

GREAT WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting held at 7.45 p.m. at The Memorial Hall on Thursday 22nd March 2007

Present: Roy Church, Kevin Francis, Bridget Wright, Stephen Williams and John Willmore. Ron Cornell in the Chair.
Clerk: Peter Dilloway, James Joyce (County Councillor), Mr. S. Woodbridge (District Councillor) and nine members of the public.

(743). Apologies Pauline Brown.

(744). Minutes of the meetings held 25th January 2007 were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

- (i). Affordable Housing Development. Negotiations by Broadland Housing Association, to obtain a small piece of neighbouring garden for part of the visibility splay for the entrance to the site on Fakenham Road have taken place and the owner is considering an offer.

(745). Correspondence:

- (i). Letter from Norfolk Rural Community Council enclosing a village shop questionnaire.
- (ii). Broadland District Council replacement Local Plan copies have been received.

(746). Payments/Financial Matters:

- (i). War memorial/ litter clearance Oct - Jan. R Cornell. Cheque no. 100496 £60.00
- (ii). Clerk's Salary (£243.00) & expenses to date (£95.18). P. Dilloway. Chq no. 100487 £338.18
- (iii). R. Church has some telephone expenses and will claim at next meeting.

(747). Any Other Business:

- (i). Dog fouling. The incidence of this anti social behaviour is again causing nuisance. The Clerk was instructed to put an article in the Wensum Diary outlining the penalties.
- (ii). The Memorial Hall closes at the end of this month. This will put the village at a disadvantage by having no meeting place. The Cricket Club is unsuitable as it closed for winter and in constant use in the summer. The Hotel is presently in receivership. Weston and Sparham halls are available. It was suggested that the school be approached to accommodate the Annual parish Meeting if possible. It is possible that some funding for a new hall can, in time be found.
- (iii). St. Faiths Church. The site is to be sold for development, the proceeds going to an un-named vendor under a reversionary lease. This poses a problem for the future siting of the War Memorial. The parish Land near the pub is the only viable alternative at present, although a covenant for it to remain in its present position could be sought. Stephen Williams will liaise with the War Memorials Trust and Reverend Tillet.

(748). Rendering Plant Clay Hall Farm.

- (i). The Chairman held a meeting on 19th March with the Parish Council's Planning Consultant.
- (ii). The Chairman asked Roy Church (also present at that meeting) to outline the present situation. The view of our consultant is that the validity of the permissions is unlikely to be overturned and we should as a matter of necessity obtain Counsel's opinion on the scope of the permission. This should enable us to challenge the increase in scope of the new plant. The cost will be approx £1500 + VAT. The old permission allows certain raw materials and the new permission seeks to increase the range. The parish's premise is that 300 tons per week of low risk material caused odour nuisance, therefore 1500 tons of higher risk material will be worse. The absence of communication at Officer level at County has now improved with a change of personnel. There is a danger that NCC will consider the application in isolation from the Pollution Control permit application. Pressure is being exerted to ensure that this does not happen. Breckland District Council was successfully persuaded to strongly object to the proposal. Pressure is being exerted to obtain a call in for a public enquiry if NCC is found to have prejudiced itself, thus losing credibility in determining the application fairly. Banham's have told us that the Thermal Oxidiser represents the best available technology in the world. They are presently considering funding a trip to visit a comparable plant in Europe for council representatives. Council are aware that Banham's do not have a good operating record.
- (iii). The meeting of the 19th March put forward a number of proposals:
 - (a) We seek Counsel opinion on the scope of the existing permissions at a cost of approx £1500+VAT
 - (b) We send objection to BDC planning and request support for a call in. At the appropriate we lobby committee members
 - (c) Request that James Joyce draws the matter to the attention of members for debate.

- (d) Request that Matthews and Cobbs ask for a call in within and outside of their objection
 - (e) If or when the need arise buy in expert help on the environmental statement and PPC application
 - (f) Continue to negotiate with Banham for GWPC to check out the plant in Belgium if appropriate members resolved to adopt the above proposals without exception.
- (iv). James Joyce advised that Planning Officers proposed to give NCC members an update in April.
- (v). Tanya Spelacy advised that Sparham residents had met on Tuesday and had resolved to undertake public protests to which the media will be invited. Further meetings will be held at Sparham Old School Room on Tuesday 27th March and 3rd April, anyone is welcome to attend. Kevin Francis will act as liaison between GWPC and Sparham PC.
- (vi). It was felt that there some mileage on further approaches to the environmental academic community at UEA. This will be explored if necessary.
- Roy Church summed up the situation by saying that whilst this plant would undoubtedly better than the original, any odour would depend upon the waste being processed and the equipment provided could only deal with odour “in so far as is practicable”. The contention remains that the location is geographically unsuitable for any industrial purpose, which has chimney emissions. There are also aspects of the application, which are believed to contrary to current waste and local plan policies.
- (vii). Simon Woodbridge said that the Broadland Planning Officer was in the process of preparing a report which it was hoped would go before the committee in April. He felt that there should be no intensification of the site. In addition and irrespective of planning decisions, his council would not issue a pollution control certificate if the applicant was unable to demonstrate compliance with the regulations and thus the plant would be unable to operate. GWPC is in contact with the environmental team at Broadland and will take on board expert advisors if required.
- (749). Stephen Williams said that because we may find ourselves living with a waste plant at one end of the village and a food manufacturing plant at the other, the Council should consider the provision of an emergency plan in the event of a major problem. He offered to follow up the provision of a plan for consideration.
- (750). Date and time of next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting 26th April 2007 at 7.45pm **Venue to be advised**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

