

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 4th JUNE 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr S Ward (Chairman)
Cllr M Williamson
Cllr S M Ward
Cllr I Nickalls
Cllr E Mills
Cllr T Palmer
Cllr A Bunn
Cllr A Ramsbottom
Cllr C Alpe
Mrs K Medler (Clerk)

Parishioners: 7

In attendance: County Cllr D Roper

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr D Holmes. The absence of Cllr V Johnson 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 7th May 2024 were agreed by all.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- The Grillz van has not been open as previously suggested and residents are continuing to complain. It was agreed that whilst the Parish Council have no powers to change the situation, they will write to the owner to encourage her to open or move on and give another business the opportunity to trade from the layby.
- The Clerk has yet to receive any update regarding Camping Beck despite contacting Graham Plant on the 14th May 2024. Graham Plant himself responded very quickly saying he would push the issue to Senior Management for a reply asap but nothing has been forthcoming. It was agreed the Clerk should chase Graham Plant again and seek a response within 2 weeks. If nothing is heard in the 2 weeks, it should be chased again.
- Cllr E Mills advised the litter pick has now been completed by herself and 5 others and 6 bags were collected. Not all of the village was 'picked' but Brick Kiln Road was the worst of the roads done. Cllr Mills hopes to make this a regular occurrence every 3-4 months and will advertise future dates on Facebook. Anyone is welcome to join in.
- The Chairman advised the painting of the youth shelter has now been completed but the slide is still outstanding.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- It was reported that the road sign for Halls Corner is no longer in its correct place but is leaning against the wall near Leonard Medler Way. The posts are rotten and broken. The Clerk will report to BDC.
- A resident asked about a new gateway put in on Brick Kiln Road. The Chairman advised, this is not strictly anything to do with the Parish Council, but as he knew residents were concerned, he contacted BDC to see what the position was and was advised as follows:
 - i) *Regarding the use of the site as a whole. The site is made up of the buildings, a large amount of hardstanding and some fields to the rear of the site. On the land registry it is shown as 3 plots, 2 registered to the owner and 1 unregistered, but for planning purposes it is considered one planning unit and has been used as such for some time.*

The entire site has been used (in varying degrees) for storage of vehicles and other items, additionally, some maintenance of vehicles has also taken place, mainly, but not exclusively inside the buildings; within this planning unit for an excess of 10 years. So, while no specific planning permission has been granted for these uses, which would fall into use classes B2 – Industrial and B8 – Storage and distribution uses; these uses are lawful and exempt from any action. There is no breaking of vehicles on site and no selling of parts. The site has also been used as storage for vehicles recovered from accidents and kept securely on behalf of insurance business.

The site has been visited many times recently, both unannounced and by appointment and while it has been tidied up, the above uses have continued to operate on a continuous basis.

ii) The recent matter concerning the second access. The owner wants to re-open. The owner expressed the plan to reopen this some years ago and at the time the hedge was much more overgrown than now. But you could see the 2 stone posts and the large double gates. Obviously, the gates are now more visible, and the posts are elsewhere on site.

The reuse of this access is essential to allow the owner to continue to operate the premises. The small, somewhat dangerous access has been allocated to the farmhouse which has recently become unused.

I consider that the access while overgrown, was never actually abandoned – evidenced by the posts and gates left in situ. Therefore, no planning permission is required to re-open the access. The owner has explained how he intends to construct the access in accordance with Highways best practice. He will set the gates back from the carriageway and provide a good visibility splay, drainage will be installed, and additionally he will design the access to encourage access from the southwest rather than through the village.

In conclusion, I consider the access to be lawful and the re-use of it does not constitute a breach of planning. Work carried to reintroduce the access are permitted development. Coincidentally, I feel it presents a safer access to the premises.

I take this opportunity to explain that the recent cutting of the hedge at the front of the site was carried out by a utility company operating as a statutory undertaker and consequently is permitted development and may not be stopped by the Council. Their powers even supersede any tree or hedge protection.

Residents stated this once greenfield area is now full of scrap and is causing pollution. Residents have tried to speak to the owner but have only been met with rudeness. The Chairman agreed to contact BDC again and see if they will come out and meet residents on site to discuss further.

6. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

a. Finance

i) Accounts for payment

The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

SSE (Electricity for street lighting in April – paid by Direct Debit)	£58.88
Mr D Seppings (Work at village hall)	£123.00
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£18.15
Mr F J Martinez (Painting of youth shelter as agreed)	£470.00
Gallagher Insurance (Insurance for the year)	£1,414.09
Hevingham PCC (Church grass cutting as agreed)	£1,920.00
TT Jones Electrical Ltd (Street lighting July-Sept plus repair)	£153.24
Norse Eastern Ltd (Grass cutting May as agreed)	£279.97

The Clerk's standing order will be paid on the 5th June.

The following receipts were noted:

Barclays Bank (Interest)	£32.54
HMR&C (VAT refund)	£593.71

Balance at the bank at the end of May was £27,214.01. The Clerk supplied Councillors with a breakdown of Receipts / Expenditure against Budget for the year to date for reference.

The Clerk confirmed the Exemption Certificate has now been logged with the External Auditor.

Cllr C Alpe asked if Norse could avoid cutting the grass at the village hall on Thursdays between 10:30 and 12:30 as that is when the toddler group is on and they are concerned about toddlers getting out of the gates. The Clerk will refer to Norse.

b. Allotments

i) Updates

- The Clerk has contacted the necessary tenants regarding weeds etc.
- The locks did not need replacing on the water taps as they both work correctly.
- The agreement to allow a previous tenant who no longer lives in the 'catchment' area to have another allotment was not needed after all, as the lady has secured an allotment elsewhere.
- Having made enquiries, the Chairman advised installing a dead hedge will be expensive and will also require maintenance, which doesn't really make it a viable solution and all agreed. Unless anyone can come up with a low cost solution, the allotments will remain as they are.
- The Clerk had previously circulated photos of a small pothole which has appeared in the entrance to the Herbert Phillipo car park. The Clerk will see if any spare material can be put into it for now but this will need to be monitored for deterioration.

ii) New issues

- B Rolf advised there are still some of the rotten fence posts on the edge of the community plots, left from when these were taken out. It was agreed the Clerk will remove and donate to a local resident for their woodburner.
- B Rolf wanted to highlight the presence of bindweed on the community allotments and some of the other plots. B Rolf is doing what she can to keep it at bay along with other tenants but asked if Councillors had any ideas on the best way to get rid of it. Cllr M Williamson said all you can do is hoe it up.

ii) New issues (continued)

- B Rolf reported that the footpath hedging is encroaching onto some of the plots. All agreed tenants are responsible for keeping any 'boundary treatments' maintained and recommended pooling resources to tackle that.
- The Clerk advised the latest allotment inspection suggests there is still an issue with people not keeping their dogs on a lead when in the allotment area despite the signage. All agreed there is nothing more the Parish Council can really do but the Clerk will put a reminder out on the village Facebook pages.

c. Community Garden

B Rolf presented a report to the Parish Council covering the background to the garden, how it is funded, its aims and what has been achieved since opening. Becky thanked everyone who has been involved and given donations etc. B Rolf asked if the Parish Council would like to see the garden continue and all agreed saying B Rolf and her team have done a great job getting this up and running. The Parish Council agreed they would assist in distributing surveys and promoting the garden where possible.

d. Planning

i) New applications

2024/1252 – Medway, The Heath – Convert double garage and extend height along with internal and external alterations. All agreed to SUPPORT the application.

ii) Outcomes of previous applications

2023/3782 – Sun View, 6 The Turn – Change of use of land from agricultural to plant training – Refused.

2024/0697 – 1 The Turn – Demolish side and rear extensions, new side and rear extensions – Approved.

Cllr A Ramsbottom asked about the Gypsy site on Brick Kiln Road and the Chairman explained it has been given approval in principle under the GNLP but they will still need to obtain planning permission before going ahead with any expansion and to date nothing has been submitted.

e. Highway Matters

The Clerk advised she has reported the state of the verges to Highways as in places they are extremely dangerous but has been told they will be done within the usual cutting program.

f. Flooding on Westgate

The Clerk advised despite herself and a local resident trying to get contractors to help, they have not been successful however the handyman has now provided a quote to install a drainage channel. All agreed this may not be enough and so the handyman will be asked to speak to the property owner concerned to seek a reasonable solution and provide a quote based on that.

g. Buxton with Lamas Neighbourhood Plan consultation

No-one had any comments to submit.

h. John Hall Charity

The Clerk for the JHC has asked if one of the Councillors would like to become a Trustee. The Trustees only meet twice a year. Cllr Sharon Ward agreed to take on that role.

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence

The Vicar has invited members of the Parish Council to attend a D-Day commemoration service on the 6th June. Cllrs E Mills, M Williamson and T Palmer will attend.

b. Clerks Report

The Clerk has reviewed the Council's Data Information Audit and no changes are required. This will be reviewed again in a year's time.

c. Village Hall Report

The AGM has been altered from the 10th June to the 24th June 2024.

d. Police Report

The Clerk advised the Police website has not yet been updated with any figures for April or May.

e. District and County Councillor Reports

District

- The AGM recently took place and a new Chair and Vice Chair were appointed.
- BDC have been purchasing properties to get more housing into the system and have spent £4 million on this.
- BDC are spearheading a Nutrient Neutrality Fund which will be the first in the UK. This should help unlock the building of more housing.

County

- NCC have helped fund the provision of more buses between Aylsham and Norwich, Monday to Saturday so residents should have noticed more buses from 2nd June 2024.
- The consultation on the speed limit changes along the A140 Cromer Road closed today.
- The Western Link issues are still outstanding concerning the bats and funding – until a new Government is in place it is unknown what will happen with this.
- Cllr Roper attended a meeting on Monday concerning the queues at the recycling centre. It seems they maybe considering bringing in a booking system but Cllr Roper challenged this as really in his opinion they need to look at extending the opening times.

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Cllr M Williamson would like to discuss normalising the rents on the Farmers Allotments at the next meeting. Next meeting is on 2nd July 2024 at 7:30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:40