

**Minutes of Deopham and Hackford Parish Council Meeting
in the Gralix Hall on Wednesday 12th July 2017**

Present :

Councillors : Martin Skidmore, John Chilvers, Chris Biggs, Jayne Allen and Chris Coath

Cllr. Y.Bendle, South Norfolk District, Cllr. M. Dewsbury, Norfolk County Council

Parish Clerk : Rowena Harkness

Parishioners : Bruce Catmur, Mark Fillingham

1. **Apologies** - Jackie Phoenix, Mark Howard,

2. **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2017 were agreed as a correct record.
Proposed Chris Coath, seconded Chris Biggs.

4. **Matters Arising**

4.1 The Morley anaerobic digester renewable energy unit (App. No. 2017/0001). South Norfolk Council have sent the Parish Council additional information from the applicant which is his response to the Highway comments. It was agreed that the Parish Council will respond as follows:

The Highways Department response dated 8/5/2017 summed up our concerns around the suitability of the local roads and the applicant response to those issues does not make us feel that those concerns are being taken seriously. The applicant talks about being willing to adhere to a routing agreement and to see planning conditions in place restricting vehicles, however the applicant knows any such agreement/condition could not be enforced. Also the new drawings showing proposed routes and passing places only cover Morley Lane – there is no acknowledgment that all the other local roads are narrow and cannot cope with 30T trucks.

The response says that as the applicant has a fleet of 30T trucks it would not be viable to invest in smaller vehicles and so the 30T trucks will be used to transport the crops – this begs the question of why 14T fast track tractor and trailer combinations were used by the applicant last summer/autumn to transport the maize and rye grass from Woodrising along the B1108 through Hingham to the Crownthorpe digester. If he had access to them last year presumably he'll have access to them again if this application is successful.

Finally the new information provided by the applicant still maintains that all the feedstock will come from the east via the B1172 and down Morley Lane into High Common and will come from his landholding around Wymondham, Morley, Ashwellthorpe and Talconston. However we don't believe him – he owns/rents land to the west and has farmers growing for him in the west and we think that if this digester is approved he will use those crops for the Morley digester. As we have said before, we have no confidence that vehicles driving to and from the proposed plant will stick to the B1172 route - they will come the most direct route through Deopham, Hackford and Wicklewood.

For these reasons and all our previous reasons, Deopham & Hackford Parish Council wish to reiterate our **strong objection** to the application.

4.2 The problem of flooding on the B1108 caused by the blocked gullie. NCC Highways have agreed with the landowner (Martin Skidmore!) that once the field is cropped, they will carry out works to expose and clean the chamber which takes the surface water from the road.

4.3 Ivy Bungalow, Victoria Lane, Deopham, NR18 9DU (App.No 2017/1383) – proposed redevelopment of Ivy Farm – application for Environment Impact Assessment. Bruce

Catmur and Mark Fillingham (Ivy House tenant) were present to inform the meeting on the latest news. The developer, EC Drummond have not yet bought the farm. South Norfolk Council have written to the agent and outlined the matters they wish to be included in the EIA. They have also told them that as there is considerable local interest in the application they are urged to undertake appropriate pre-application consultation with local parties eg Parish Council and residents.

Given the level of detail that is required in the EIA it is likely to take a few months and so unlikely that there will be anything new to discuss during August.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Letter from Katherine Gray from High Oak Music Group thanking the Parish Council for allowing parking on the playing field during their celebration on 1st July.

5.2 Other correspondence was circulated around the table.

6. Finance

6.1 The account balances as at 18/6/2017 were £515.44 in the current account and £3,208.68 in the deposit. There are 2 unpresented cheques and the transfer from 14th June so the reconciled current account balance is £295.19 and the deposit account is £2,708.68.

6.2 The payment of £607.42 to Parish Clerk for salary and expenses for 1/4/17 – 30/6/17 was approved. Proposed John Chilvers, seconded Chris Biggs

6.3 The payment off £79.80 to RoSPA for the annual inspection of the playing field was approved, Proposed Chris Coath, seconded John Chilvers. The Inspection Report, which was circulated around the table, shows the overall risk rating at present is Medium. The equipment is rated as low risk – though the shackles and bushes on the swings are worn and need repairing/replacing – the toadstools growing in the chip surfacing under the swings are what gives the medium risk. As the swings maybe replaced in the next year it was agreed that if they can't be repaired at no cost they will be decommissioned. John will have a look at them and see if he can do anything with them!

6.4 Budget Monitor 1 had been circulated around the table. The Parish Clerk said that there are underspends on a couple of headings and that it is on target with nothing of concern at the present time.

6.5 The transfer of £500 from the deposit to the current account was approved. Proposed Martin Skidmore, seconded John Chilvers.

7. Planning

7.1 No planning applications have been received.

8. Deopham Playing Field

8.1 The Parish Clerk told the meeting that she has now had the details of costings from Gary Howard, Play Officer at SNC. The cost from HAGs of the equipment as per the drawing circulated – which includes a slide, a set of swings, a mini seesaw, and two climbing 'sets' (one for young children and one for 7+) is £18,719.25 + vat. The cost of installation and appropriate surfacing etc. is £9,685 + vat. A total of £28,404.25 + vat. Even though we can claim vat back we will need the money upfront to pay. So we need to apply to Biffa for £35,000 – they will fund 90% and then we need 10% from other funding sources.

8.2 The next funding round we can apply to is Feb. 2018 – stage one deadline of Nov. 6th 2017. It was agreed the Parish Clerk will work over the summer on an application to Biffa.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Concern at the overgrown verge/hedging at the junction of Hall Road with B1108 causing problems for drivers to see oncoming traffic and to get out onto the B1108 safely. The Parish Clerk will ask NCC Highways to look at it and do something about cutting verge/hedge?

10. **Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday September 13th 2017, 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm.