allotments Association could contribute up to £400 if needed. Rockingham Castle Estate would have no objection to the installation of a borehole/pump but point out that the Environment Agency should be consulted. Based on likely volumes and discussions when the river supply system was installed we should be well below the threshold needing an abstraction licence but the EA will want to be notified. This will be raised with the provider. National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners, (NAALG) of which the PC is a member, publish extensive guidance on financing of allotments improvements. Any grant provider is likely to require the parish council to have considered more than one quote when considering support. The Energy Development Co-operative Ltd, (EDC) based in Suffolk, appear from their website to be an established provider of solar powered systems. A member of the Allotments Association prepared a report a couple of years ago costing up a suggested solar powered system for the site. It was agreed that the matter would be brought back to the September meeting and that in the meantime a quotation would be obtained from EDC to</p>	AS

Chairman's signature:

Date:

	compare both cost and technical suggestions against those of Free Aqua and the earlier report. Enquiries would also be made about possible funding commencing with NAALG.	NR
19/328	Date of the next Meeting: The meeting will be held on Thursday 12 th September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall	
	Meeting Closed: 8.00pm	

Chairman's signature:

Date: