

HEMPNALL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Parish meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2013 at 7.00pm in The Mill Centre

ACTION

Present.

Chairman Mr David Hook, Mrs Liz Allen, Mr Kevin Cunningham, Mr Richard Delf, Mr David Pointer, Mr Mike Turner. Mr Peter Workman Mrs Janette Franks, Mrs Julie Parker, Mr Roger Parker, Mr Barrie Masterson, Mrs Melanie Hook, Mr Damian Ashcroft Miss Marjorie Emery, County Councillor Alison Thomas, Mr Chris Laxton, Mrs Pat Leate, Miss Laura Cole, Mr Andrew Mahon Mrs Hilary Battye, Mr Ian Cundy, Mrs Sylvia Cundy, Mr Bill Lloyd, Mr Alan Mayes, Mrs Cindy Mayes, Mrs Liz Maslein, Mr David Burrows, Mrs Barbara Jerrery, Mrs Sue Eagle, Mr Roger Eagle, Mr Garth Jeffery, Ms Lesley Mitchell, Mrs Pauline Brookes, Mrs Margaret Smith, Mr Robin Smith, Mr Aubrey Page, Mr Trevor Shurmer, Mrs Roberta Bennett, Mrs Rachel Allen, Mr Robert Allen, Mr John Atkinson, Mrs Bridgette Atkinson and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Many parishioners left after the Wind Turbine matter and others at various points during the meeting, except Mr Cundy.

Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Windridge, Mr Geoffrey Moulton, Debbie Ashford, and Mike Turner.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th February 2013 were approved before being signed by the chairman.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

Other than were indicated below there were no issues raised from points discussed last year, however a report on each point is included for completeness.

School Entrance

The entrance to the school had been improved.

Other Reports

Reports had been requested from the High School and the Church Trust

Road Repairs

The major resurfacing works of the B1527 and the bridge repairs had taken place.

Rowland Drive had been inspected by NCC who had concluded that it was not in need of repair as yet.

Footpath Report Copy

Mrs Brookes and Mrs Allen had been supplied with a copy of the footpath report.

Mountain Bikes & Footpaths

PROW had indicated that they could do nothing else to prevent this.

Wind Turbines – Planning Application 2013/0105

Parish Poll Result

The Parish Poll was taken on the 18th March on the following matter:

“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”

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The result of the parish poll was 100 Yes and 422 No and 7 spoilt papers. This represents a strong turnout of 50.47% which is considerably higher than the average turnout of 33% calculated by the clerk from other parish polls held across the country in the last 3 years. Thus 80.84% of valid votes were No and 19.16% Yes.

ACTION

This result will be taken into account by the parish council at its next meeting.

Presentations by TCI Renewables Ltd and SHOWT

Presentations were given to the meeting by Mr Chris Laxton of SHOWT and Miss Laura Cole, Mr Andrew Mahon of TCI Renewables Ltd followed by question and answers sessions covering the following topics:

- Misleading nature of information presented by TCI – this was rebutted.
- The need for backup traditional power stations
- Whatever energy the turbines may produce would it justify the high amenity cost to the residents in the locale?
- Concerns over Light pollution
- Noise
- Offshore v onshore
- House valuations
- Shadow Flicker
- Affect on Landscape
- Closeness of turbines to properties
- Efficiency of wind turbines
- Carbon inefficiency of turbines
- Operating days / availability of wind
- Effect on flora and fauna
- Effect on SSIs
- Effect on cultural heritage assets
- Effect on health - “Wind Turbine syndrome”
- Sleep deprivation
- Effect on the school / children
- The threat of further turbines if 4 were allowed now.
- Decommissioning
- Life of turbines
- Renewable energy regional targets
- Community fund
- TCI use of offshore tax planning

Mr Hook thanked all presenters

Increase in Parish Precept

Mr Allen asked why the Parish Council was spending public money with respect to the wind turbines application – especially as SHOWT were fund raising in order to oppose the application.

Mr Hook responded that SHOWT and the Parish Council occupied different territory on this issue and that HPC was acting independently as a local authority whereas SHOWT was an opposition group with the single aim of opposing the turbine application. He explained that dealing with an application of this complexity and size was very challenging for a PC and that we do not have the expertise “in house” to deal adequately with aspects such as the likely impact on bat and bird populations. We needed help and the only way to get help was to commission independent reports from relevant experts. Their reports – free from the bias that would inevitably accompany a submission from the developer or the opposition group SHOWT or the pro turbines group Power for the Future - are available to inform the PC in the

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formulation of its response to the application.

ACTION

He added that there is inevitably some bias in an ES because it is produced by consultants who are paid by the developer and it is very rare for such consultants to openly criticise the proposed development.

Mr Hook highlighted one of several misleading statements in the ES, i.e. the claim by TCI that the turbines would not visually dominate any settlement, including Hempnall – he had walked around the village during the blimp flight on 13.3.13 and observed the blimp from a large number of locations flying high above the street scene of houses and trees in the foreground– how much bigger would 4 turbines appear than one small balloon? He said that Hempnall people (whether for or against the turbines) had a right to know how their village would be affected visually by the turbines. He handed round a photograph which gave an artistic representation of the turbines from the entrance to the village hall car park.

Mr Ian Cundy asked if it was necessary for HPC to obtain independent advice because if there was misleading information in the ES it should be the job of SNC to challenge this. Mr Hook responded that SNC had informed the PC that it was up to the various consultees, including the PC, to critically assess the ES and offer their comments on inaccuracies and possible misleading comments.

Parish Poll Result

Mr Allen queried the significance of the parish poll results given that only just over 40% of the total electorate of Hempnall had voted to oppose the turbines.

Mr Hook responded that democracy works on the basis of the preferences shown by those who turn out to vote and that you cannot formulate policy based on the inaction of a section of the electorate. He re-stated that the turn out of more than 50% of the electorate was high for a parish poll – on average parish polls only get around 33% turn outs and that over 80% of those who voted opposed the turbine application whereas under 20% supported it (less than 10% of the total electorate).

Annual Reports

The following annual reports were read out to the meeting :

Report

Chairman

The Church & Town Estates Property Charity

Town Estate Education Foundation

The Church Estate Charity

The Hempnall Trust

Playing Field Users Association

Hempnall Village Hall Committee

Footpaths

Tree Warden

Long Stratton High School

Hempnall School

Written By

To be presented at next parish council meeting.

Mr B Masterson

Mrs P Brookes

Mr S Ritchie

Mr J Holtom

Mr R Delf

Mr D Ashcroft

Mr H Rose

Mr D Hook

No report received

Mrs M Elston

Read By

Mr B Masterson

Mrs P Brookes

Mr I Nelson

Mr I Nelson

Mr R Delf

Mr D Ashcroft

Mr I Nelson

Mr D Hook

Mrs M Elston and

Mrs R Bennett

GM

Copies of all reports are attached to these minutes (Master copy minutes only). Copies are available from the clerk upon request. The Chairman's report can also be found as part of the parish council's annual report (See parish council website www.hempnallpc.org or contact the clerk for copies).

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Any Other Business

ACTION

School Road Safety Measures

Mrs Roberta Bennett explained that a road safety scheme had been designed to protect children and parents around the school. This would consist of a vehicle activated sign on the street an extended pavement in to school grounds and red paint on road opposite school. The total cost was £31,000, 75% of which would be funded by NCC Highways and further £5,000 of funds was already held. A grant for the remaining £2,000 was being applied for from SNC. Mrs Bennett asked if the parish council could consider paying the £2,000 if SNC refused and that the application (deadline 31/03/13) for the work be routed via the parish council. Mr Hook indicated that this matter was on the agenda for the parish council meeting and would be considered then.

IN

Speeding Traffic

Mr Bill Lloyd enquired if there had been any movement re road safety. Mr Hook responded that the parish council had written to Mr Lloyd informing him of steps that had been taken and enquiring if he was willing to volunteer for a community speed watch scheme such as that used in Saxlingham. Volunteers had also been asked for in the parish council newsletter but nobody had come forward. Mr Hook went on to explain that in order to justify the large capital cost of flashing signs evidence was required that there was a significant problem. The parish council had arranged on several occasions for SAM speed cameras to be set up at various points in the village and the data from these indicated that, with minor exceptions, there was generally not a significant speeding problem, however Mr Hook suggested the matter be put on the agenda for the next parish council meeting and invited Mr Lloyd to attend.

IN

Next Meeting

The next parish meeting is provisionally scheduled for 11th March 2014.

All

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

Signed _____

Date 11th March 2014