

## MINUTES OF HUMBLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

On THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022,

Held at Maple Garage

17.79 Present: Councillors: J Burton (JB), L Brazier (LB); N Broughton (NB), H Jackson (HJ) & C Scott (CS)

Apologies : F Caley (FC) & H Stannard (HS)

Officer: Mrs Vanessa Nolan

Residents: One

Non-residents: None

### 17.80 Public Forum

Antisocial behaviour was raised as a recurring issue. The various authorities all aware of the issues, those affected to date been advised to keep detailed logs for submission. Concerns were raised about some families unwilling to let their children play on The Green due to levels of antisocial behaviour being displayed. Clerk to contact the authorities for an update. The recent criminal damage – breaking & entering the construction site and damaging the buildings are in the hands of the police. Anyone experiencing any of these actions should contact ERYC Housing on 01482 396301 and log their concerns immediately. Our villages should be a safe area for our children to play out without being subjected to antisocial behaviour and we all need to act to report this unacceptable behaviour.

### 17.81 Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor LB declared an interest in Flinton land.

### 17.82 Minutes of previous meeting approved.

### 17.83 Matters Arising

a) Highways / Street Services. Flinton speed sign now fixed. Potholes still a problem on the Lelley Road – Clerk to raise again. Broken fingerboard at Moor Cottages still awaiting repair.

b) Police reports / Neighbourhood Watch. Recent break into the Old School construction site in police hands. Damage to the cricket container, Friends of Humbleton shed, and to the Old School (doors and windows smashed) all reported to the police.

c) Maintenance schedule – the pumps have been checked and all ok. Replacement glass purchased for Flinton phone box, just need the silicon to fit.

d) Parish Clock – clerk working on updating prices and looking for grants. However, mindful as to the future of the church itself. Clerk to pull information together with proposed grants for discussion at future meeting. The concern is that the clock can only fit on the church as there is

no other public building, but the councillors are aware of other churches in Holderness (including other denominations) being closed and sold off.

e) Heron's Trust – work continues the new houses next to the Old School. Several concerns had been raised about the parking of the contractors due to the blind corner – these have been addressed and contractors are using the car park.

f) Community Plan – the latest version had been circulated to the Councillors – it was agreed that we should update the plan and consider the next options to focus on – with antisocial behaviour being a particular focus. Broadband, Old School and speeding had been the focus prior to COVID.

g) Friends of Humbleton – due to the ongoing work at the Old School and the lack of toilets & running water, holding a Jubilee event was going to be an issue. FOH have spoken to the Church Warden and agreed we can hold the Jubilee / Sports Day joint event at the Church using the kitchen and toilet and the 'car park' for the races etc. Notice to hold the date has gone on the Humbleton hub – 4<sup>th</sup> June.

h) Bridle path update – not heard anything – clerk to follow up.

#### 17.84 Correspondence

- Letter from North Newbald Parish Council asking for our support as they are concerned about the relationship with ERYC – some is due to change of regular contacts, and some is due to ERYC staff location therefore making it hard to speak to someone. RESOLVED to support North Newbald as an interested council, however concerns were raised about the length of the letter and to include specific examples – clerk to feedback.
- Thank you letters for Xmas gifts had been received from some residents.

#### 17.85 Accounts

a) Approved the following payments:

D & C Buckton for flailing new cemetery £120.00

X2 Connect for replacement glass for Flinton phone box £26.04

V Nolan paid for Xmas vouchers £150.00

V Nolan – salary £231.00

HMRC – PAYE £154.00

b) Bank balance - £5,535.43. The interest on the Investment Account with NS&I was poor, RESOLVED to close the Investment Account and transfer all funds to Lloyds Bank.

c) Insurance renewal 2022 – this was finally resolved before the renewal date – we were under a 3-year SLA and due to poor handling of the renewal terms, Gallagher agreed to waive the Admin fee of £50, so the renewal was completed at £308.35, however the initial renewal had been at £603, but clerk was hoping to get a new 3-year SLA at competitive prices.

d) Festival lighting costs – not received an invoice from Eon yet.

e) Withernwick Windfarm grant – awaiting details of the generators – time sensitive especially if the Festival Lighting are not invoiced soon. JB to action with FC.

## 17.86 Planning

a) Rathlin – Rathlin – Well A – an update from the liaison meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated prior to the meeting. Questions had been raised about the extent of the proposed drilling which according to a map would extend under Finton. Rathlin advised that the map was included in the planning application as the maximum potential area that drilling could be extended to. Normally the drilling from a well would be for oil about a radius of 0.5 mile and for gas would be 1 mile. However, the drilling is not always vertical depending on the strata they encounter, and the drilling is continuously fine-tuned (about every 3 meters) and so the angle can be modified. The angle is adjusted by very small degrees and the maximum would be a 90-degree bend and that would usually be done at the maximum drill level (2,000 meters). As they are drilling through rock to get to the oil and then casing the hole in concrete with the sleeve for the drill bit, it is solid and there is no ‘gap.’ Concerns were raised at the meeting comparing it to Texas where the drilling can result in subsidence. Rathlin were keen to point out that the geophysical nature of Texas is sand and is a vastly different sub-stratum. Our area is rock and is very unlikely that the drilling (even if it got to the maximum area) would make the land structure unsafe. When they start drilling, they are required to notify all landowners whose land they are drilling under – this includes residents. Members were reminded that the land they are drilling is not owned by residents but by the Crown and is managed by the Oil & Gas / Minerals Agency. So, whilst it may not seem fair, residents are notified, but have recourse to stop the drilling (there is case law which has tested this).

As part of the rejection of the previous planning application, Rathlin had revisited the areas and the concerns raised. The site is going to be smaller in size with 4 instead of 6 wells. The lighting has been reviewed to ensure it is not invasive and to minimise light pollution. The landscaping / hedging round the site will be increased with more hedges and higher planning to screen the site. The storage tanks will be changed from vertical storage to horizontal storage to keep the height of the visuals to a minimum and so the hedging can screen the operation. The aim is that the only visible feature will be the drill itself.

Transport was still a concern, however Rathlin have split the route, so it is over two routes. Pasture Lane will have 4 passing places added to help with the movement of traffic. Assurances were given that the maximum movement of HGV would be 10 x 2-way trips during production. If the site produced more oil that required additional trips, these would be limited to 10 and then Rathlin would either scale back production to a maximum of 10 x 2-way trips and would explore the pipeline option.

There had also been some update by the landowner to plant trees to help with the screening along the north side of the site, and to create a trod in the field along the road so that the public could use the trod, get off the road (with the HGV) and continue to use the area to walk in, this would include a hedge to separate the trod from the field which was welcomed.

Rathlin still have the option (six-months) to appeal the previous planning application but currently are hoping that these revisions will be sufficient to get through planning. The application is based on the most prudent view and so is a worse-case application. However, if this application is rejected, Rathlin will either try again or go to appeal. The oil/gas is located there, and they are still exploring to find its location for extraction.

Attendees reminded everyone that we all need oil / gas for our daily lives. Rathlin confirmed that the type of oil found so far was the light consistency which is usually used in fuel production (not plastic production).

Rathlin confirmed that they are not fracking (the depth of the shale gas (fracking is the extraction method used for shale gas) is 3,000m and their application is only to drill to 2,000m only, their permits only allow drilling to 2,000m. Rathlin must continuously update the regulators throughout the drilling process (and any change in angle as mentioned previously, requires permission), and they are required to provide weekly reports to the authorities. It is not possible to frack by accident.

RESOLVED to be neutral on the application, however concerns were raised about the Transport Plan, and to specifically request planning conditions limiting the number of vehicles during production. It was noted that if this is rejected and goes to appeal then if approved by the Secretary of State, it is unlikely there will be any planning conditions attached to the decision.

b) Heron Trust – variation to omit the chimneys on the new properties – this had now been withdrawn.

d) Tansterne expansion project – objection submitted. Clerk had submitted a request that this application go to full planning committee, which had been confirmed by ERYC. However, councillors were concerned that other local parishes seemed unconcerned about this planning application and the potential impact on the residents. Contacts with all the local councils had been made with various degrees of success, plus contact with the Ward Councillors – again with limited success.

#### 17.87 Any Other Business

a) Flinton defib box – a quote to add a lock to the box from the original supplier was obtained saying we would need to replace the door costing £150, alternatives were discussed and are to be explored.

b) Jubilee – discussed options for gifts to celebrate this event – suggestions welcome – time sensitive.

17.88 Date of next meeting

Thursday 26 May at 7pm at Maple Garage.