

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FELTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PAVILION ON TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2013

Present:

John Self (in the Chair)
Daphne Grint
Stuart Clancy

Graham Buckley
Bob Clarke
Les Wright

Also in attendance:

Tony Adams (County Councillor – items 1-6)
Sonya Garland (Clerk)

John Starling (District Councillor)
Joanne Keeler (District Councillor)

Members of the Public

Six in attendance.

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Paula Carter.

2 Declarations of Interest

In respect of item 8.3, Cllr Grint who carries out work for the churchyard.

3 To Ratify the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 May 2013

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

4 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meetings on 7 May 2013

4.1 8.6 It was noted Able should be Spelling of Abel. The clerk confirmed she had advised Broadland Council of this.

4.2 11.1. The resident at 4 Taverham Road was happy with the parish council cutting the hedge back. Cllr Clarke agreed to obtain a quote for this.

5 Police Report

5.1 PCSO Rolph introduced himself – he had joined the Aylsham team in February after 6 years working nearby in Hellesdon.

The police report for April 2013 was considered. During this period 16 calls were made to the control room, 3 of which were recorded (1x common assault and battery, 1x criminal damage to a vehicle and 1x criminal damage dwelling).

PCSO Rolph circulated a street level crime map which was available online – parishioners could enter a postcode and bring up the local police officer team and additional information such as where crimes have been carried out in the local area.

Regarding the razor wire at School Garage which had been reported at the last meeting; PCSO Rolph reported that a joint visit between the county council and fire officer had been carried out, which he was awaiting the report of. He had visited the path and noted that the wire was behind the perimeter barbed wire fence and not encroaching on the footpath. He recommended pursuing through Highways; the clerk

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reported she had already reported this to Highways, who would send an inspector to access when in the area.

6 Reports from County & District Councillors

The County Councillor advised that he would again try to arrange a meeting between the police, Highways and the parish council regarding getting a one-way system / weight restriction through Felthorpe. He also agreed to speak with Highways regarding their views on whether Taverham Road (at Yew Tree bend) was suitable for wide vehicles.

Districts Councillors– no update given.

7 Break for the Public to Speak

No issues raised.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 St Margaret's Churchyard – Mr Rowlands attended the meeting and confirmed to councillors that, when a donations request was received from the pavilion committee for the building of a new room at the pavilion, funding would be made available from the proceeds of the sale of the former churchrooms. A clear indication of the size of the donation could not be given but it would be generous. He noted some concern regarding the overall expense of the new room.

A proposal was made and seconded to provide a maintenance grant to the church of £420 for the forthcoming year. This was AGREED.

- 8.2 Building of a new Committee room – A Recreation Ground committee representative attended and advised that planning permission had been granted on agreed plans in March 2012. Since then there had been additional outgoings to deal with which had been considered more of a priority than an extension. Three quotes had been received in October 2012 -£158,000 + VAT; £209, 608 + VAT, £190249 + VAT. Further funding possibilities had not been looked into as yet. A large hall had been planned to accommodate different sized groups, but consideration could be given to a smaller room which would be more affordable.

It was agreed that Church, recreation ground committee, parish council and hirers should hold a discussion around what requirements there were for a new hall and what funding would be available, then draw up a business plan. This would commence once there was stability on the recreation ground committee. All organisations would support one another to take forward. Finally councillors noted how much they valued the village hall committee.

- 8.3 School Garage – this had been covered by the police report

- 8.4 Ace of Spades – two more requests had been received from the recreation ground committee for tree works. It was AGREED to pay the VAT amounts.

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- 8.5 Donation Requests received in the last year were considered and the following donations were AGREED:
Norfolk Accident Rescue Service - £200
Norfolk Age UK - £200
- 8.6 Police and Crime Commissioner – A summary of Police and Crime plan had been received; this was noted.
- 8.6 Highway Ranger Visit – the following would be reported:
Taverham road - potholes near Reepham Road end.
Verges to be cut – Reepham Road / Taverham Road junction.
The pathway along side of the Rectory was overgrown
Bilney Lane / The Street corner – grass cutting required.

9 Planning

The following planning applications were considered:

- 9.1 Future Biogas – Appeal Notice from the Planning Inspectorate
A letter agreed by Councillors- copy at appendix A.
- 9.2 Application - 20130538– 6 Holt Road, Alterations and Extensions to existing dwelling.
NO OBJECTION
- 9.3 Thomsons Saw Mill – update.
Representatives from the site were in attendance to respond to questions which the council had put to the planning officer:-
Q - Will the biomass fuel be wholly generated onsite by existing sawmill waste products / manufacture of saleable timber products, or will wood products be brought in? A – It would all be generated from residue produced on site, no material would be brought in.
Q - How the company turnover increase so significantly without increasing vehicular movements? A – There would be an increase of traffic into the plant because it would be producing more timber. A revised traffic survey was available on the sawmill website showing 300 total movements a week (in and out of the site)– 220 cars / 20 van / 50 HGV's. They would encourage lorries not to route through Felthorpe.
Q - How many more staff do they anticipate will be required to run the site when at full use? A – new jobs would be created.
Q - Why are 2x new dwellings required in addition to the existing dwellings on site? A – The Biomass would run for 24 hours a day which would require onsite engineers and more work for managers. There would be one month downtime a year when maintenance would be carried out.
Q - Have emergency plans been put in place, with regard to the Bacton gas pipe running underneath the site? A – The National Grid had assessed the plans. The pipe was 11m outside of the site.

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Councillors agreed they would SUPPORT the application but would ask the planning committee to implement a S106 routing agreement to reduce number of HGV movements through Felthorpe.

10 Annual Audit

It was noted the audit had been cleared by an external auditor. The audit was agreed and duly signed.

11 Parish Council Website

Councillors advised Mr Rowland and the Recreation Committee that the website could be used by all, if they had anything they wished to add to it.

The Clerk would email Mr Rowlands some information on it to add to his village newsletter.

11 Finance

The following payments were agreed:

- Clerks salary and expenses (April)- £151.73
- Grass Cutting £340
- Internal Auditor fee - £25
- Melba products (dog bin) - £130.32
- Grass cutting payment from NCC received - £2175.66
- Section 106 money received £6898.22 (for cricket club equipment)
- Recycling credit £204.71 received
- The clerk advised that payments for equipment at the cricket club and finger guards for the recreation ground committee had been paid during the month – these had been agreed at previous meetings.

12 Village Matters

11.1 Cllr Clarke noted that Mr Peachment had damaged his strimmer on bricks thrown over from School Fields; the Clerk agreed to report this to the housing association.

11.2 A tipper had filled ditches with rubble and rubbish on Hall Lane; the clerk would report this for clearing.

Footpath – Mr Peachment had started cutting the footpath between The Street and Chapel Lane each month. The clerk would ask Highways whether they would refund this.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 2 July 2013, 8pm.

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Appendix A

4 June 2013

The Planning Inspectorate
3/26 Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir / Madam

Site: Future Biogas, Spring Farm, Fir Covert Road, Taverham, Norwich, NR10 4DT.

Variation of conditions to amend hours of operation and number of vehicles on site.

Appeal Reference: APP/K2610/A/13/2195383 / APP/K2610/A/13/2195382 / APP/K2610/A/13/2195384

I write on behalf of the Parish Council and residents of Felthorpe, Norwich in support of Broadland District Council who recently refused three planning applications by the above applicant.

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, at no time whatsoever has Future Biogas operated within their existing planning conditions - indeed they have shown a blatant disregard for them - and so we have very severe doubts that they would strive to operate within any conditions laid down. 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 original applications, which we hope you will take into account when handling the appeal:-

1. 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, if the appeal is granted, O. Arnold

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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.

2. If the appeal is granted, 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.
3. **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. Despite requests, we still have not been supplied with a full twelve months figures showing vehicle movements for both sites.

4. **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.

5. **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 4 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

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would also be impossible to monitor whether the company had gone over this 35 day exception.

6. As noted above, we support the additional hours. 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 yourselves with 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Sonya Garland
Parish Clerk - Felthorpe

