



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MICHAELSTOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT TREGAWN FARM at 8 PM on THURSDAY July 7th 2025** 1 of 2

Present at meeting: Cllr. Jem Marshall [chair], Cllr. French Blake, Cllr. Robin East, Cllr. Dave Garrigan and S. Mitchell the clerk.

	<i>Discussion / decision</i>
<b>1. Public Session</b>	There were two members of the public present. They were asking permission to improve the 'bus stop' and investigate the publicising of local walks in Michaelstow. The council were grateful for their interest and gave permission without needing to see plans.
<b>2. Declaration</b>	Parish council members made no declaration of interest
<b>3. Apologies</b>	There were apologies from Cllrs. Whitby and Jago
<b>4. Minutes</b>	The minutes of the meeting June 2025 were deemed correct. [ <a href="#">minutes page</a> ].
<b>5. Ward</b>	<b>Report from Cllr. Dave Garrigan:</b> The Cllr. reported that car parks at Trebarwith and Tintagel had been retained under local control but the Camelford Bypass, an issue since the 1950's, had finally been cancelled. SusTrans were holding public-meetings in St. Breward and Camelford about safely extending the Camel Trail cycle lane from Wenford into Camelford. European funding once critical to the Prosperity Fund, funding development in Cornwall, had dwindled to nothing and may become centred on Devon and Cornwall rather than just Cornwall.
<b>6. Matters arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>collect Bank mandate forms for MP Council signatories:</i> the clerk needed signatures from Cllrs. Whitby and Jago. The mandate update would need to be continued with the new clerk.</li> <li>• <i>Michaelstow Community Fund.</i> Cllr. Whitby wasn't present due to work but the parish council bank statement showed no deposit as yet</li> <li>• <i>replacement of clerk / Check new contract &amp; schedule:</i> there had been one invitation (declined) and one application. The chair asked the clerk to invite the applicant to interview the following week</li> <li>• <i>sub-committee to turbine planning meeting updates.</i> Notes from Cllr. French Blake added to minutes as addendum</li> </ul>
<b>7. Planning</b>	<b>8a. Planning and applications received after publication of agenda.</b> None
<b>8. Financial matters:</b>	<b>7. Financial matters</b> <b>a. Bank Balance.</b> Statement of 27 <sup>th</sup> May £3954.10 <b>b. Invoices:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clerks monthly salary paid in arrears by standing order £ 448.32</li> </ul> <b>c.</b> Publishing of Internal Audit ends 14 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>9. LMP &amp; maintenance:</b>	The public land of Michaelstow is in good order.
<b>10. Community Network</b>	Camel Valley Community Area Partnership meeting. There is a meeting scheduled for July 7 <sup>th</sup> which the chair hoped to attend
<b>11. Parish Matters</b>	none
<b>12. Next Meeting:</b>	The next meeting will be on August 7th, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th, December 4th.



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14. Close	The chair closed the meeting at 21.10
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**Addendum: Report to MPC from Cllr. ffrench Blake**

On 14 April the Council Planning Committee approved by six votes to three the Octopus Energy Application to replace the 400kw turbine at Woodlands Farm with a much larger 900kw EWT DW54 Turbine.

That decision was based on the Planning Officer's Report (OR), which had failed to address flaws in both logic and fact that we had identified and refuted in our 16-page objection submitted on 10/12/2024. The OR repeated, often word for word, the invalid argument and accompanying misleading statements and falsehoods from the Octopus application. In their three-minute presentations allowed in committee, Parish Cllr Whitby and Dr Gilmour, reiterated our objections.

But as we had suspected and been warned, that committee was predisposed to approve any proposal that supported their net zero policy. 14 April was the last meeting of those planning committee members predisposed to approve. A new Council, elected on 1May, inherited the decision they did not make and with which perhaps the majority of new councillors will not agree or wish to implement.

We considered that the decision to approve could be flawed legally in several respects. This led us to believe that we might be successful in making a claim for Judicial Review, on grounds that the Approval Decision was made in error of law. That option called for legal opinion, the cost of which we agreed to meet. Our barrister's Pre-Action Protocol letter to the council gave his opinion on points of law where the council had been negligent in procedure leading to their decision. The reply from Council's lawyer rejected that opinion. He indicated, despite any faults, that the National Planning Policy Framework for Renewable Energy, updated in 2024, is considered to take precedence over all legislation on Renewable Energy matters.

Our decision not to proceed to JR was based on two factors: legal uncertainty and costs. Despite the strength of logic, reality, common sense and truth in our case, the odds were that it could fail on that one legal issue. JR is likely to cost at least £30,000; a sum we considered too great to gamble with funds raised largely from crowdfunding and donations.

This may not be the end of the story. Injustice has been committed against householders who live far too close to this site with an EWTDW54 turbine on it. While Council Planners and Octopus claim that the visual and sensory impacts of this commercial-sized machine will be neutral; logic, experience, reality and common sense suggest otherwise. Compensation is not out of the question.

We have taken our objections as far as we can through conventional protocol and procedure. We are now considering how best to harness our work and experience over the past year to best effect. We aim to raise awareness of the injustice, to protect people and our valuable landscape from further depredations, and to advocate for a legal minimum setback distance between turbines and domestic properties in England.