

Minutes of Blo' Norton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13 December 2011 at
7.30pm in the Village Hall

- 1 Apologies for absence - None
- 2 Co-option of Councillor – Following the resignation of Dr Finlay, advertisements had been put on the Parish Notice Board and in the Newsletter. John Barnet-Lamb proposed that Mr Richard Edwards be co-opted to the Council and this was seconded by Ann Lambert and agreed by the Council. Mr Edwards was welcomed as a Councillor.
- 3 Public Comment - None
- 4 To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items for consideration - None
- 5 To approve the Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 11 October 2011 – Approved as circulated
- 6 To receive update re RAF Training from Andrew Aves – The Chairman welcomed Mr Andrew Aves to the meeting. Mr Aves said that 2 Squadron asked him to pass on their heartfelt thanks to the people of Blo' Norton who had endured the training they required to carry out their operations in Libya. They had completed 7,000 hours of flying; 80% of their activity is to ensure the protection of civilians (mainly women and children around the cities). It was noted the 2 Squadron is the eldest squadron in the world and will be celebrating their anniversary next year. Mr Aves stated that 2 Squadron still continued the need for training and would ensure that the Parish Council were informed of dates.
- 7 To receive presentation from Active Technologies to present Anaerobic Digester System at Willow Farm – James Montgomery and Paul Spinks gave a presentation on this proposed system for Willow Farm and a summary of their presentation is attached to the minutes. Following their presentation, the Parish Council could see no concerns for such a system. The next stage would be for a planning application to be put forward.
- 8 To note correspondence with regard to Blo' Norton Hall – Correspondence was noted.
- 9 To note update re village septic tanks – problems were still being encountered within the Village and John Barnet-Lamb would speak to Environmental Health to encourage them to resolve these problems. **ACTION: JOHN BARNET-LAMB**
Write to Mary – and Environmental Health
- 10 To consider draft letter to NCC Highways re Delivering local highway improvements in partnership with Town and Parish Councils – Councillors to review the draft letter and pass any views/comments to the Clerk prior to 5 January 2012.
ACTION: ALL COUNCILLORS
- 11 To consider The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons – the Guide to taking part – this document was noted.
- 12 To consider Website via NALC – It was agreed to set up this website which would be free of charge, apart from training sessions (£25 per session). It was thought this could be a valuable communication tool for the village and invitations would be sent to other village groups to have information included on the website.
ACTION: THE CLERK
- 13 War Memorial – Board of Trustees An article would be included in the next newsletter (around January/February time) re organising a meeting for the War Memorial Board of Trustees in March time. **ACTION: JOHN BARNET-LAMB**
- 14 To approve the following payments: The Councillors approved the following payments:

- (a) Royal British Legion (provision of wreath)
- (b) HMRC (Clerk's Tax)
- (c) Clerk's salary (August-November)

ACTION: THE CLERK.

15 Accounts

- (a) To receive an update on Parish Accounts – The Parish Council received an update on the accounts.
- (b) To consider setting up a standing order to HMRC in favour of monthly payment of Income Tax re Clerk's salary – The Parish Council agreed to this monthly direct debit and a letter was duly signed.

16 Planning

- a To consider the following Planning Applications:

3PL/2011/1236/F – Partial demolition of existing outbuildings new leisure wing and manager's dwelling including glazed link to Hall and new tennis court

The Parish Council reported that they had attended a site visit on Sunday 11 December to meet Mr Lorimer and discuss this proposed application and were grateful to Mr Lorimer giving his time. It was noted that the majority of original walls etc were being preserved where possible. The Parish Council had no objections to this application and were happy to formerly approve it.

ACTION: CLERK

17 Such other business as the Chairperson may direct

- (a) To consider follow up letters re branch trimming on corner of Church Lane/Thelnetham Road. - Letters had been sent in September to no avail – further letters to be sent. **ACTION: CLERK**
- (b) Changes to SNAP meetings – It was noted that these meetings were now closed to the public although still open to all Parish Councils. The next meeting would be held on 18 January at 1000 hours.
- (c) Code of Conduct Training – Recent letter from Breckland Council noted.
- (d) Free Copy of the electoral Register – Councillors completed and signed the forms. Clerk would return to Breckland Council. **ACTION: CLERK**
- (e) Flooding of farm land: It was noted that the Environmental Agency had still not completed work and some farmers had lost 20% of their land as a result. John Barnet-Lamb to write to Environmental Agency, copying it to Little Ouse Waterways Project and local MPs. **ACTION: JOHN BARNET-LAMB**

Dates for 2012 meetings to take place at the Village Hall at 1930 hours

7 February
8 May
14 August

10 April
12 June
9 October

11 December

.....
Chairman

..... 7 February 2012
Date

Presentation from Active Technologies to present Anaerobic Digester System at Willow Farm

Introduction

Messrs Montgomery and Spinks from Active Technologies thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity of this presentation and explained that their Anaerobic Digester System benefited the environment; whilst formal planning application had already been submitted to Norfolk County Council, it had been suggested by the Planning Officer to undertake Community Consultation.

What is an anaerobic Digester?

An anaerobic digestion system is an enclosed tank (sunk underground) that excludes oxygen and through which manure is passed and broken down by naturally occurring bacteria, producing biogas. The digester retains the decomposing manure for sufficient time at a designed temperature to allow the growth of methanogenic bacteria, which can then be used to produce electricity.

Willow Farm Proposal

The proposal for Willow Farm was for a thermathetic system, which would utilise the onsite manure, produced by the 4,000 pigs. The process would combine as follows – the manure would be put into the mixing tank, liquid water is added to the mix and the “soup” is pumped into concretete underground tanks (the proposal is for six of these tanks); the mixture is then heated to 56 degrees, extract the biomethane gas. The process takes ten days for the mixture to become a high concentrate gas and then ignited in the engine to produce electricy and goes through the sub station and exported to the national grid as the by-product is heat which goes to heat the next lot of manure.

Equipment required and where to be sited:

The proposed equipment is as follows:

Underground:

- Mixing tank
- Anaerobic digester
- Pipework

Surface mounted

- Gas scrubber – cylinder tube
- Engine – 40 foot container – similar to a garden shed which will be acoustically treated to 65 decibels at 10 metres (similar loudness to someone talking)
- Small control hut which would contain a control panel so Active Technogoies could have remote access
- Sub station – required

Benefits of system

- Reduce on site odour as manure will no longer be “stockpiled”
- Lack of visual site as most would be underground
- Produces a highly valued fertilizer which can go back on the land
- Installation will be 250 metres away from adjoining properties.

Question and Answer session

What is the size of the installation?

Each underground concrete tank holds 200 cubic metres; they are precast concrete with applied protected layer inside, which is usually painted or sprayed on. Tanks would require inspection every 3-4 years.

What kind of access are you going to require to build?

The construction would take approximately three months on site. Size of lorries would be no larger than are currently used to take feed stuff to the farm and Active Technologies are currently liaising with companies re a specialist panel size which needs to fit a standard flatbed lorry. As part of pre-negotiations Active Technologies would need to provide highways with a statement describing how trucks would get on site and they will liaise with Mr Beard nearer the time and use the same route as current lorries. It will not create an increase in traffic. Mr John Barnet-Lamb would speak to Highways with regard to the poor state of Clay Hall Lane and see if work can be done in anticipation of this build.

ACTION: MR JOHN BARNET-LAMB

What will the daily routine/process be?

Manure will be put into the mixing vessel on a daily basis and the process will be a ten day cycle, which would be cleaned on a 12 week cycle. Engines would be served on a monthly basis – two engines installed, so there is always a back up.

Conclusion

Mr Beard stated that he was intending to screen the container hut so it would not be seen and only the concrete lids would be seen above ground. He extended an invitation to anyone who wanted to come and do a site visit or if anyone had any questions or concerns about the installation he would be happy to try and answer any queries.

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Chairman

10 15/1
.....7 February 2012
Date