

Morningthorpe and Fritton Parish Council

16th April 2013

A Parish Council meeting was held on Tuesday, 16th April at 7.30pm at The Barn, Friars Farm, Morningthorpe.

Those present were:- Cllrs D Sargent (in the chair), C McDonnell, and S Riches.

Also Clerk, Mrs E Riches and a number of parishioners.

1. Apologies were received from :- Cllr P Rodger (due to item re Streetwood Wind Farm being on the agenda, Cllr E Oxe (notice given on 10th April) . District Councillor Mr M Windridge (ongoing reason as known)
2. Declarations of interest – D Sargent declared an interest in item 5 on the agenda – planning application re Duck Farm 2013.0503.

The meeting was then suspended for Public Period – during this time discussion took place re the proposed Streetwood Wind farm matter – some strong points being made.

The proposed response to SNDC was made known. Info as to the proposal by the Parish Council regarding speed signs was given. Discussion re notification of meetings also took place.

The meeting resumed with :-

3. Streetwood Wind Farm.

It was then agreed upon a proposal by D Sargent, seconded by C McDonnell that the proposal as drawn up, this being :- -

Morningthorpe & Fritton Parish Council are not able to support or oppose the planning application for the Streetwood Wind Farm at Hempnall. This is not to say that we have no opinion, as there are strong opinions both in favour and opposed to the proposed development.

It is clear that the planning application is a divisive subject, and a significant number of parishioners have strongly held views, both in favour and opposed to the development. In addition the Parish Council finds itself closely split on the application with the original discussion finding 3-2 in favour of the planning application.

A question has been raised as to whether one of the Parish Councillors was predetermined when voting in favour of the application. While a complaint has been made there is no likelihood of a definite finding either way on this question. So, while none of the Parish Councillors believe that predetermination existed we have taken advice from the Monitoring Officer at SNDC and NALC on the details of predetermination, and the impact of the localism bill thereon. Much of this advice is contradictory and has unfortunately provided no clarification on the matters raised.

Those supporting the development cite the need for urgent action to be taken on renewable energy supply, and the feeling that South Norfolk should play its part. There were also views that far from

being an eyesore wind turbines are, in fact, quite attractive and would not adversely affect the local landscape.

Those opposed to the proposal are deeply concerned that the proposed wind farm would have a negative effect on the local landscape, particularly given the height of the turbines in question. There were also concerns expressed that Wind Farms often fail to deliver the benefits claimed and are of questionable efficiency in replacing fossil based energy supply.

Having considered all the feedback and documentation received on the planning application and the advice received, it is the view of the Parish Council that to either support or oppose the application would not adequately reflect the range or strength of feelings within the Parish towards this application

Should be adopted and sent in to SNDC – it was however pointed out that the response should have been in by 12th April, that was the given deadline.

4. Via Speed signs – it was considered that the costing should now be for 4 signs – that this would mean approval re siting for the signs, full costing , and application for partnership funding still to be confirmed that a further meeting would be required the next week .It was agreed that another meeting be held. If all information to would be possible this meeting to be on Tuesday 23rd April.
5. As there were insufficient councillors present this item was not dealt with.

The meeting then closed with thanks being given from both the public to the Council for the work that it does, and from the Council to the public for attending .