**Morley Parish Council**

Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Morley Village Hallat 7.30 pm on 20 February 2017

**Present:** Craig McLeod (Chairman) (CM), David Eckles (Vice-Chairman)(DE), Jon Blake (JB), David Hastings (DH), Brian Clarke (BC)

**In attendance:** Gareth Roderick-Jones (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury, District Councillor Michael Edney

1 **To receive any apologies** none

2 **To accept and sign the minutes from 16 January 2017**

The minutes were accepted unanimously and signed.

3 **To accept any declaration(s) of interests**

none

4 **Adjournment for Public Participation**

Many members of the public attended to express their views on planning application 2017/0001, a proposed anaerobic digestion renewable energy unit.

* CM introduced the topic and the procedures for the conduct of the meeting. He pointed out that about 300 objections have been registered so far on the SNDC Planning site, including many residents, three parish councils, District and County councillors, Historic England and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Many of the objections have been based on careful research of the effects of similar projects elsewhere.
* District Councillor Edney explained the planning process: once an application is made, the application is made known to immediate neighbours and via site signs; in this case extensions to the consultation period have been granted because of the amount of interest it has aroused; all the facts will be taken into account by officers of the council before a decision is made. Because this project will involve employment (albeit limited) it will be decided by the Planning Committee when they meet either on the last Wednesday of March or the last Wednesday of April. The district member, a parish council representative and a representation from the residents will have the opportunity to put their views forward, to a maximum of 5 minutes each.
* Cllr Edney also urged residents and organisations to write to their MP, particularly as these digestion units are currently government sponsored. Members of the Development Management Committee (details on the website) can also be lobbied.
* County Councillor Dewsbury noted that the Highways Report had not yet appeared on the panning site and she would follow this up. Other similar sites have recently led to complaints around serious traffic issues.
* Members of the public drew attention to the following aspects:
	+ a lot of residents living close to the site were not contacted by SNDC – Cllr Edney has asked people to contact him with details to prevent any recurrence;
	+ there are safety concerns in light of reports about a similar plant in Shropshire exploding and subsequently being closed;
	+ the roads, particularly Morley Lane, are too narrow for two tractors or HGVs to pass and there have been numerous accidents in the area (not all of which will have been recorded by the police);
	+ there are concerns that if this goes ahead some tenants or even homeowners will move elsewhere rather than face the traffic and possible noise pollution and odours;
	+ the runoff of rainwater from a large expanse of concrete will be very different from the current situation with open farmland providing natural drainage, and the existing watercourse will not be able to cope;
	+ the acoustic report does not mention wind direction, or specify what the conditions were when the testing was carried out;
	+ internet searches indicate that at other similar sites where conditions relating to traffic management, smell, pollution, wildlife etc, have been imposed, the conditions have not been met once the plants are running;
	+ the project would have an adverse visual impact on the landscape and would have a detrimental effect on nearby historical sites – Wymondham Abbey (Grade I Listed), Morley St Botolph and St Peter (Grade II\* Listed), Wicklewood Hall (Grade II\* Listed) etc.
	+ light pollution could have a serious impact on nearby bat colonies.

**5 Report from District and County Councillors**

**District Councillor Edney:** has devoted his time and energy to this planning application and has nothing further to report.

**County Councillor Dewsbury** has also devoted time and effort to this matter. She reported to the council that the County Council is striving to be able to balance the books; there is to be a 1.8% rise in council tax, plus an additional 3% for adult services.

**6 Planning matters**

**2017/0001** proposed anaerobic digestion renewable energy unit (as discussed above; the Parish Council has already submitted its comments)

**2017/2822** proposed teaching block and workshop at Wymondham College – no comment

**2017/0245** proposed new staff annexe at the Old Rectory, Morley St Botolph – no comment

**7 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

DE has received a quote from BC for the repairs to both playing field fences which at £540 + VAT is better than other quotes already considered. He recommends accepting this for work to begin in suitable weather:

proposed CM, seconded JB and all agreed

**8** **Highways Issues:**

The new WigWags appeared not to be working recently but now they are working correctly.

**9 Financial Matters**

 **a** The following payments were approved:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **payee** | **description** | **cheque** | **amount** |
| Gareth Roderick-Jones | salary January | 101344 | £176.70 |
| Gareth Roderick-Jones | expenses from June 2016 | 101345 | £257.99 |
| Abate Ltd | pest control | 101346 | £369.60 |
| WJ Turner & Partners | Turner Field rent (not on agenda but paid by prior arrangement) | 101347 | £160.00 |

b Balances as follows as at 31 Januray 2017 were noted:

 current account £4032.24

 savings 1 £1746.91

 savings 2 £100.24

 no outstanding cheques

 Balance £5878.39

c NOTE: This item was deferred for discussion after the public had departed

It was proposed to increase the clerk’s salary to SCP 19 on the national scale, to bring his Morley pay in line with other parish councils. The rate is £9.743 per hour.

proposed DE, seconded CM and agreed unanimously

**10 Correspondence:** the following were noted

 NALC newsletter (previously circulated to councillors)

 The Pensions Regulator: confirmation of next stages in auto-enrolment process

 Request for funding for Morley churches (GRJ to check last year’s donation and add to next agenda)

 Correspondence between Cllr Dewsbury and EDT regarding the Sillfield Road junction

 Email from SNDC regarding increase in dog bin charges

 Request for permission to hold charity football match on grounds (DE to reply in affirmative)

**11 Items for the Next Agenda/AOB**

* as noted above;
* damaged street nameplates – the best people to deal with these are the Rangers – GRJ will find out next Rangers visit and add to next agenda
* GRJ will prepare a draft letter to the two S Norfolk MPs and pass around for approval
* Anglian Water contractors have started going around the village doing percolation testing

**15** **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 20 March 2017 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.

**NOTE**: April meeting will be held earlier to avoid Easter Monday: Monday 10 April 2017 at 7.30pm