

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY DOCKING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on the 25TH January 2016 in the Ripper Hall

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Public session.** 82 members present. 6 members of the public requested to address the meeting.

Mr Webb spoke from experience of working in the industry and being an HGV driver. He spoke from the leaflet that had been distributed to residents. He could see no health issues and there would be limited smell. He said we live in the country and should expect country smells. There would be no issue with the water as all waste would be tanked away. He said the information was not correct and was an injustice to the applicant.

Mr Lock was concerned on health grounds and considered there would be an increase in infections as seen in America. He had concerns about the quality of the chicken and there was poor sanitation at the factories which was a risk to health. He had a huge concern about animal welfare.

Ms Walker said her main objection was on health grounds. She said it was utter madness to site the units in our locality and parishioners would be at risk from particles coming from the lorries travelling through the village. She said it is proved that people working in industry are at a higher risk of health problems. The smell was a secondary issue and would affect Docking more than Sedgeford. The units would be a risk to tourism with people not wanting to come and stay in the area. There would be an increase in HGV movements. She could not find one reason to support the plans, we do not need it in an area of natural beauty where people enjoy a good quality of life.

Mr Oldroyd said he had been a resident for 6 years. . He said current farming does not affect tourism but this would and does not fit with this specific area. He quoted the residents view of the Hempton site near Fakenham but was reminded that this was old technology and a completely different set up. He said it was not sensible to add more lorries on top of what we have. He reminded the council of the protest at the first application and he urged them to rescind their previous decision and vote against the plans.

Dr Dober (Sedgeford) said that his concern is that this is the tip of the iceberg. He quoted the original 8 sheds now reduced to 4 and the volumes of animals that would pass through the sheds in a cycle. He had a concern for the birds that did not survive and how they were going to be dealt with. He quoted an article from Farmers Weekly of the 20th March 2015 that stated that sheds should not be close to housing, ancient woodlands, should be within an hour of the processing plant and thought should be given to the increase in HGV traffic.

Mr Lendrum (Ringstead) said he had health concerns and the spread of infection from the passing lorries. He said that Docking was already narrow and often difficult to negotiate with parked cars, this will only add to congestion. He said there will be odours when the sheds are cleared out and there was no method of measuring the smell. He said the units would be on the edge of AONB, it would put tourism in jeopardy and the jobs of local people.

Rebecca Lloyd had concern about the debate being about farmers and non-farmers. She said the problem is that this is not farming, as the farmer would be letting the land to another company. It is not a farmer diversifying when it effects a massive community and their livelihood. She said that the majority agree with her views. She was not against diversity but it should be in other ways. She did not think that full and factual information had been given and the Parish Council were very foolish to say yes.

Mr Barber (Farmer) said that much that had been spoken about was not applicable to the planning application. He commented that things like the battery cages comment are not true. He said antibiotic issues are global issues for the farming of all animals and that antibiotics in humans has been over prescribed by doctors. He said the AONB was 2 mile from the site and quoted that Fakenham racecourse and its caravan site had not been effected by the Hempton site, nor Thursford which has 8 sites around it. He urged the council to vote on what is in front of them. He said the concern about the welfare of the birds was unfounded as they need to be well looked after as they cannot afford to do otherwise. He reminded the meeting we are talking about a planning process in which Highways and air quality had approved the plans.

Elizabeth Hughes asked Mr Barber if he could tell her on benefit to the local community of the plan

Helga Joergens-Lendrum (Ringstead) informed the meeting Banham is so successful with their production they are now exporting chicken so why do they need more? And that they are now training their own vet inspectors so they will inspect their own process!

Mrs Almey said the applicant had said if there was smell he would close it down, will he still stick to this?

Mrs Skeen raised concerns about house prices and the effect on businesses.

Jim McColgen asked for clarification about where the muck goes after it is cleared out. He was informed it would be stored on 4 sites and used on site and not left for a year as had been suggested but used within 3 or 4 months.

Peter Horsburgh said there were large risks from the development. There are far too many risks and he could not see how the council could approve and asked them to reconsider their decision.

Mr York asked the council to listen to what they had heard tonight

John Newell has concerns about the smells from the site.

Christina Willis has a huge concerns for her child, who has been born with a lung disease and asked the council to take her child into account.

3. Present:- Mr Wroth, Mr Able, Mrs Edge, Mr Meek, Mrs Hack, Mr Gillett, Mr R Playford, Mr Todd, Mr Cooke and Mrs Playford. No apologies received from Mr Crompton

Apologies: - Jenny and David Roy, John Fletcher and Joanie Dimavicius.

4. Declaration of interests on agenda items. None

5. Planning Matters.

5.1 Reconsideration of the planning application for Poultry units at Whin Close.

The clerk read a letter from the Docking Surgery sent to the council by Doctor Burgess commenting on health issues.

The chair invited comments from the council. It was agreed the council would take a re vote on the matter. The clerk collected the votes and announced the plans had been rejected by a majority decision For 2 against 4 and 4 abstentions. Abstentions were happy to leave it to the Borough Council who should have the expertise to deal with the complex application.

The chair closed the meeting.

Close 8.15pm

Date of next meeting Thursday 18th February 2016 for a General Meeting.