

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 5th MARCH 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr S Ward (Chairman)
Cllr D Holmes
Cllr A Ramsbottom
Cllr S M Ward
Cllr I Nickalls
Cllr E Mills
Mrs K Medler (Clerk)

Parishioners: 6

In attendance: District Cllr S Ward
County Cllr D Roper

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs M Williamson and T Palmer and noted from Cllr C Alpe. The absence of Cllrs V Johnson and A Bunn was noted without contact.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th January 2024 were agreed by all.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- The slide at the Village Hall should be repaired next week.
- The hall floor has now been done.
- The headteacher at the school has agreed to look at putting up some new paintings in the bus stop.
- Highways have responded regarding the 2 properties on The Heath and in both instances have said encroachment is 'de-minimus' and therefore no further action will be taken.
- The Clerk has yet to receive any update regarding Camping Beck.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- An update was given by a resident concerning the small white concrete blocks at a property on The Heath, which was raised at the last meeting. It seems they were reported by someone to Highways as causing an obstruction and the elderly residents of the property received a rather heavy-handed letter from Highways requesting immediate removal or further action and costs maybe taken against them. Contact with Highways was attempted but met with a lack of response on the telephone and emails refusing to come out and discuss the matter in person. Ownership of the bank is being disputed but not wishing to antagonise or cause a problem to local residents, the blocks have now been removed. This has been a very upsetting time for the residents concerned but they hope their actions will set a precedent to others who encroach onto Highway land. The Council conveyed their concern for how the matter has been handled by Highways and suggested the matter was raised with County Cllr D Roper for investigation.
- Kay Montandon from Aylsham Town Council spoke to promote a Healthy Town Initiative which is taking place in Aylsham Town Hall on the 18th April 2024 between 2 and 6pm - all residents are welcome. The event is aimed at improving access to 'healthy things' and representatives from the health service, care organisations, charities, fitness providers and local service providers, as well as charities and volunteering organisations will be there to help access any care and support needed. It was agreed the Parish Council would promote this within the village.
- Kay is also looking into more sustainable transport to and from Aylsham and Hevingham and would be interested in any ideas residents have concerning this: KayMontandon@aylsham-tc.gov.uk.

K Montandon left the meeting at 19:55

6. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

a. Finance

i) Accounts for payment

The following accounts had already been paid and were approved:

SSE (Electricity for street lighting in Dec – paid by Direct Debit)	£60.71
SSE (Electricity for street lighting in Jan – paid by Direct Debit)	£60.71

The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

TT Jones Electrical (Street lighting maintenance)	£30.65
Zak Branch (Allotment hedge cutting)	£420.00
NPT&S (Annual subscription)	£180.00
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£37.83
Information Commissioners Office (Annual fee – paid by Direct Debit)	£35.00

The Clerk's standing order was paid on the 5th February and today.

The following receipts were noted:

G Murphy (Allotment rent)	£27.00
Bank interest	£33.69

Balance at the bank at the end of February was £21,602.32.

ii) Internal Control Report

Cllr V Johnson has not supplied the Clerk with this so in her absence this will have to be carried forward to the next meeting.

iii) Pride in Bloom funds

It was agreed the Chairman will purchase daffodil bulbs and maybe some crocuses at the appropriate time, for the community to plant in October. Various areas within the village have been identified as suitable for this.

Cty Cllr D Roper joined the meeting at 20:00

b. Allotments

i) Fencing:

Those who raised the fencing issue were not present so it was felt this could not be properly discussed. It was agreed however that the Covid signs from the village hall play area which are no longer required, will be repurposed and made into signs for the allotment area telling people to keep their dogs on leads within the area.

ii) New issues:

None raised.

c. Planning

i) New applications

None

ii) Outcomes of previous applications

2023/0649 – Kempton Park Farm – Change of use to dog care facility – Approved with conditions.

d. Highway Matters

The Chairman advised Highways and The Forestry Commission were supposed to be looking at improving footpath 5 but nothing seems to have changed. The Clerk confirmed she has not received any updates. The Chairman will chase.

e. Church Lay-by

The Chairman explained residents have complained that the burger van is not open regularly and remains parked in the lay-by even when not open, preventing use by others who may wish to fill the gap. The Clerk and Cllr D Roper confirmed the lay-by is Highways responsibility and therefore the Parish Council have no jurisdiction over what happens there. It was agreed the Clerk will contact Highways to clarify the trading rules that apply and see if anything can be done to ensure consistency in trading.

f. Flooding on Westgate

There are still issues with flooding here and following a letter to Saffron from a resident, Saffron has contacted the Clerk as they feel the Parish Council needs to take some further action too. The difficulty is that the land falls towards Westgate and with the generally clay topsoils, when there is heavy rainfall, the water doesn't soak away but runs down the path. The drain at the bottom of the path cannot be made any bigger as there is no-where for the water to be dispersed. It has been suggested that a larger filter strip could be installed at the top of the path to ease the flow down and it was agreed the Clerk will ask the handyman to look at this again and provide a quotation for doing this. Saffron are looking at installing a small bund in the corner of their land which could contain water until it percolates away.

A member of the public left the meeting at 20:20

g. The Big Broadland Litter Pick

The Clerk had already circulated details of this and Cllr E Mills said she would like to take this over from the previous Councillor and organise this. There is a £20.00 reward for groups that take part with possible additional funds from a prize draw and Cllr Mills said she would want to put any money to the bike track fund. All agreed that was a good idea. The Clerk will contact the previous Councillor to see if she can provide any advice and pass on any existing equipment.

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence

None.

b. Clerks Report

- The SAM sign was up on The Heath between 17th January and 14th February with the following results: 3,153 vehicles drove past. 2,680 within the 85th Percentile Limit of 33.6mph. 473 over the 85th Percentile Limit. Average speed of those over the 85th Percentile Limit was 33.9mph. Overall average speed 23.4mph. Max speed recorded was 50mph at 09:45 on Wednesday 31st January 2024.
- There has been a minor amendment to the Governments thresholds on contracts and so the Councils Financial Regulations and Standing Orders have been amended to reflect that.

c. Report from the Chairman on the Parish Forum attended (previously circulated to Councillors)

- Greater Norwich Local Plan GNLP: The strategy is likely to be supported and adopted by March in all councils. 45,500 homes by 2038. Aylsham is one of the towns likely to be expanded.
- Elections update: UK General election must be before 18 January 2025. Voter ID is now in force but residents can apply for a certificate of ID. If going to be absent to vote, residents can now apply for a form online.
- World Café: The Chairman is looking into whether Hevingham can do something with this. The idea is to look at what we can do for ourselves rather than discussing national issues.

d. Village Hall Report

- The wood chips which were left from the tree cutting will be used in the community and village hall gardens.
- Cllr A Ramsbottom will chase up the information required on the table tennis table as the missing parts need to be replaced before the next inspection in June.

e. Police Report

The Clerk advised there were 5 crimes in the village during December: 1x Other (on or near Morgans Way) and 4x Violent & sexual offences (1x on or near Morgans Way and 3x on or near Low Lane. There were no crimes recorded for January. Further information can be accessed via www.police.uk.

e. District and County Councillor Reports

District

- Since the District Council election in May 2023 and the taking over from the long held Conservative Council by a coalition of Liberal Democrats, Labour and Green parties, we have worked tirelessly to assess the legacy of what we had to work with and how to make the best of the resources we inherited for the benefit of our residents. This work has culminated in presentations at the Full Broadland District Council meeting in February 2024.
- Approval of revenue budget and council tax: The District Council share of council tax is to be increased by the maximum £5 (£134.91 for a band D property). This does not completely close the projected budget requirement gap, however, the District Council is limited by law to no more than a £5 increase. Nevertheless, the budget is balanced with no borrowing, no cuts to services and no financial shortfall.
- Recommendation of Capital Strategy: Our priorities have been set so that every penny goes to the benefit of our residents. The program of spending comes to £21.04 million and is explained in the Council delivery plan on the website - Providing the right homes in the right places 24% / Sustainable resilient local economy 3% / Cleaner Greener Broadland (As the coalition encouraged the council to join many others in declaring a climate emergency, the need to think green runs through all decisions; so no specific cost allocation) / Empowering Individuals and Communities 32% / A Modern Caring Council 41% (This includes paying for staff, building running costs and providing efficient and effective services).
- Recommendation of Council Plan and Delivery Plan 2024 – 2026: The opposition believed the plan was not ambitious enough but the current administration said that it was ambitious within the limited resources left by the previous administration. What the current administration was determined to do was to be fiscally responsible and to live within its means but also with an eye to being aware of future trends and to take advantage to invest in future income generation through social housing.
- Approved the 5 year infrastructure investment plan: The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), paid by housing development, is pooled by Norwich City, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils to provide sufficient grant money to infrastructure projects to help finance projects much needed by residents. For Broadland this included the Aylsham Gym and The Nest multi-sport indoor hub.
- Approval of charging policy: Individual services provided by the District Council, like pre applications for planning for example, will be paid for by the individual and not subsidised by the taxpayer.
- Approval to seek pre-emptive agreement for financing and purchase of housing: Broadland District Council needs to own houses to rent for local people, to generate much needed income and to reduce the expensive option of temporary accommodation. Buying houses is obviously expensive but as there is currently a willingness by Central Government to part fund houses in part for refugees (3 year commitment and thereafter for any use), the Council agrees to give officers the power in advance to make purchases as and when they arise, which alleviates unnecessary delays.
- The coalition administration sees the need for creating green jobs to meet the growing green solutions to meet net zero carbon emission targets and beyond. We need to make homes more energy efficient, waste management more effective and protect our green spaces and biodiversity.

County

- The village gateway and Hevingham finger post signs are on order.
- A 4.99% increase in Council Tax has been agreed in the Budget.
- There are currently 2 consultations running to 22nd March 2024: reduced opening times for the recycling centres and the minimum income guarantee.
- The Council are hoping for some more money for the Western Link from the Governments budget tomorrow. Planning is pushing ahead on this.
- The GNLP is proceeding and it is hoped that it will be signed off in the next 2 months. There is nothing in there which affects Hevingham.

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Internal Control Report and the state of the road on The Turn.

Next meeting is on the 2nd April 2024 at the Village Hall immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting ended at 20:40