

WORMINGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 2015

IN WORMINGFORD VILLAGE HALL, AT 8.15 P.M.

In the Chair: Cllr. Collins
Present: Cllrs Bentley, Boyce, Evans, Grimsey, Hearne & Huggett
Clerk: Mrs. H. Cook
Also Present Cllr Nigel Chapman, three representatives regarding Fairfield Farm and fifteen members of the public

15/081: Chairman's Welcome, Apologies for Absence

Cllr Collins welcomed everybody to the meeting. Cllr Brown sent her apologies.

15/082: Declaration of Interests

To receive any "Disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests" relating to items on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

15/083: Mr Robert Strathern, Director, Fairfield Farm

Mr Strathern and colleagues spoke about the project. (See attached document - Farm based biogas digester at Wormingford Airfield).

The Q & A sheet (see attached) was also gone through with the following points raised:

Impact on the Environment:

- ❖ A landscaping scheme will be in place.
- ❖ The project will enhance the local economy contributing to 5 new jobs and 1 apprentice.
- ❖ No reason in using Airfield in the application over Fairfield farm.

Odour:

- ❖ Having discussed and visited other sites, they have not received any complaints of odour.
- ❖ Odour report concludes that there would be no impact.

Methane/Co2:

- ❖ As the site is located near to a gas pipeline it is conducive to generate gas than electricity and is also more efficient.
- ❖ Once cleaned it is injected into the gas line under very strict guidelines and the over the highest standards.
- ❖ A flare to burn off gas is available for emergencies.

Traffic:

- ❖ Fertilizer will be produced on site, reducing lorry movements.
- ❖ Use of local/adjoining farms will be the high priority, reducing lorry movements.
- ❖ Estimate of reduction of 690 lorries per year to and from the site.
- ❖ Projected to take 6-8 months to build, estimated at 150-190 concrete lorries, sign post and care will be taken.

Impact on community:

- ❖ Great for renewable energy.
- ❖ Can't control national gas grid, but it may encourage them to consider Wormingford.
- ❖ New jobs, retaining current jobs.
- ❖ Reduction of lorry journeys.
- ❖ Local educational resource.

15/084: Public Participation Session with Respect to Items on the Agenda and other matters that are of mutual Interest

Members of the public raised the following points, which were answered by the Fairfield representatives:

- ❖ Excess Methane: A flare is available for maintenance and as a safety measure.
- ❖ Odour Complaints from other similar sites: Other sites have housing nearer and have no reported complaints of odour.
- ❖ Landscaping: Situated next to farm buildings so not in isolation, colours chosen to blend in, planting scheme planned.
- ❖ Food waste: This is a crop based technology and the owner would not want waste next to the Fairfield crisp site.
- ❖ Own Electricity: A small unit which would be quiet would produce energy for the farm.
- ❖ Crops: Harvest of crops would be seasonal and would be confined to a few days at different times of the year depending on the crop itself.
- ❖ Extend to other farms: The biogas digester only has a certain capacity.
- ❖ Green waste refused: Previous application is not relevant and was not submitted by current owner. Current Policy has also changed from 2010/2011.
- ❖ Future intent: Not relevant to current application.
- ❖ Jobs: Would be advertised locally and would ideally like to recruit locally.
- ❖ Lagoon: The fertilizer would be pumped from underneath in order to lessen the odour.
- ❖ S106: Not an expert, but unlikely.

15/085: Planning Applications

- 1) **Planning Application: 150391.** Fairfield Farm, Fordham Road, Wormingford, Colchester, CO6 3AQ. Erection of farm based biogas digester and associated works.

Cllrs discussed this application and also the comments received from the members of the public. Cllr Collins and Cllr Bentley discussed their findings after visiting a similar site in Boxford (attached).

15/039: RESOLVED that the Clerk send the decision of support and comments asking the Applicant to be a good neighbour in all respects to Colchester Borough Council, Planning Department. For 5: Against 2.

15/086: Standing Orders

15/040: RESOLVED that the Standing Orders recommended by NALC be accepted.

15/087: Signatories for Bank Account

Cllrs discussed that after the Election the Council may lose two of its signatories therefore not being able to sign cheques. It was agreed to add Cllr Evans, Huggett and Hearne to the list as a precaution.

15/041: RESOLVED that Cllr Evans, Huggett and Hearne be added to the bank mandate as soon as forms could be returned to the Clerk.

Cllr Collins thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.47pm. The date of the next meeting is Thursday 14th May.

Signed:.....

Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 14th May 2015