

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr S Ward (Chairman)
Cllr S Benton
Cllr I Nickalls
Cllr T Palmer
Cllr J Norton
Cllr S Howes
Cllr D Holmes
Cllr A Bunn
Cllr A Ramsbottom
Mrs K Medler (Clerk)

Parishioners: 8

In attendance: County Cllr D Roper

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Councillors A Long and M Williamson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

Cllr D Holmes declared an interest in item 6c. There were no dispensation requests.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th October 2022 were agreed by all.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that the Ploughing Match was cancelled as it was really too late in the year and there was not enough interest. This is being re-considered for next year.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- It was noted that R Rolf recently won a Norfolk Community Award for her work on the allotments and the Allotment Committee would like to pass on their congratulations.
- The Council were asked if the dog project called 'stick and flick' was pursued. Cllr D Holmes advised he was looking at this and will be progressing.
- A member of the public wanted the Council to be aware that the Hackney Carriage Fare Review they were consulted on was actually relevant to all taxis not just hackney carriages. This was noted although the date for comments has now passed. (Having checked after the meeting, the above is incorrect as the consultation specifically states: *Please note that these will apply to licensed hackney carriages only.*)
- It was stated by a member of the public: The price paid by BDC for their new premises was not made public as that was a condition of the sale by Aviva.
- Cllr J Norton asked if it is possible to have lines painted on The Street near to the junction with the A140 Cromer Road as on several occasions now cars are being left parked on the road close to the junction, sometimes for the day and more recently one for a week, which causes chaos at the junction. This will be referred to Cty Cllr D Roper later.
- The hedge on the corner of Brick Kiln Road is hanging out and scratching vehicles. Cllr S Benton will speak to the owner.
- There are two broken road signs in the village: Church Lane and Morgans Way. The Clerk will report to BDC.

6. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Finance

i) The following accounts had already been paid and were approved:

P H Collins (Grass cutting in September)	£448.00
D Seppings (Work at village hall in September)	£39.70
PFK Littlejohn (External audit fee)	£240.00
K Medler (Purchase of wreath / donation to RBL)	£99.98
P H Collins (Grass cutting in October)	£448.00
Anglian Water (Water on village allotments)	£328.51
Npower (Street lighting)	£122.13

The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

T T Jones Electrical Ltd (Street lighting contract)	£18.00
Hevingham Village Hall (Hire for NWL meeting)	£13.00
P H Collins (Grass cutting in November)	£448.00
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£267.37
D Seppings (Work at village hall in Oct/Nov)	£55.00

The Clerk's standing order was paid on the 5th November and the 5th December 2022.

The following receipts were noted:

Magazine adverts	£18.00
Allotment rents (village)	£417.50
Allotment rents (farmers)	£1737.50

Balance at the bank at the end of November was £27,356.52.

ii) The Clerk had previously circulated budget / precept proposals and following discussions it was agreed unanimously that the Precept had to be increased to £17,000 in order to bring the gap between income and expenditure down. The Vicar had asked for a grant for the Church grass cutting again but this was not agreed at the meeting as it was felt some cost savings should be considered. The Chairman agreed to speak to the vicar.

iii) A grant application had been expected but was not received.

b. Footpaths in the Village

The Chairman advised a complaint had come in to say that the landowner of PRoW 4 had intended to close it down. The Public Footpath sign disappeared and new signs were put up saying that people had to ask permission to use the path. The police went to see the landowner and he stated that he was not touching PRoW4 but when people reached the end of the footpath they were turning left and wandering onto his private land in order to reach the woods. The landowner also stated that PRoW4 was a footpath and therefore horses were not allowed on it. He intends to close off only his section of land for one day to prevent claims for it becoming part of a Public Right of Way. There are no other safe routes into the woods and horse riders say they have been using this route for over 20 years without challenge and are therefore within their rights to make an application for an upgrade to turn the footpath into a bridleway, either by taking out the stile separating Hevingham 4 with Stratton Strawless 1 or by applying for the cut through to the woods as a matter of common travel unchallenged for more than 20 years. The horse riders are better equipped to make whatever application they feel is best suited to their needs and the Chairman advised he is happy to assist them in this. Highways are currently checking the boundaries so until these are known, an application cannot be submitted, however evidence of use will be needed and this can start to be collated.

Cty Cllr D Roper joined the meeting at 20:10

The Chairman proposed all footpaths in the village are walked and checked by Councillors for any maintenance or signage issues, so these can be relayed back to Highways for attention. This was agreed and will be organized outside of the meeting.

c. Allotments

i) Rats

R Rolf has reported to the Council on behalf of tenants that rats are still a problem. Following discussions, it was agreed the Clerk will ask the contractor contacted previously to re-visit and advise on the best course of action. Whatever he suggests, within reason, should be implemented. The Chairman will try to speak to the farmer of the field adjoining the allotments to see if he is prepared to take any preventative action too.

ii) Updates and new issues

Nothing to report.

d. Planning

i) New applications

None.

ii) 20220800 – Corbiere, 7 The Street – Re-consultation due to changes

No further comments to add.

iii) Outcomes of previous applications:

20220398 – Unit 3, Cobbleacre Park, Brick Kiln Road. Full approval.

e. Village Hall handyman

The Chairman advised he has had several conversations with David and he is happy to continue for now. David is concerned that some of the play equipment needs attention and the Chairman has assured him we will remove or replace when necessary.

f. Play Equipment at the Village Hall

The Chairman has asked the village hall handyman to fill the holes in the slide which attracted nesting birds earlier in the year. There are two items which will continue to be monitored for wear. The Clerk will check with BDC if the CIL money can be used to replace play equipment.

The Chairmans proposal to set aside some money each year to cover maintenance and replacement costs is not an option currently.

g. Meeting Dates 2023

Proposals had been previously circulated and were agreed.

h. Internet Banking Policy

The Clerk advised this no longer needs to be a separate document and can be incorporated into the Financial Regulations. This was accepted.

i. Financial Regulations

The Clerk has reviewed these and no changes are required other than to add in a small section to cover internet banking. Proposals had been previously circulated and were agreed.

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence

None.

b. Clerks Report

Having referred to Councillors outside of the meeting and obtained agreement, the Clerk has submitted a registration request so that the Council will be able to comment on the application for Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects, should they choose to. Without registering now, they would not be able to comment later.

c. Village Hall Report

Bookings are good. Prices had to be increased but this doesn't seem to have affected bookings. The roof has now been completed so the hall is dry again. The main hall and all signs have been painted. Julie Elia has taken over as Treasurer and Tanya Wiseman has taken on the role of Booking Clerk. There are now a good number of willing volunteers on the committee.

d. Report from Chairman on NWL consultation meeting

A meeting was arranged with Highways to discuss the proposal for no right turn on Shortthorn Road as Hevingham was not originally consulted. The intention by Highways is to keep traffic on the A roads and to make wandering off onto the B roads unattractive. Specifically for traffic going through Felthorpe, they want vehicles coming from the Cromer Road to carry onto the NDR, as the Western Link Road will join the A47. Having looked at various models to see what would happen if..., the no right turn at Shortthorn Road seemed the most effective.

Their modelling suggests a 43% increase in traffic through Brick Kiln Road in Hevingham per day (350 vehicles) and Church Lane is likely to be similar.

Highways have acknowledged the concerns raised and Hevingham will now be kept in the loop. We have been assured that if the modelling does not hold true, or there are other unintended consequences to the no right turn, the situation will be looked at again.

Highways will make the official application around March to May 2023 and the Council can put forward an official objection at that.

e. Report from Chairman on Parish Council Forum meeting

The Chairman advised did not attend this as he had noted down the wrong time and so missed it.

f. Report from Chairman on Police Forum meeting

Crime rates are up however these are skewed by the fact crime decreased during Covid lockdowns – they are now back to pre-Covid times. Nothing specific to report for Hevingham although everyone is advised to be careful during the winter months as the cost of living situation may encourage more crime.

g. Police Report

The Clerk advised there were 2 crimes in the village during August: 1 x Violent & Sexual Offences (on or near Pound Road) and 1 x Criminal Damage & Arson (on or near Westgate Green) with 8 crimes during September: 2 x Antisocial Behaviour (1 on or near Brick Kiln Road / 1 on or near Town Corner) and 6 x Violent & Sexual Offences (3 on or near The Street / 1 on or near Westgate / 2 on or near The Turn). Further information can be accessed via www.police.uk.

h.

i) District Councillors Report (read by Cty Cllr D Roper)

- It has now been disclosed the new premises was purchased for the sum of £7.1 million, shared by South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils. Both Councils are currently operating out of Thorpe to save costs over the winter.
- There are 3 grants available to highlight: Warm Homes Grant, Keep It Going Grant and specifically for community groups the Warm Spaces Grant.
- There is going to be what is in effect an electrical amnesty on the 14th December at Sprowston Recreation Ground between 9:30 and 13:00 for items people can't recycle at the kerbside.

ii) County Councillor Report

- The Clerk should have received an update from the Highways engineer on various things outstanding in the village. The Clerk confirmed she received it just prior to the meeting so will review and circulate in due course.
- The land owned by NCC which is being disposed of on Church Lane is still being looked into. It is unclear where or what exactly this is.

- The Budget Consultation is open for one more week should anyone wish to comment.
- Devolution plans are still outstanding.
- In answer to a question, it was stated that the issue of the bridge on the beck is between NCC Boundaries and the owner. No further updates are known.
- Regarding putting lines on The Street to prevent parking, the Parish Council would need to demonstrate a need on safety grounds and go through the legal process. The starting cost for double yellow lines is £6000. It was suggested that if anyone sees a car parked which contravenes the Highway Code, they could take a photograph and report to the Police.

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is on the 10th January 2023 at the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 21:05