

Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Joint Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held at Shadingfield Village Hall on 18 January 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillors C Ellis (Chair), R Ellis, Blunn, Chipperfield, Drane, London, Potter and Sheldrake.

In attendance:

Mr S C Blackburn (Clerk); Rev Phil Miller, Mrs R Russell.

23.001 Apologies for Absence: None.

23.002 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations: None.

23.003 To sign as an accurate record the minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by Cllr Blunn, Seconded by Cllr R London and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 be signed as a correct record.

23.004 Public Participation:

The Chair introduced Mrs Ros Russell, a resident of Shadingfield, of the Citizens Advice Bureau which recently submitted a request for financial support. She explained the work of the CAB which aims to give people the knowledge to address their problems directly but will also help where necessary. The former Beccles, Bungay and Halesworth branch is now part of a larger area which aligns with East Suffolk Council. They supported 5,000 clients in the last year, dealing with 13,000 issues, mainly relating to benefits, accessing charitable support from other agencies and debt. Since the lockdown, support has moved from face to face contact to the telephone. In addition, they have three projects, Solutions, where doctors now refer to the CAB, a presence at food banks and giving budgetary support and advice, including in schools.

23.005 Chair's Report

Welcome back all. It seems a long time ago but I hope you all had a good Christmas and are feeling positive about 2023. After our last meeting, East Suffolk Council confirmed that they had awarded both the Village Hall and the Shadingfield Fox Public House the designation of Asset of Community Value. Along with their NDHA status in the Neighbourhood Plan, this means that they have enhanced protection against a change of use or sale to a third party. There are some issues around the Playing Field, primarily focusing on the boundaries, but hopefully these can be ironed out in the near future and it will enjoy the same protections as the Pub and the Village Hall. Also, our Neighbourhood Plan reached its next stage and now has legal standing when we are looking at future planning applications. It seems likely that the referendum date for the plan will be 4<sup>th</sup> May, which is the same day as the local elections, so that should give us maximum turnout. In December, Steve and I attended a meeting to discuss the proposed Anaerobic Digester for Ellough that we will be examining under item 8 of our agenda. This was an informal meeting, not open to members of the public, and was attended by Peter Aldous, our MP, District Councillors as well as many representatives of Local Parish Councils. The general consensus was in opposition to the development, and it was noted that there was a significant lack of detail in the application. We are reminded that in order to successfully oppose an application, we should focus only on material planning considerations, and sadly this does not include any specific issues identified with the current digester operating in Ellough. On 9<sup>th</sup> December, I found myself at Ellough Churchyard and I'm happy to say the Jubilee tree that had been planted was doing well and appeared to be well protected. My thanks to both Cllr. Potter and Dr. Helen Bynum for bringing this to fruition. Let us hope it, like our communities, continues to thrive into 2023 and beyond. I wish each of you and our residents a healthy and peaceful new year. Let's see what this one throws at us!

23.006 Reports

(a) County Councillor and (b) District Councillor: Reports had been circulated as and when received.  
(c) Police: No report.

RESOLVED: that the reports be noted.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

23.007 Correspondence: The Clerk circulated correspondence as and when received. There were no further comments.

23.008 Planning Applications

(a) New Applications

SCC/0063/22W – Small scale energy recovery facility at V C Cooke, Ellough

Concerns were expressed that the proposed processing of 2.3 tonnes of waste per hour was a significant amount and would increase traffic to the site, albeit off an A Road in a commercial area. It was also pointed out that emissions could affect both agricultural land and the proposed housing development nearby. The Chair felt that it was not possible to object due to the lack of technical knowledge and it was agreed to express concerns about possible emissions and the need for enforcement.

RESOLVED: To make comment as above.

SCC/0124/22W - Land West of Copeland Way – Proposed anaerobic digester

This application is a matter of concern to other nearby parishes and a meeting was held with a view to a common approach. A detailed summary by Cllr C Ellis, focussing on valid grounds for objection, is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

RESOLVED: To submit the objection using the reasons outlined.

DC/22/4297/FUL – Erection of a grain store at Benacre Road, Ellough

RESOLVED: To support the application.

DC/23/0163/FUL – Extensions to Crossbow Cottage

This application had been received on the morning of the day of the meeting; no objections were raised but it was agreed to defer making a formal comment to allow residents to approach us about the matter.

(b) Updates on previously considered applications: None.

23.009 Finance

(a) To approve payment of outstanding invoices: Proposed by Cllr Chipperfield, seconded by Cllr Potter and

RESOLVED: That the payments listed in Appendix 2 be authorised.

(b) To note the financial situation and bank reconciliations as at 30 November and 31 December 2022: Proposed by Cllr R Ellis, seconded by Cllr Blunn and RESOLVED: That the situation be noted.

(c) To consider the earlier appeal from Citizens Advice Bureau for financial support.

Proposed by Cllr London, Seconded by Cllr Sheldrake that a donation of £500 be made.

23.010 Cemetery and Chapel

The Clerk reported that the graves of Geoffrey and Stella Wright have been 'tidied' with decorative gravel and a boundary chain. Both of these are in direct contravention of our rules and a complaint has been received.

RESOLVED: to establish the person or persons responsible and require them to remove the plastic fence and stone within 28 days.

Cllr Potter reported on a meeting of the SCPT. Events planned for 2023 would be similar to the previous year but the Parish Council was asked if there were plans to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. This will be an agenda item for the meeting on 15 February. It was also noted that a cupboard would be purchased for storage and that a cross with a brass plaque is available to mark graves for the benefit of gravediggers.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

23.011 Playing Fields:

There has been no response from Sotterley Estate to our attempted contacts for further discussions about creating a longer-term lease. It was agreed that no further action should be taken for the time being.

Problems with moles were reported on 5 January and the mole catcher was instructed, at a cost of £50.

23.012 Road Safety:

## (a) Installation of speed indicator devices

Delays at manufacturers, including an injury to the manufacturing director, are said to be the cause of the delay. Delivery was promised for 18 December but an update at least is promised by 13 January. Cllr Cloke's contribution of £1,600 has been received but the overall payment has left our account.

## (b) Additional road signage for the play area

We have been invoiced for our contribution of £325.00, the remainder coming from Cllr Cloke's Locality Budget and which we believe will be transferred within Suffolk CC.

## (c) Use of mobile ANPR speed monitoring

This facility has been scheduled. We will be advised when a date has been agreed.

## (d) To consider a quotation from Suffolk CC for additional markings on the A145

Details of the County Council's proposals for dragon's teeth markings at an estimated cost of £1,000 were discussed. Some councillors were not convinced of their worth, given that road grime and gradual fading would reduce their visibility. It was agreed to defer any further discussion for three months.

23.013 Village Matters

## (a) Arrangements for a future litter pick

Fixed for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 10.00 am with refreshments at The Fox.

## (b) Suffolk CC Mobile Library

The next Sheaf article to ask residents if they wish the library to visit.

## (c) Appointment of a village history recorder

No response to either the Parish Council or Church.

## (d) Maintenance of notice boards

GMale have been reminded to remove the Chartres Piece notice board. The board at the village hall is in poor shape and not waterproof. A suggestion was made that Beccles Men's Shed might construct one and the Clerk will enquire about this.

## (e) Neighbourhood Development Plan

The plan was approved by East Suffolk Council on 22 December to go referendum, probably on 4 May. The plan is now part of the policy framework and has the same weight as the Waveney local plan.

## (f) Future articles for Sheaf Magazine

Cllr Chipperfield kindly agreed to write the next article.

## (g) Proposed planting improvements to road signs at Shadingfield

There was no further response from Wooten's and it was agreed that the area around the sign be kept clear to improve visibility.

23.014 Revd Phil Miller is to move to Bromyard from 1<sup>st</sup> March and his last service will be at 10.30 on 19 February at Shadingfield Church. The Chair thanked him for his work and offered the best wishes of the Council on his move.

23.015 Items for discussion at the next meeting:

Picnic and/or coronation celebration, noting any church services

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To consider signage 'use at own risk' at the playground  
SCC 'Solar Together'

23.016 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Appendix 1 – Terms of objection to application SCC/0124/22W.

Location

The site is outside the Enterprise Zone as designated in the Local Plan – this information was supplied by a representative of Mutford PC and I have not independently verified this.

Seek confirmation that the site will have direct access to an A or B road as required by our Local Neighbourhood Plan.

Traffic

Given the nature of the increased HGV traffic, we would seek assurances that the transport of materials in and out is carried out only by licensed vehicles and that materials are not transported by tractors with potentially young, inexperienced drivers.

If the catchment area is intended to be within 10 miles of the site, as suggested in the preliminary communications, we would question the viability of this, given that a large percentage of this area is covered by the North Sea. The impact of traffic on the surrounding areas has not, we believe, been calculated and taken into account.

Odours and Emissions

We have grave concerns on the impact of odours and emissions on existing businesses in the area. We have knowledge of people having to leave their jobs on the Ellough Industrial Estate as a result of the existing BioCow plant and of businesses having to make costly infrastructure changes to their premises to protect their employees and customers from the unpleasant smells arising from the existing Biodigester; there is nothing to suggest that the proposed plant will not exacerbate matters.

Safety

We take note of and would endorse the CAA's objections to the proposed development on the grounds of safety, namely that the plant will increase the local population of vermin (and in consequence, birds of prey and other predators) and will create a material increased risk of bird strike for the Ellough Airfield.

The CAA have also cited building induced turbulence as a risk to their business. The Airfield is a thriving business at the heart of the community, used by local residents and visitors alike. It employs some 60 people, servicing offshore wind farms and raising funds for charity through its regular charity parachute jumps.

We also note from other objections that the venting of gas from this proposed development could result in the collapse of parachutes, posing a fatal risk to users of the airfield. To put this business (and others) and their users at risk for a development that will provide only 6 jobs is, in our opinion, disproportionate and unacceptable.

Storage of Materials

The proposed development is stated to deal with large volumes of input waste - solid, liquid and slurry. There appears to be no provision for secure storage of these materials on site prior to them entering the facility. Similarly, the post-processing products will be solids, liquids, gas and slurry. If the gas is vented and burned, there is an unacceptable risk to users of the airfield. Again, unless it is stored in sealed containers until taken offsite (to where?) the resulting detrimental effect on amenity for local businesses and residents will be unacceptable.

Impact on existing proposed developments in the Local Plan.

The proposed plant is very close to and will have a negative impact on the proposed Beccles and Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood as identified in the Local Plan (WLP3.1, 1,250 homes) and the Barnby Site (Local Plan, WLP7.2, approx 50 homes). Is SCC prepared to put these residential developments at risk for the sake of 6 jobs at the proposed development?

How Green?

The applicants are claiming this will be a 'green' business, burning food waste. In the current economic climate, should the burning of excess food production be encouraged? We have concerns about the separation of plastics from the food entering the facility; if this is not carried out meticulously and effectively, there is a high risk of microplastics being spread on agricultural land and entering the food chain. Will there be any controls on the fuel used for vehicles bringing in the 'input' to this biodigester? Similarly, how will the vehicles taking the output be powered? If the movement of materials in and out is by diesel vehicles, the net benefits to the environment could be negligible. General waste (including domestic food waste that is not composted) is already taken to Great Blakenham incinerator where it is used to generate electricity. It is suggested that the output methane gas is of a low quality and thermal value; if this is the case, its contribution to the gas grid would have a 'diluting' effect and would overall increase gas consumption.

Appendix 2 – Payments Authorised

	To	For	Net	VAT	Gross
210	Cllr C Ellis	Food supplied for social at the Fox	150.00	-	150.00
211	Suffolk CC	Contribution to playground signage	325.00	-	325.00
212	Waveney Norse	Bin emptying, Oct, Nov, Dec	9.99	2.00	11.99
213	S C Blackburn	Salary Dec, Jan, P30 payment Q3 etc	1,127.83	13.00	1,140.83

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_