

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FELTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE PAVILION ON TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2013

**Present:**

Bob Clarke (in the Chair)  
Daphne Grint

Stuart Clancy  
Paula Carter

**Also in attendance:**

Sonya Garland (Clerk)

Joanne Keeler (District Councillor)

**Members of the Public x1**

**1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from John Self, Graham Buckley, Les Wright, Tony Adams and John Starling.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

**3. To Ratify the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 December 2012**

The Chairman signed off the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meetings on 4 December 2012**

4.1 Item 4. The Clerk reported that she had checked with the insurance company and the parish council was covered for any tree damage / accidents.

4.2 Item 4. Councillors noted that the dog ban at the Pavilion had been overturned permanently.

4.3 Item 9.3. Councillors discussed the weight limit on Taverham Road. The county council had refused to extend the weight limit to both directions despite having the support of the local police and the County Councillor, as the junction improvements required on the alternate route would be too expensive. This was still considered to be the most sensible solution as it would improve village life and would provide a more suitable route for HGV drivers. An offer had been received for the Chairman to meet with the police and Cllr Adams regarding this. The clerk would ask the County Council to also attend, and for the meeting to be held on site, in order to advance the matter.

**5. Police Report**

5.1 The police report for December 2012 was considered. During this period 17 calls were made to the control room, 3 of which were recorded (1x harassment, 2x criminal damage to a vehicle).

5.2 The police report for January 2013 was considered. During this period 12 calls were made to the control room, none of which were recorded.

**6. Reports from County & District Councillors**

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Cllr Keeler advised that a new consultation period for the Northern Distributor Route had commenced and an exhibition regarding it was doing a tour of Norfolk. There were no meetings being held in Felthorpe – the closest would be held in Horsford on 14 February.

**7 Break for the Public to Speak**

A member of the public attended in order to add his name to the oil consortium, if it went forward.

**8 Oil Consortium**

As requested at the December meeting, the clerk circulated an example of bulk negotiated oil prices from the Norfolk Rural Community Council (NRCC), which were:  
October 2012 – 58.05 pence per litre  
November 2012 – 57.50ppl  
December 2012 – 60.24ppl

Councillors were reminded that the scheme would cost £15 per year per consortium. No minimum number of members was needed, the bulk price was negotiated on the first working day of the month and once registered members could place their order by telephone whenever it suited them.

Cllr Clancy proposed that the parish council start a consortium with NRCC (administered by the clerk) and pay the £15 annual membership fee as this scheme would benefit the whole village. This was seconded by Cllr Carter.

It was AGREED that the clerk obtain the correct paperwork from NRCC and that a cheque be raised for the next meeting.

**9 Correspondence**

9.1 A letter had been received from the NCC Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation regarding a £100k grant which parish councils could apply to for small highway improvements. The clerk would write and ask whether the scheme would be suitable to purchase weight limit signs for Taverham Road and to widen the junction on the alternative route (as per item 4.9 above).

9.2 Several letters requesting donations had been received. It was agreed to consider all of these together at the June meeting.

**10 Planning**

The following applications from Future Biogas were considered:

20121620 / 20121395 – to amend Hours of Operation  
20121394 – to amend number of Vehicle Movements  
20130009 – to amend Gas Engine Emissions

The comments were sent to Broadland District Council on 7 February 2013 and are

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attached to the minutes at appendix A.

**12 Finance**

The following payment was agreed:

Clerks salary and expenses (January) - £147.21

A quote for grass cutting for 2013 had been received from Mr Peachment. The price had increased by £5 per cut to £170 which would include mole control. Councillors AGREED to hire Mr Peachment at this price for the following year. He also requested to cut and widen a footpath which was becoming overgrown, during March, at the rate of £170.00. This was AGREED.

**13 Village Matters**

- 13.1 The clerk was asked to write to NCC regarding the gritting during the recent snowfall. Cllr Grint had noted that grit was only being deposited around junctions and not on the main roads. The clerk would also report potholes – 1x Taverham Road, near the Street, and 2x Mill Lane on the staggered junction.
- 13.2 Church Lane was reported as being covered in mud again. The clerk would write to Mr Arnold regarding this and add it to the next agenda. If no action was taken then a letter would be sent to the Police and Highways.
- 13.3 Hall Lane was impassable due to flooding from the lake. The Clerk would write to Felthorpe Hall regarding this.
- 13.4 It was noted that the village had no salt bins, although Councillors could recall ordering them. Cllr Clarke would check to see whether he could find them and advise the clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5 March 2013, 8pm.

*Felthorpe Parish Council*  
*Chairman: John Self*

Appendix A

6 February 2013

FAO Mr. P. Courtier  
Head of Planning  
Broadland District Council  
**BY EMAIL**

Dear Mr. Courtier

**Re applications:**

**20121620 – to amend Hours of Operation**

**20121395 – to amend number of Vehicle Movements**

**20130009 – to amend Gas Engine Emissions**

Thank you for sending the above applications to Felthorpe Parish Council for comment. The Parish Council are fully aware that changes to the existing conditions are required in order to solve the long-term problems that Felthorpe has experienced due to the sites being unable to operate within their current conditions, and are broadly supportive of some of the changes suggested. We also appreciate the successful farming operation which Mr Arnold is running and the provision of jobs within the area that this has created and would have no wish to impact on this.

However, as you know a range of non-compliance issues have routinely been witnessed and enforcement notices have been served; as such we have the following comments to make on the applications:-

1. **Gas Engine Emissions – increase from 150 to 1400 parts per million carbon monoxide.**

As the new suggested limit is - just - within EU guidelines we accept this variation. However we would like the stringent condition laid down that these emissions are routinely, scientifically monitored by either an external organisation or by Broadland District Council officers (not by Future Biogas / O. Arnold Renewables). We would ask for specific plans from you as to how Broadland will monitor and manage this.

2. The applications could be considered confusing as the operator is O. Arnold Renewables yet the applications are from Future Biogas; as such we would like a guarantee that O. Arnold Renewables will be tied to the same terms and conditions as Future Biogas and assurances that the operator has been made aware of all terms and conditions imposed on the sites. O. Arnold Renewables should be copied in to any correspondence sent by the District Council to Future Biogas to ensure that they are fully updated on any issues / changes / notices etc; this will ensure that O. Arnold Renewables remain compliant with any conditions at all times as this has not always been the case.

3. Assurances need to be given that both sites (Reepham Road and Spring Farm) will operate to the same terms and conditions; it would be impossible to monitor compliance if both sites operated to different conditions.
4. **Vehicle Movements – increased from 633 movements to 1600 per year.**  
Although log books showing vehicle movements have now been provided by Future Biogas these are incomplete as they only give three months of movements, none of which fell over the busy harvest period when the movements are always extremely increased. Even so, the movements supplied for this three month period for one site alone show almost 1200 movements – three quarters of the maximum Future Biogas have asked for over the entire year and not including its busiest period. In order for you to fairly access this application could you please request that a full, twelve months figures showing vehicle movements for both sites be provided. This should be easily obtainable as it was an original condition of planning that these figures be logged daily. Could these then be shared with us in order for further comments to be made to you by the Parish Council and then considered at your Planning Committee.
5. **Hours of operation – increase from Monday to Friday 0730 - 1730, Saturdays 0900 - 1300.**  
In the past there has been very little attempt by O. Arnold Renewables / Future Biogas to comply with the hours of operation laid down in the original planning application, which has led to great upset within the village. However, as noted earlier, we accept that this is a successful business which has helped with local economy growth. We also believe the sites should be able to operate seven days a week in order to remain competitive and efficient. Therefore we accept the suggested variance on the original hours of:

*Monday to Friday – 0730 – 1900*

*Weekends and Bank Holidays – 0900 – 1800.*

This allows for much extended operating hours, whilst ensuring villagers some relief at weekends. Any longer hours would be unacceptable for parishioners.

6. **Hours of Operation – 35 day a year extension to hours.**  
We consider that it would be unreasonable and unnecessary to give permission for the working hours at point 5 to be extended for an additional 35 days during the year, as has been requested. The hours suggested above offer a vast improvement on the current hours and should be adequate for any business to operate within. It would be unreasonable in terms of both residents and other persons within the area for these hours to be extended to 2130 hours for 35 days per year. It would also be impossible to monitor whether the company had gone over this 35 day exception. If this exception *is* granted we would like to be furnished with details on how you plan to monitor that the 35 days per year is not breached.

# *Felthorpe Parish Council*

Appendix A

*Chairman: John Self*

7. As noted above, we support the additional hours and additional emissions (only to the levels stated above at points 1 and 5) **as long as** all of our queries and questions are answered satisfactorily. We are unable to comment fully on the vehicle movements until we have the log of the full year. However, one further condition we would like to be added by the Planning Department / Planning Committee is for a stipulation to be made that vehicles from both plants (Spring Farm and Reepham Road) and owned / ran by both companies (Future Biogas and O. Arnold Renewables) must not move through Felthorpe in either direction. The road through Felthorpe is frankly unsuitable for large loads and for farm machinery, being both extremely narrow and very bendy, and every time the route is used causes a danger to residents, pedestrians, and other drivers. Both sites have adequate, separate access points to allow them to use roads that will not take them through the centre of our village.

I would reiterate our support for the business and employment within the area, and hope that if Broadland District Council / Future Biogas and O. Arnold Renewables can ensure that the above conditions are met this will go some way to installing our confidence back in the operators of these plants, which has been severely tested over the past few years.

In line with a separate request you have received from District Councillor Stuart Clancy, we would also call for the date of the Planning Committee to be deferred whilst officers seek clarification on the above points. This will ensure that the Committee Members are fully informed on all points and will mean that the local community can have full confidence in the decision made. Your prompt confirmation of this would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

*Sonya Garland*

**Sonya Garland**

Parish Clerk - Felthorpe