

# MORNINGTHORPE AND FRITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Friars Farm Barn, Morningthorpe  
at 6.30pm on Tuesday 12 November 2024

**Present:** Cllrs W Sargent (Chair), P Rodger, C McDonnell, P Cooper

**In attendance:** G Roderick-Jones (Clerk), County Cllr A Thomas

**1 Public Discussion:** A number of residents of the parish attended to express their views on the proposals for a chain of solar panel sites including several sites in and around this parish. There is a non-statutory public consultation running until 6 December. An opposition group called BlockEastPyeSolar has been set up and is spearheaded by Hempnall Parish Council and has been joined by other parish councils in the area.

Norfolk County Council will be a consultee when this proposal goes to planning, and will look mainly at highways issues and drainage/flooding concerns. They have a meeting on this next week. South Norfolk is not a consultee as this is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, though they are looking at individual plots to determine their suitability. This proposal differs from other solar farm proposals in the larger scale, but also in the fragmented locations. This fragmentation means that the proposed developments would have a direct effect on a greater number of residential properties, and the disruption caused during the construction phase will also be more widespread than for a unified site as has been proposed elsewhere in Norfolk.

County Cllr Thomas urged residents who will be directly affected to contact Norfolk County Council. There will be a public meeting on Saturday 16 November at Hempnall Mill at 6.30pm.

**2 Apologies for absence:** District Cllr M Hooton, Cllr N Cullum

**3 Declarations of interest:** Cllr Sargent, Cllr Rodger and Cllr Macdonnell declared a financial interest in item 9 (to discuss the council's response to the public consultation on the East Pye Solar proposals)

**4 Report from County & District Councillors:** County Cllr Alison Thomas informed the meeting that

- She is working to support Hempnall PC and others who oppose the East Pye Solar proposals
- The new booking system for Recycling Centres, which has been introduced for safety and efficiency reasons, starts soon. Centres will not open on Wednesdays. An amnesty on harmful substances (like unwanted paint) is in force at Harford Bridge this weekend.
- Norfolk CC Budget Consultation is currently underway.

**NOTE: Item 9 was brought forward to this part of the meeting and the councillors who had declared an interest left the room . See note below.**

**5 Minutes** of the last meeting held on 17 September 2024 were approved and signed; no matters arising.

## **6 Finances**

a NOTED: Current bank balances as at 31 August 2024

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| current account | £5,052.76 |
| savings account | £2,078.23 |
| savings 2       | £1,085.19 |
| balance         | £8,216.18 |

- b NOTED: £220.00 from South Norfolk Litterpick still not received – clerk to chase
- c APPROVED: Payments (proposed Cllr Rodger, seconded Cllr Macdonnell)
 

|                    |                    |         |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| M&F PCC            | annual donation    | £300.00 |
| Leah Smith         | internal audit fee | £50.00  |
| PKF Littlejohn LLC | audit fee`         | £48.00  |
- C To note Direct Debit in favour of SNDC 1 October £162.00 for dog bin servicing

**7 Planning issues circulated to councillors since last meeting:**

- a 2024/3076 Three ways, Edges Lane: side extension, demolish porch and conservatory NO COMMENT
- b Various: upgrade septic tank with package treatment plant: ALL GRANTED AND COMPLETED
  - 2024/3188 Meadow House, The Common
  - 2024/3181 Three Nags Cottage, The Common
  - 2024/3158 Mabel's Cottage, The Common
  - 2024/3165 Sunnyside, The Common
  - 2024/3175 Rose Cottage, The Street
  - 2024/3133 New Church Farm, The Street
- c 2024/2982 European Trade Centre Details of Condition 5 external lighting – COUNCIL TO SUPPORT HEMPSTALL'S OBJECTION (proposed Cllr Rodger, seconded Cllr Cooper)
- d late applications if any (none)

**8 Speeding/Road Safety:** NCC Highways have not yet responded to recent emails on this topic, nor have they given information on what types of electronic signs are acceptable.

**9 To discuss the PC's response to the public consultation on the East Pye Solar proposals:** With one councillor absent, and three councillors out of the room having declared an interest in this item, the vote fell to the one remaining councillor, who voted to support the BlockEastPyeSolar protest group. The first action will be to attend the public meeting on Hempsall on Saturday (see item 1 above) and to talk to other people involved in the protests.

**10 Result of Visit of Highways Rangers:** the response is as follows:

ENQ900276673 – The Street, Dirty signage

Work has been arranged to wash clean all signage at this location, we are working on completing this as soon as reasonably possible.

ENQ900276674 – Church Lane, Blocked drain

Grip orders have been issued to our contactors across the south area and these will be reinstated in due course, the drainage ditch at this location does not appear to be highways maintained.

ENQ900276675 – Steppings Lane, Blocked drain

The grip at this location is situated to take water from the carriageway into the pond, there was no evidence of pipe damage upon inspection. The pond may overflow as it is full of mud and could benefit from being dug out by the landowner, this will prevent the pond from overflowing into the carriageway.

- 11      **Correspondence:** as above
- 12      **AOB/ items for the next agenda:** as above, and Cllr Sargent reported that a new pipe has now been laid under the track adjacent to the pond on the Common.
- 13      **Next meeting:** Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 6.30pm at Friars Farm Barn