

**Minutes of Deopham and Hackford Annual Parish Council Meeting  
in the Gralix Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**Present :**

Councillors : Martin Skidmore  
Jackie Phoenix  
John Chilvers  
Jayne Allan

Cllr. Yvonne Bendle (South Norfolk DC), Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury (Norfolk CC)

Parish Clerk : Rowena Harkness

Parishioners : Stuart & Amy Whall, Mike & Nina Coe, Diana Shepstone, Cheryl Dawes

1. **Apologies** - Chris Biggs, Chris Coath, Mark Howard
2. **Election of Chair & Vice Chairman of Parish Council**
  - 2.1 **Chairman**  
Martin Skidmore was nominated by Jayne Allan and seconded by John Chilvers. He was elected unopposed.
  - 2.2 **Vice Chairman**  
Jackie Phoenix was proposed by John Chilvers and seconded by Jayne Allan. She was elected unopposed.
3. **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**
  - 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
  - 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were agreed as a correct record. Proposed Jackie Phoenix, seconded John Chilvers.
5. **Matters Arising**
  - 5.1 **NCC Highways** – several of the items reported months ago have now been done and someone has been round marking up potholes and road surface problems. It looks as if there may now be a Highways Inspector who gets things done!
6. **Correspondence**
  - 6.1 The only correspondence was circulated around the table.
7. **Finance**
  - 7.1 The account balances as at 18/3/2017 were £1263.03 in the current account and £771.48 in the deposit. There are 3 unpresented cheques and so the reconciled balance is £524.98. The first half of the precept and all of the support grant has been paid into the deposit account and so the reconciled balance is £3208.48
  - 7.2 The payment of £20 to the Norfolk Playing Field Association for membership renewal for 2017/18 was approved. Proposed John Chilvers, seconded Jayne Allan.
  - 7.3 The payment of £351.04 to Zurich Insurance for renewal of policy for 2017/18 was approved. Proposed Jackie Phoenix, seconded John Chilvers. The Parish Clerk said it included cover for the extra items we had requested last year (generator, lights and bench) and had an excess of £100 on all covered items. It was only £18 more than last year and so appeared to be good value.

7.4 The Receipt and Payments Account for the financial year 2016/17 were approved. Proposed Jackie Phoenix, seconded John Chilvers. The necessary accounts and account book were signed by the Chairman and Parish Clerk.

7.5 The appointment of Caroline Steggles as the Internal Auditor was discussed and agreed. It was also agreed that she will be paid £50 again this year as last.

## **8. Planning**

8.1 The Cottage, Pye Lane, Deopham NR18 9AB – two storey extension (App. No. 2017/0874). After some discussion it was agreed to recommend approval.

8.2 Land North of High Common Morley, - anaerobic digester renewable energy unit (App. No. 2017/0001). The Parish Clerk explained that additional information has been supplied by the applicant, including a revised transport report and so the Parish Council is being consulted on the revised application. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would comment as follows:

The revised transport summary still fails to mitigate any of the concerns raised by the Parish Councils and hundreds of objections previously submitted. It still maintains that the incoming traffic will travel from the east – ie the B1172 and down Morley Lane into High Common. However it also says that ‘90% of the feedstock coming to the plant will arrive from the local fields and farms they already own within 6km of the site’ – it then goes onto name Hingham, Morley & Deopham – which are clearly to the west of the plant. The contractors/farmers who will be transporting the crops from Hingham and Deopham will not make a 20 mile trip to come in from the east – they will take the shortest route possible – through Deopham, Wicklewood and Morley.

The transport summary says that 30T HGV’s will be used to transport the feedstock but we are not convinced that this will be the case and there is no realistic control within the planning system to make the applicant do this. What is more likely to happen is what we experienced last summer – 14T fast track tractor and trailer combinations carting the feedstock. The transport summary says that by using 30T HGV’s this will reduce the volume of traffic – so presumably 14T tractors and trailers will mean double the amount of trips. So whichever way you look at it if this application is successful Deopham, Wicklewood, Morley and surrounding villages are destined to have large HGV’s thundering through our single carriageway lanes or ‘smaller’ tractors and trailers also thundering through but more often!!!

The highway network in Deopham & Hackford and surrounding villages is not designed for frequent and heavy vehicle movements and because of its restricted width is not suitable for the development proposed. Our lanes are already cracking and potholed and verges flattened where 2 large vehicles are unable to pass each other without going on the verge. We have no footpaths but do have a number of children, walkers, cyclists and horse riders who are already at risk from the existing large farm traffic who use the lanes.

Finally, as pointed out in the response from NCC Highways, it doesn’t matter what the applicant says in his transport summary and application when it comes to it if permission is granted for this development there is no realistic control within the planning system to make the applicant do it. Once he has permission he will be able to move as much feedstuff by whatever means and route he chooses at whatever time of year he wants with as many journeys as he wants.

For these reasons Deopham & Hackford Parish Council wish to strongly object to the application.

8.3 High Elm Farm, Pye Lane, Deopham NR18 9DW – notification for prior approval for a change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house. (App. No. 2017/1017). The Parish Clerk explained that as this is a notification under the permitted development legislation, the Parish Council are not being consulted about it – so this is for information only.

**9. Deopham Playing Field**

- 9.1 The meeting with Gary Howard, SNC Play Officer, has taken place and he was very surprised at the lack of play facilities in the village. He has offered to do all he can to help. He confirmed that steel equipment would be better than wooden, doesn't need a fence around it as the existing fence keeps children away from road but might need making secure, and won't need planning permission. He offered to contact Helen from HAG re the design she had done for Cheryl and will discuss with her costs etc. He suggested HAG supply the equipment and then he knows of a company who can install it and do the surfacing. He confirmed that he thought we would qualify for Biffa funding and he offered help to do the application.
- 9.2 Cheryl says she has had an offer of a donation from someone which can go towards the other funding sources that Biffa will expect to see. She has an e.mail from Biffa which she'll forward to the Parish Clerk? Other funding could come from NPFA?
- 9.3 Also letters of support from local people and demonstration of their involvement and what they want will also be useful to support application. Cheryl will get some letters from people and Parish Clerk will look out hut questionnaire responses. Gary has also offered to do a letter of support.

**10. Any Other Business**

- 10.1 Nina Coe asked about whose responsibility is footpath signs and maintenance. It was suggested she go online and report any issues via NCC Highways site.
- 10.2 She also asked about grass cuttings being put on verges – not sure if reporting it to NCC Highways will achieve anything but verges are their responsibility.
- 10.3 Is there any way to encourage people to pick up dog poo? Not really – South Norfolk do produce notices/signs warning people it is an offence not to – Parish Clerk did have some but may have used them all? Nina could contact South Norfolk and ask them for some?

- 11. Date of Next Meeting**      Wednesday June 14th 2017, 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.