

# CRUWYS MORCHARD PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meeting was held in Cruwys Morchard Parish Hall on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 8 p.m.

## MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs S. Smyth (Chairman), Mr. D. Berry, Mr G. Hall, Mr N. Baker.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr M. Lake (Work commitments), Mrs J. Mitchell (Other meeting), Mr A. Chave (Work Commitments), Cllr M. Squires (County Councillor), Cllr P Colthorpe (District Councillor)

## NON-ATTENDANCE

Mr G. Kingdom

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 had already been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Proposal:** Agreement to the content of the minutes was proposed by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Hall and was unanimously agreed by the meeting and duly signed by the chairman.

## DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

**PLANNING APPLICATON (16/00750/FULL)** Variation of condition (2) of appeal decision APP/Y1138/A/142211282 relating to planning application 13/01170/FULL to allow the substitution of previously approved plans. Land at NGR 284927 114041 (Edgeworthy Farm) Nomansland Devon.

A lengthy discussion took place.

**Proposal:** Mr Baker proposed and Mr Hall seconded refusal of this application and the meeting unanimously agreed for the following reasons:

1. The Parish Council originally supported the application as they considered it to be a small 'on farm' digester which was to be used to support the small farming business at Edgeworthy. The Planning Officer's original report stated that it had been considered as an on farm AD to process slurry from Edgeworthy Farm and not as a general waste facility. This application indicates that it could become much larger with the potential for further applications to increase its output which would be to the even greater detriment to the local area in particular regarding increased heavy goods traffic.
2. It has become apparent that the Greener for Life Group and the associated Companies such as the applicant in this case, Cranbrook Renewables Ltd. repeatedly submit applications to increase the size of the plant and associated infrastructure with piecemeal applications which once approved are difficult to control.
3. Construction of the plant has been commenced but the Enforcement Officer has stated that it is in breach, having not been built in accordance with approved plans. How will any further development be controlled for example the size of the tank is far larger than is necessary to produce the 326 kwe requested.
4. The Planning Officer recognised in August 2013 that the ground on which it was proposed to site the Digester had a low drainage potential. Pictorial Evidence from October 2015 and a statement from the Enforcement Officer in February 2016 confirm that the current excavations on the AD plant site a part filled with water. It is known that the water table in this area is high and we would question how drainage to support the proposed 5 metre depth of both the new the Digester Tank and Digestate tank in this current submission will be achieved. We would suggest that consultation with the Environment Agency is essential regarding this.

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- 5. The proposed gas flare appears to be next to the hedgerow bordering the unclassified, publically maintained road which could be unsafe.

The Appeal Decision to grant the approval of APP/Y1138/A/14/2211282 contained conditions which should be enforced and additional ones added to ensure that the plant cannot be increased in size by the addition of a second CHP and increased feedstock for example. There has already been an 11000-volt electricity cable laid between Edgeworthy Farm and Menchine and no explanation as to its use and thousands of tons of silage has recently been stored at Edgeworthy.

**PLANNING APPLICATION (16/00564/FULL)** Retention of an agricultural access track at Land at NGR 283282 113369 (Menchine Farm) Nomansland Devon.

A lengthy discussion took place.

**Proposal:** Mr Berry proposed and Mr Hall seconded refusal of this application and the meeting unanimously agreed for the following reasons:

- 1. It cannot be termed "Retention of an agricultural track at Menchine Farm" as prior to February 2016 it was previously a field gateway with land accessed infrequently. Pictures show exactly what the field looked like prior to this track being put in. It was a field with a hedge between it and the river Dalch and was silaged last year. It should therefore be a request for Retrospective Permission for an act already carried out.
- 2. A track of this magnitude would be completely unnecessary to service the small amount of land at Menchine unless it is to be used to service the Anaerobic Digester.
- 3. No details have been given relating to whether this is the case except that the Highway Authority have commented 'traffic generated by the AD plant would normally need to travel to the plant through the village and an access from the south will give the benefit of reduced movements through the residential elements of the village to the benefit of the residents'. It is clear from this statement that the Highway Authority have no idea of the way that traffic operates in this village as the road from Nomansland crossroads down the hill to the access track and onto Puddington and Black Dog or vice versa is rarely used by the huge tractors and trailers as there are 8 houses, four on either side of this piece of road with no off road parking and hence insufficient width to accommodate such large vehicles between the parked cars. Therefore, absolutely no gain to the village of Nomansland.
- 4. Full details should be requested by the LPA about the exact use of this track. It is essential that all movements are monitored to and from it with the same kind of detail that was requested by the Appeal Inspector to ensure that there is no increase in the energy production breaching the 500kw allowed within the approved Planning Permission.
- 5. There is concern that the fodder beet which appears to have been tilled to the south of Menchine is one of the reasons why the track has been built. There is a requirement from the Environment Authority for this to be washed prior to delivery to the AD plant. This is currently done at Cleave Farm. Without going through Nomansland how and where will this be carried out. We would request liaison with the Environment Authority regarding relevant permitting.
- 6. Should this application be approved we would request that enforceable conditions are applied regarding the strict monitoring and recording of all movements to and from this entrance to Menchine.

**HIGHWAY PROBLEMS**

Mrs Smyth reported that the 30 mph flashing sign had now been out of action for the last 14 months at the east end of Nomansland and the sign at the west end worked intermittently.

Meeting closed 9:08 p.m.

Signed (Chairman)..... Date.....