

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2013 at 7:30pm in The Mill Centre

ACTION

Present

Chairman Mr Geoffrey Moulton, Mr David Hook, Mrs Liz Allen (to before the Site Specific Consultation matter), Kevin Cunningham (to before the wind turbine matter), Mr Richard Delf, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

County Councillor Alison Thomas attended for the Putting People First consultation, Mr Roger Parker, Mr Ian Cundy, Mr Peter Fell and for the Springwood matter – Mr Michael Watts, Mr John Watts, Mr Martin Peck, Mr Mike Peck and Mrs Edwina Peck.

Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Michael Windridge and Mr David Pointer.

Declarations of Interest

Mr Moulton declared an interest in the wind turbine matter.

Mrs Allen declared a prejudicial interest in the Wind Turbine and Site Specific Consultation matters.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 16th September 2013 were approved and signed.

Public Participation

Mr Fell spoke on the Local Area Flood Map and his submission that he had forwarded to the clerk.

Mr Michael Watts, Mr John Watts, Mr Martin Peck, Mr Mike Peck and Mrs Edwina Peck asked for the parish council's view re the planning application relating to Springwood. There was great concern over the development of this wood as a traveller's site rather than a forestry site. This matter was discussed latter in the meeting.

District Councillor Concerns re Springwood – Potential Traveller's Site

Mr Hook reported that the case officer at SNC is reported to have indicated to District Councillor Windridge that SNC may look at the application favourably.

It was considered that the key issues were :

1. That an SNC enforcement order already applied to the site. Mrs Allen added that the development should have been removed by 19th October 2012 and the site restored to its former condition.
2. SNC had consulted widely on appropriate site options for the travelling community and had published preferred options which did not include Springwood.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Cunningham seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk write to SNC asking if Springwood is being seriously considered as a travellers site and to point out that an existing enforcement order had not been enforced and ask for clarification of SNC policy re the options for travellers' sites.

IN

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Local Area Flood Map

ACTION

Mrs Allen, Mr Pointer and Mr Cunningham had considered the flood map and presented their findings to the meeting. Amendments were discussed which the clerk will make.

Mrs Allen proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk to write to the Environment Agency with the findings as amended and point out that we do not have the expertise to assess what difference the improvements to drainage since 1968 would make to the area likely to be flooded.

IN

Putting People First consultation

Norfolk County Council published their budget proposals on the 19th September. The proposals will have a significant impact on the people of Norfolk, and Norfolk County Council is running a consultation on their priorities, approach and savings proposals.

Information on the budget proposals and consultation can be viewed at <http://www.norfolkcc.org.uk/sites/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=174&qid=32855> The consultation is open until the 12th December.

County Councillor Thomas pointed out the proposals that might affect parishioners the most, namely:

- Reduce the transport subsidy to young people going to college or 6th form.
- Reduce highway budget by £1m – possibly reducing the filling of grit bins.
- Reduction of opening hours of Morningthorpe recycling centre.
- Reduction in Trading Standards budget which may have an effect on farm livestock movements
- Smaller fire tenders as the second pump ad possibly no longer fitting free smoke alarms.

County Councillor Thomas would welcome questions from councillors via the clerk.

All/IN

County Councillor Thomas & Mrs Allen left the meeting.

Site Specific Consultation

Mr Hook reported that SNC had indicated the preferred site in Hempnall was for 20 houses on the land between Roland Drive and the playing field.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that that the clerk should write to SNC to restate the parish council's preferred option and state its disappointment that the view of the parish council had not been taken into account.

IN

Mr Hook took the chair.

Wind Turbines - Application 2013/0105 - revised

Parish meeting / Poll

A parish meeting had been held on 26 September at which it was agreed to hold a parish poll to put the following question to parishioners:

“Do you support the planning application (SNC Ref 2013/0105 as amended) by Streetwood Wind Farm Norfolk Limited (Agent's name: TCI Renewables Limited) for the erection of 3 wind turbines in Hempnall ??” Answer - Yes/No.

The poll will be held on Monday 21st October between 4pm & 9pm at the Mill Centre, Hempnall. The count will be conducted immediately after the close of poll.

SNC Recommendations

Mr Hook read the SNC email received today from Tim Horspole, Director of Growth & Localism which dealt with the alleged comments made by Gary Hancox, the former case

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officer, to David Anders of TCI. Mr Horspole reported that Mr Hancox had suggested to Mr Anders “*that should turbine 2 be removed from the scheme that the application would stand a better chance of getting a favourable response from officers (this advice came with the caveat, the applicant would have addressed the main concerns in respect of landscape and heritage impact, having regard to the inspectors decision). Gary did also remind Mr Andres that SNC would still need to take into account the comments of all consultees following a re-consultation on the amended scheme and that any recommendation would be subject to this.*”

ACTION

Mr Hook reported Michelle Bolger’s conclusions in her October LVIA review.

Mr Delf suggested that Mr Hook should formulate a response as part of our full submission re the application.

DH

Extension of deadline to respond to application

It was noted that the clerk had not received a response from SNC regarding the extension of the deadline for responding to the planning application. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk should write to SNC reminding them that they have not responded and explaining that Richard Bacon MP and District Councillor Windridge had supported the extension and that we have practical difficulties in submitting the case until a reasonable time after the parish poll results.

IN

Exhibition of plans

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that there be an exhibition of plans and other factual information regarding the application at the Mill Centre on 17th October 6pm to 8pm Messrs Workman, Hook will man this. The clerk to book the Mill Centre and advertise the exhibition.

DH/GM
/PW
IN

Notice of Parish Poll

The clerk had already displayed the Notice on the parish council noticeboard and the website. The flyers advertising the parish poll to be produced by the clerk in consultation with parish councillors and distributed to councillors together with distribution lists and maps.

IN/ALL

Interim response

The clerk and Mr Hook had submitted the interim response to SNC.

Photomontages

Modifications had been made to the static and animated photomontages by Mr Blackledge.

Natural England

The parish council had received a response from Natural England in relation to Dr Reed’s criticisms of the Ornithological surveys conducted by TCI. “Natural England recognises that the surveys as submitted by the applicant are not in line with current best “

Mr Moulton re-took the chair.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications approved since the last meeting:

There were none.

Items for Newsletter

The following items were identified for the next newsletter:

- None

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Items for next meeting

- Hedges – PW
- Bin near village sign - PW

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council main meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 12th November 2013 unless one is required sooner to discuss the wind turbines in which case the November agenda will be moved forward.

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:30pm.

Signed _____ Date 29th October 2013