

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2013 at 8:10pm in The Mill Centre

ACTION

Present

Vice Chairman David Hook, Debbie Ashford, Richard Delf, David Pointer, Mike Turner, Peter Workman and the Clerk Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

Mr Patrick Stone, Mrs Margaret MacPherson, Mr Michael MacPherson, Mrs Julia Mealing, Mrs Roberta Bennett, Mrs Melanie Hook Mrs Karen Blythe.

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Windridge, Geoffrey Moulton and Liz Allen.

County Councillor Alison Thomas had informed the clerk that the parish highway scheme runs until the end of April. The Highway department will fund 75% of a small local highway scheme with the parish council meeting the remaining 25%. She said that if we had any small local schemes that would benefit from this funding she would be delighted to support us.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs Ashford declared an interest in the Wind Turbine matter.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 15th January 2013 were approved and signed.

Public Participation

This was invited by the chairman under the specific headings on the agenda.

Matters arising from the Parish Meeting

Parish Poll

The clerk to inform SNC of the resolution of the parish meeting.

IN

Wind Turbines

General Update

It was noted that TCI Renewables Limited had submitted a planning application in respect of Land Surrounding Busseys Loke North Of Bungay Road, Hempnall And Including Land Adjacent To The B1527 And At The Junction Of The B1527 And B1332, Woodton, Norfolk, proposing erection of 4 wind turbines with a maximum height of 126.5m and associated development for a period of 25 years, including control building, electricity transformers, underground cabling, access tracks, crane hard standing, new vehicular access, culvert and off-site highway works.

Extension of response time

The parish council had requested an extension to the 21 day consultation time period with respect to this application. Mrs Mellors, the case officer at SNC, explained that the Council is proposing to extend the statutory consultation period from 21 to 28 days and that the Council will accept any comments up until a decision is made. The Council is unlikely to be reporting the application to any Development Management Committee within the 10 weeks required for the Poll and thus Hempnall parish council will be able to submit any results before any decision by the Council is made. She advised that the parish council submit comments as a position statement within the 28 days, including any comments on the quality of the submitted information. The Council would want to be in a position to ask for any additional information/clarification from the applicant as soon as possible.

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Response from John Hayes MP

The clerk had received a response from Mr Hayes which unfortunately did not help to clarify the situation.

Public display

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the planning application be put on public display by the parish council in advance of the parish poll to facilitate parishioner's access prior to the vote. The Mill Centre to be booked for the 12th March at 7.30pm for this purpose. Mr Pointer and Mrs Ashford volunteered to represent the parish council at the viewing. The Clerk to provide Mr pointer with the hard copy.

DP/DA/
IN

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that a special newsletter should be delivered to every household in Hempnall as soon as possible informing them of the parish poll and the public exhibition of the plans. The clerk to draft and arrange the delivery rota between councillors.

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In order to comply with SNC's request that the parish council submits comments within the 28 days, regarding the quality of the submitted information.

Councillors discussed Ecotext's initial assessment to the parish council of ecological chapters in the TCI E.S. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Dr T Reed of Ecotext Ltd be appointed to review and provide a written report suitable for submission to SNC on the ecology and ornithological chapters of the Environmental Statement at an estimated cost of £2,000 plus VAT.

IN

Councillors discussed 2B Landscape Consultancy's initial assessment to the parish council of the photomontages in the TCI application. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that 2B Landscape Consultancy be appointed to review and provide a written report suitable for submission to SNC on the quality of the photo montages at estimated cost of £500 to £1,000 plus VAT.

IN

Mr Hook reported comments back from Mr Vines re the bats element of the application. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Chris Vine be appointed to review and provide a written report suitable for submission to SNC on the bat chapter(s) of the Environmental Statement provided that the cost was lower than £1,000 plus VAT and it is conditional upon the report being received in time consideration by the parish council before for submission to SNC. The deadline was set for 25 February.

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Planning Applications

New applications since last meeting:

TCI Renewables Limited, Land Surrounding Busseys Loke North Of Bungay Road, Hempnall And Including Land Adjacent To The B1527 And At The Junction Of The B1527 And B1332, Woodton, Norfolk - Erection of 4 wind turbines with a maximum height of 126.5m and associated development for a period of 25 years, including control building, electricity transformers, underground cabling, access tracks, crane hard standing, new vehicular access, culvert and off-site highway works

The parish council's response to the TCI application should cover the following areas, which Mr Hook explained at the meeting:

- 1) Landscape
- 2) Noise
- 3.) Tranquillity
- 4.) SSSI / Ecology / Bats
- 5.) Archaeology
- 6) Shadow Flicker

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- 7) Cumulative Effect
8) Long term plans
9) Socio – economics
10) Carbon dioxide reductions
11) Lighting
12) Frustration at having to fight a similar application to that already defeated at Inquiry.

ACTION

These 12 points would form the basis of a position statement which was agreed by councillors. IN

The parish council would prepare and submit a detailed case to SNC after the parish poll and receipt of the reports from the above experts. IN

After careful consideration of the application, Mr Workman proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the parish council's position statement be sent to SNC and that the application 2013/0105 be refused subject to due consideration being given to the majority view expressed in the forthcoming parish poll and to the commissioned expert reports. IN

Other decisions were made relevant to the TCI application

Mr Pointer proposed, Mr Turner seconded that the clerk write to surrounding parish councils asking them to support the Hempnall position re. the TCI application. Those councils are: Morningthorpe with Fritton, Shotesham, Saxlingham, Tasburgh, Topcroft, Woodton and Brooke IN

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that TCI Renewables Ltd and SHOWT be invited to attend the parish meeting on the 19th March to each give a ½ hour presentation/question session. IN

There was further discussion on the TCI application:

Mrs Karen Blythe asked for the parishioners to be informed of the findings of the experts. Mr Hook said that these should be made available at the display on the 12th March. IN

Mrs Hook pointed out that the approach of TCI throughout the report is to point out all the harmful effects on Hempnall, its residents and the surrounding area but then conclude that they are not significant compared to the benefit of the turbines.

Mr Parker asked if postal votes are allowed in the parish poll. Mr Hook explained that they are not.

Other Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

Mr & Mrs Buck Grange Farm Lundy Green, Hempnall Proposed Replacement of 6 windows – Recommended approval IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

Hempnall Football Club, Talbot Park, Alburgh Rd, Hempnall - Proposed addition of external cladding & roof to make temporary clubhouse a permanent

Hempnall Primary School, The Street, Hempnall - Proposed Construction of a new pedestrian footpath within the school site.

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Matters arising from previous parish council meetings – for discussion

ACTION

Hempnall Post Office

The clerk had circulated the responses from McColls and Post Office Ltd.

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk write to the Post Office to determine if all facilities will be maintained. It was noted that the list of services was disclosed on the letter from the post office already and that the information was available on leaflets in McColls, which parishioners could use to let the Post Office know their views. Miss Emery expressed concern over privacy. The clerk to respond to the Post Office summarising the concerns.

IN

Correspondence

Letter from Mr Ellis regarding the Queen's Head.

The letter and a proposed response were circulated to councillors prior to the meeting to review. It was noted that there was and never had been any personal malice towards Mr Ellis and that parish council policy had been followed. It should also be noted that it is parish council policy to support infill development in the village.

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Ashford seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the draft response be sent.

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Hempnall School

Mrs Bobby Bennett read though and handed out a report about the dangers of road crossing opposite the school. Several solutions were considered. After her liaison with Highways etc. the recommended solution would cost in total up to £31,000. Reference was made to the current grants available from NCC as described above by County Councillor Alison Thomas but even with this circa £7,750 would need to be found locally. Mrs Bennett indicated that some funds are already available.

Mr Hook indicated that the funds of the parish council were currently mainly reserved for Wind Turbine issues. Mr Pointer suggested approaching SNC. Mr Parker suggested approaching the Town Estate Educational Foundation. It was noted that the school already received substantial benefit from this charity.

Mr Pointer proposed, Mrs Ashford seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the parish council supported the project in principle. Mrs Bennett to progress the project with her working party.

Future of the Playing Field Users Association

Mr Workman explained why the PUA sub-committee considered that their role was no longer needed. In the past there were many sports organisations to coordinate but now there was only the football and tennis clubs, which could easily deal directly with the village hall.

Mr Turner proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the sub-committee be disbanded following final transfer of funds to the main parish council account and the PUA secretary informing relevant parties of the changes. The clerk to inform the PUA secretary.

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The clerk to ensure that there is a standing entry on the parish council meeting agenda to re the Playing Field.

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Grass Cutting Contract

The clerk had received several responses to the tender and reported the results to the meeting. After careful consideration, Mr Workman proposed, Mrs Ashford seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the contract should be awarded to the lowest priced bidder. The clerk to respond to all participants.

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Items for Newsletter

The following items were identified for the newsletter:

- Increase in Parish Precept
- Post Office

ACTION

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Date of next meeting

The annual Parish meeting will take place at 7pm on 19th March 2013 followed by the next Main Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:18pm.

Signed _____ Date 19th March 2013