

## HUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2012 AT HUNTON VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllr R Sawtell in the Chair, Cllrs L Leonard, R Porter and G Thomas and Mrs S Goodwin, Clerk

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr A Bishop, Chairman of the Hunton Village Hall Committee

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Walter and Borough Cllr B Mortimer.

**2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

There were no councillor declarations.

**3. VILLAGE HALL**

The Chairman invited Mr Bishop, Chairman of the Hunton Village Hall Committee, to provide a report on the potential use of solar panels on the roof of the village hall as a means of reducing the electricity bills. Mr Bishop reported that quotations had originally been obtained from three companies for the installation of a solar PV system. Two of those companies had recently provided re-quotes and an additional company, ProTec, had also been asked to provide a quotation. ProTec is a company used by Viridis Energie Consulting, which has previously provided some advice on solar PV installation. All three companies are REA (Renewable Energy Assurance) listed and MCS (Microgeneration Certification Scheme) approved installers. The quotations received are:

Solar Advanced Systems	£8,898.75 plus 20% VAT (total cost £10,678.50)
ProTec	£8,600.00 plus 5% VAT (total cost £9,030.00)
Simpson Electrical	£9,396.00 plus 5% VAT (total cost £9,865.80)

If a solar PV system can be installed by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 a 43.3p Feed-In Tariff can be obtained, but Members agreed that, if it was not possible to install the system by this date, the installation would still be beneficial on a lower tariff. Of the three quotations, ProTec is the cheapest and also provides a slightly better return in terms of expected electricity generated. Members unanimously **Agreed** that ProTec should be asked to carry out the installation of a 4kW solar PV system and **Agreed** that the Parish Council would bear the full cost of the installation.

ProTec require a payment of £5,418 in advance of the installation, with the remaining £3,612 payable upon completion of the work. After some discussion Members unanimously **Agreed** that a cheque for £5,418 be written. This is on the understanding that, under section 5.5 of the contract, should ProTec fall into administration, receivership or bankruptcy, the legal title of the equipment purchased remains with the Parish Council. The Clerk wrote a cheque for £5,418, signed by Cllrs R Sawtell and G Thomas.

The benefit from the installation in terms of a reduction in the electricity bills will pass to the Village Hall Committee as it pays the bills. Members **Agreed** that the Parish Council should obtain a payment from the Village Hall Committee each year, being the reduction in the electricity bill according to the annual accounts, until such time as the £9,030 cost of the installation borne by the Parish Council has been paid off. Members asked Mr Bishop to contact E.ON, which supplies electricity to the village hall, to inform them of the installation. Mr Bishop was also asked to contact ProTec to ask whether it would be worth having a separate meter installed for the electricity generated by the system which is exported to the national grid. The Clerk was asked to check whether the VAT could be reclaimed from HM Revenue & Customs.

**There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 4:50pm.**