

DRAFT Minutes of the
LUXULYAN PARISH MEETING

Luxulyan Memorial Institute
7.00 pm, Thursday, 11th May 2017

Chaired by: Parish Council Vice-Chairman, Michaela Linfoot

Present: 14 electors of the parish and Mr A Sauer of BayWa r.e. Solar Projects GmbH and Bodwen Solar Project Limited.

Apologies: G Haywood, chairman of the Parish Council.

- 1) Minutes from the previous Luxulyan Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May 2016 were **approved** (proposed Mrs M Linfoot, 2nd Mr R Smith).
- 2) **Presentation of Mr Alex Sauer.** Previous to this meeting Mr Sauer sent out information about the proposed security system to be used at the Bodwen Solar Farm along with an invitation to this meeting which was delivered to nearby residents. Mr Sauer introduced himself and gave an overview of the security system. The security system senses if there is movement to the solar panels and so raises an alarm if they are being tampered with. It is not triggered by movement of people or animals, only of movement of the panels. Sensitivity is set so that occasional bumping or wind does not trigger an alarm. Landscaping around the site will begin in the autumn. Upon hearing the grave concerns about the proposed siren (the volume of a police siren) Mr Sauer said that BayWa would consider using only the lights, though this would raise their costs.

Mr Sauer offered a tour of the site when it was up and running, for local residents and perhaps for children. There was some interest and the clerk took contact details from those that would like to be contacted in future about a tour.

Mr Sauer then answered questions from the meeting.

When asked why a CCTV system was not considered, Mr Sauer explained the technical problems with a CCTV surveillance system. A large number would be needed because of the undulating terrain, and the main complaint in other areas of Britain is the unsightliness of the very high towers where the cameras are placed.

It was requested that the security system be re-evaluated after 6 months or so of operation to see if the residents were adversely affected. Mr Sauer explained that the security system was a big investment and could not be changed once it was installed. He couldn't offer a reassessment after the system was installed.

One resident asked if there were statistics about crime/theft at Solar Parks in Cornwall or nationwide. Mr Sauer didn't know, but the clerk would ask the case officer if such data were available.

Original permission for an industrial fence around the site has been changed to a deer fence, at the request of parishioners, because of lessened visual impact. An industrial gate has replaced an old wooden gate the entrance of the field. Some at the meeting commented that it was not in keeping with the rural area. Mr Sauer thought the

landowner was happy with the gate, and it was probably up to the landowner whether he wanted to change it or not, but BayWa would consider changing the gate.

It was confirmed that BayWa has offered a Unilateral Undertaking which consists of a one-off payment to Luxulyan Parish Council for community benefit. It is the customary rate of £7,000 per kWp. Bodwen Solar Park is almost 5 kWp, so the fund will be almost £35K. There was some discussion about using some of the money for plantings of trees to block the sight of the panels from nearby residents, if appropriate.

There were no other questions and the chair thanked Mr Sauer for travelling from Germany to attend and Mr Sauer thanked all present for allowing him to answer their questions.

3) **Date of the Annual Parish Meeting.** Thursday 18th May 2017.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

*Mrs C Wilson, Clerk to Luxulyan Parish Council
28 June 2017*