

HEMPNALL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Parish meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2013 at 7.30pm in The Mill Centre

ACTION

Present.

Chairman David Hook, Debbie Ashford, Richard Delf, David Pointer, Mike Turner, Peter Workman Mrs Janette Franks, Mr Patrick Stone, Mrs Margaret MacPherson, Mr Michael MacPherson, Mr Tom Bowditch, Mrs Ann Bowditch, Mr Mike Saul, Miss Lora-Jane Reynolds, Mrs Patsy Shurmer, Mrs Miranda Moss, Mrs Julie Parker, Mr Roger Parker, Mr T Newstead, Mrs T Beckett, Mrs Christine Barnes, Mrs Susan Workman, Mr David Jackson, Mr Stephen Oldfield, Mrs Barbara Jeffery, Ms Diane Freeman, Mr David Burrows, Mr Garth Jeffery, Mr Derek Maslen, Mrs Liz Maslen, Mrs Annette Pointer, Mr Clive Britcher, Mrs Christine Britcher, Mr David Tooms, Miss Lesley Oldfield, Mr Barrie Masterson, Ms Mary Taylor, Dr David Taylor, Miss Jessica Taylor, Mrs Trish Clements, Mr Albert Clements, Mr Richard Benjamin, Mr Christopher Stockwell, Mrs Naomi Stockwell, Dr Joanne Nolan, Miss Marjorie Emery, Mrs Joy Allen, Mrs Katharine Daynes, Mr David Daynes, Ms Sue Ritchie, Mrs Karen Blyth, Mr Paul Blyth, Mrs Melanie Hook, Mr Hamish Rose, Mrs Julia Mealing, Mrs Roberta Bennett, Mrs Wendy Allard, Mr Stephen Edwards, Mrs Deborah Oldfield, Mrs Jenifer Ashcroft, Mr Damian Ashcroft and the Clerk Ian Nelson.

Apologies

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

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th March 2012 were approved before being signed by the chairman.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

These will be considered at the parish meeting on 19th March 2013.

Purpose and Conduct of the meeting

Mr Hook explained that the meeting had been convened to consider the TCI Wind Turbine Planning Application 2012/ in order that the local electorate could debate and democratically decide upon any business that legitimately appears on the agenda.

He went on to explain that should the meeting result in a call for a parish poll, that poll must relate to parish affairs and the cost of the poll would be borne by the parish council, which ultimately will be paid as part of the electors council tax. He also explained that although the outcome of a parish poll is not binding, it is extremely important that on an issue of such magnitude that the electors of Hempnall are given an opportunity to have their say.

The resolution of an issue at this meeting is to be decided by a majority of those present and voting on the issue. Each local government elector of the parish of Hempnall in attendance has one vote per issue.

Parishioners Comments

Separation Policy and Noise

Ms Sue Ritchie asked if there was legislation regarding the minimum distance turbines were allowed from houses, with particular concern expressed in relation to the noise issues suffered by the residents of Kessingland Mr Hook, explained the parish council separation policy passed at the last parish council meeting which states:

- 1) If the wind turbine height, to blade tip, is greater than 25 metres but does not exceed 50 metres, the minimum distance requirement between the turbine and the nearest residential property, is 1000 metres.
- 2) If the wind turbine height, to blade tip, is greater than 50 metres but does not exceed 100 metres the minimum distance requirement between the turbine and the nearest residential property is 1500 metres.

HEMPNALL PARISH MEETING

- 3) If the wind turbine height, to blade tip, is greater than 100 metres but does not exceed 150 metres the minimum distance requirement between the turbine and the nearest residential property is 2000 metres. **ACTION**
- 4) If the wind turbine height, to blade tip, is greater than 150 metres the minimum distance requirement between the turbine and the nearest residential property is 3000 metres.

Dismantling of the turbines and reinstatement of land

Mr David Daynes noted that the application stated that the turbines had a 25yr life. He expressed concern that if the application was approved it would be necessary to have robust conditions in place to ensure that costs relating to the dismantling of the turbines and reinstatement of land would be met by the applicant. The applicant's financial stability was not certain from a review of its filed accounts. After some discussion it was felt that perhaps the conditions should include a requirement for both the applicant and the landowner to underwrite these costs, and/or place funds on deposit at the start to cover the costs.

More turbines if this application approved?

Mrs Mary Taylor was concerned about the medium / long term prospect of the applicant and landowners wishing to apply for more turbines to be erected if the initial application were successful. It was noted that the site shown on the existing application is much larger than the site needed for the 4 turbines.

Overhead wires?

A Gentleman was concerned that any connection to the national grid should be achieved via underground cables and not overhead cables, which would blight the landscape still further.

Miss Emery commented that TCI representatives at their display exhibition in the village hall had told her that the cables would go underground.

Mr Clive Britcher asked what happened to any underground cable when it reached the boundary of the applicant's site, would it need to go over ground. The answer to this was unknown.

Short time to comment on application

Mrs Roberta Bennett commented that it was unreasonable to expect the parish council and parishioners to read, digest and respond to the vast quantum of information provided in the application in the 28 day period allowed by SNDC, especially as it had taken the applicant many months to prepare the information.

Mr Hook agreed and explained that he had approached SNDC on this matter, however the parish council had to respond in the 28 day period with its position statement. The planning officer had indicated that SNC would be prepared to receive and consider information provided after this date.

Vehicle access

Mr Roger Parker noted that the vehicle access has changed from the Enertrag application. The TCXI access to the site is opposite the chicken/duck farm off B1527. He enquired if there was another access point off Broaden Lane. Mr Hook indicated that no such access was shown on the application.

Confusion over height of turbines

Mr Clive Britcher understood that TCI were claiming that their application reduced the height of the turbines compared to the Enertrag application. It was noted however that the TCI turbines are in fact taller (126.5m from 125m) and closer to homes in the village. He said that this is worse for Hempnall not an improved application. It was noted that many homes were less than 1km and many less than 750m from the closest turbine, which breaches the separation policy referred to above.

HEMPNALL PARISH MEETING

Parish Poll

ACTION

Mrs Janette Franks indicated that she and 9 other parishioners wished to demand a parish poll as it was important that both Hempnall Parish Council and South Norfolk Council know how Hempnall residents feel about the TCI application. The question could be quite simple:

“Do you support the planning application (SNC Ref 2013/0105) by Streetwood Wind Farm Norfolk Limited (Agent’s name: TCI Renewables Limited) for the erection of 4 wind turbines in Hempnall ?” and on the voting slip there could be two options: “YES /NO”

Mrs Roberta Bennett asked is there enough time to hold a poll. Mr Hook explained that SNC had advised it was practical. Mr Hook read Helen Mellors’ email to the meeting stating that they would accept the poll result and additional comments from the parish council after the 28 day consultation period had ended.

A record sheet of electors calling for the poll was handed to the clerk, who checked it to the electoral role.

It was noted that as at least 10 of the local government electors present had demanded a poll, the parish council was now required to arrange such a poll.

Mrs Mary Taylor asked that bearing in mind this is a repeat application, is there a way to cover any future applications? Mr Hook explained that the question has to lead to a clear yes/no answer and that it is better to keep the question specific and direct and restricted to the current application.

Mr Clive Britcher remarked that it would be unreasonable to try and make a decision now for Hempnall residents of the future.

Mr Hook accepted that the question proposed by Mrs Janette Franks was a valid question and explained that once the question had been voted on and agreed by a majority vote of the Hempnall electors present, it could not be changed.

The question proposed by Mrs Janette Franks was voted upon i.e. “Do you support the planning application (SNC Ref 2013/0105) by Streetwood Wind Farm Norfolk Limited (Agent’s name: TCI Renewables Limited) for the erection of 4 wind turbines in Hempnall?” Mr Hook explained that only Hempnall electors could vote. The question was unanimously approved with the exception of one abstention.

The clerk made a formal note of the name and address of the proposer.

IN

The chairman of the meeting agreed that the clerk should inform the Electoral Services Officer responsible for the poll at SNC of the following:

- That a poll had been called
- The question
- The name and address of the proposer of the question
- That a date of the Parish meeting.

IN

Mr Hook explained that as he had been made aware that a poll might be requested, he had contacted the Electoral Services Officer at SNC and been informed that should such a request be made, the date of the poll would be 18th March 2013 and that it would take place between 4pm and 9pm. Hempnall parish Council are required to publicise the poll at least 5 days before polling day.

IN

He also explained that the proposer of the question could appoint a counting agent and a polling agent at least 3 days before polling day. In all cases the above periods exclude Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays.

There will be no provision for elector poll cards or postal or proxy voting.

HEMPNALL PARISH MEETING

ACTION

Next Meeting

The next parish meeting is scheduled for 19th March 2013.

All

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8:10pm.

Signed _____

Date 19th March 2013