

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 2nd JULY 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr S Ward (Chairman)
Cllr M Williamson
Cllr S M Ward
Cllr E Mills
Cllr T Palmer
Cllr A Ramsbottom
Cllr C Alpe
Cllr D Holmes
Cllr V Johnson
Mrs K Medler (Clerk via Skype)

Parishioners: 5

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs I Nickalls and A Bunn and County Councillor D Roper.

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 4th June 2024 were agreed by all.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- Cllr S M Ward advised she has been in communication with the owner of the Grillz van and has been informed she has now employed someone to run the van in her absence and it will be open Tuesday to Friday with effect from 10th July 2024. Cllr S M Ward will visit the van when it is open. The owner does now have a secure lock up in which to house the van when it is not in use. Unfortunately, when she went to move the van recently from the lay-by, someone had vandalised it. The Clerk advised she has not yet written to the owner as she has only recently received the address. All agreed in the circumstances, it was not necessary for a letter to be sent now.
- It was noted that the large, abandoned vehicle which was also in the lay-by has now been moved.
- The sign for Halls Corner is now being dealt with by BDC.
- The sign which was removed from the village hall play area has been re-attached.
- The Chairman has ordered the daffodil bulbs which were agreed under the Pride in Place grant.
- Norse have passed the grass cutting request onto the local team.
- The photograph taken by the Clerk at the last meeting, of those Councillors present, in front of the Kings Portrait will appear in the July edition of The Clerk magazine.
- Despite requesting a complete re-surface of The Turn, Highways will only be doing tar and chip patch repairs and it is believed these have already been done.
- The slide has now been repaired and is back in use. Thanks to Carl Norton for doing that. The Chairman advised he is looking to reinstate the sign which was once in place confirming who donated the item.
- The Clerk has now received a response from Highways regarding Camping Beck and said Cllr V Johnson should leave the room whilst this is discussed as she has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the matter. Cllr V Johnson did not wish to leave and the Chairman accepted this.

The Clerk read out the response received:

Thank you for your email below and sorry to hear about the encroachment issue.

I have asked your local Highway Engineer for an update and he has confirmed that the North Area Highways team have sent several letters to the land owner to highlight the encroachment issue. In addition, a letter from our Legal team has now also been sent. Unfortunately, to date we have not received any responses to these letters, nor has any action to rectify the issue been taken so far.

The team are now looking at options for the next steps. This may involve legal action, although we always try to resolve these issues through dialogue as this is much quicker and more cost effective. Legal action does remain an option, although only as a last resort.

I have asked the local team to keep you updated with any further breakthroughs on progress.

- B Rolf is seeking further clarification on some matters relating to the Community Garden and it was agreed that Councillors would help spread the word regarding the surveys proposed, Hevingham Tots would be put forward as a group who may benefit from the space, Councillors would help spread the word regarding volunteers, Cobbleacre Lakes would be proposed as a potential outlet for selling the calendars and the Council would be happy for the calendars to be sold during the garden volunteer sessions.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Residents asked for an update on the gate situation on Brick Kiln Road and the Chairman advised, as promised, he sent an email to the Planning Compliance Manager, Mr Steve Kenny, with the residents request to hold an on-site meeting with him. The response received was directly to Cllr S Ward as the District Councillor but to paraphrase the response: The landowner has stated clearly that he will not entertain an on-site meeting and Mr

Kenny concludes that it is unproductive and tends not to end very well. The gate (which residents are primarily against opening) is deemed lawful (at the point where it is historically sited) and unless there are other material issues not related to the original concerns, Mr Kenny states that no benefit can be gained from revisiting what has already been expressed. Mr Kenny has also stated that if there are any other concerns or issues, residents can contact him directly and Cllr S Ward is happy to provide a direct telephone number.

In the matter of complaints, it is not possible to complain about something that has not yet materially happened. The Parish Council has no authority to interfere or rule on the matter. The District Councillor's role has been to signpost residents, and in this case contact the Planning Compliance Manager on their behalf. Mr Kenny has made it quite clear that he considers the matter closed.

Residents present stated they do not feel the matter is closed and have already contacted Highways who have said they will come out. Cllr S Ward confirmed that if Highways are unhappy with the situation, they will refer to Mr Kenny. Residents have not been consulted on the gate way being reopened as this is not a new planning application just an old gateway being re-opened. If residents are unhappy with Highways response, they should speak to Mr Dan Roper as their County Councillor.

- Six feet have been stolen from the Heras fencing which was around the slide. It was suggested they had been placed in the shelter at the front of the hall. The owner will check.
- Cllr T Palmer reported that 2 of the posts on the village green are broken. Mr G Norton has cut out 2 new posts and Mr D Seppings has been asked to install them.

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 May – paid by Direct Debit)	£60.85
F C Hambling (Bus shelter cleaning)	£40.00
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£48.98
Cllr S Ward (Bulbs purchased with Pride in Place grant)	£300.00
Cllr S Ward (Delivery for bulbs above grant received)	£5.99
TT Jones Electrical Ltd (Electrical testing as agreed for 5 assets)	£90.00
Playsafety Ltd (ROSPA inspection at Village Hall)	£132.00
Norse Eastern Ltd (Grass cutting June as agreed)	£279.97

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

There were no receipts to note.

Balance at the bank at the end of June was £22,951.81. The Clerk supplied Councillors with a breakdown of Receipts / Expenditure against Budget for the year to date for reference.

TT Jones has recommended straightening and re-concreting of a leaning column on Pound Close for the sum of £132.26 +vat. All agreed this should be authorised.

b. Allotments

i) Updates

- The posts the Clerk was going to remove were not present when she went so B Rolf will now arrange removal herself.
- The Clerk had previously circulated photos of a small pothole which is in the entrance to the Herbert Phillipo car park and having revisited the site, advised this needs more than just some spare material raked in. Other areas of the surfacing also need topping up. It was agreed the Clerk should organise a ton bag of asphalt to be delivered to the site and a post put on the village Facebook pages, asking for volunteers to fill and compress the hole and spread out the surplus material.

ii) New issues

- The Chairman said he thought the allotments were looking quite untidy around the edges now the handyman no longer weeds and trims. Cllr D Holmes said things are generally tidy and as long as tenants do their bit, it won't need further work. Cllr D Holmes agreed to trim plot 28, which is currently un-tenanted, to help keep the weeds down.
- B Rolf has plans to utilise part of the worst patches of bindweed in the community plots in a slightly different way and to allocate some currently un-used space for the primary school. Would this be acceptable? Yes.
- Would the Parish Council be happy for an area near the orchard to be used for a communal woodchip space? This was agreed, providing it is used regularly and only in the summer, to ensure rats are not encouraged into the space.
- B Rolf has put forward an idea to use freshly chopped wood from tree surgeons to make a free dead hedge. This is an idea for future discussion perhaps.

c. Farmers Allotments

Cllr M Williamson would like to see all tenants of the farmers allotments pay the same rent, rather than differing rents, as was the case years ago. The current going rate per acre is £94.00. Cllr M Williamson does not agree with people bidding for the plots when they become vacant. The Chairman suggested Councillors consider this for

further discussion at the next full Council meeting. The Clerk will circulate details of the current rents being paid in the meantime.

d. Planning

- i) New applications: None.
- ii) Outcomes of previous applications: None.

e. Highway Matters

Cllr D Holmes reported that the road on The Heath outside the entrance to the wood yard is deteriorating generally and there is a large pothole there. The Clerk will report to Highways.

f. Flooding on Westgate

The local resident this affects will be meeting with the village handyman, Saffron and a contractor to agree the best way forward and hopes to be able to bring this to the September meeting for agreement.

g. Norwich Western Link Consultation

No-one had any comments to submit.

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence

Councillors are invited to an online workshop in connection with a new Broadland and South Norfolk Design Code. No-one wished to attend.

b. Clerks Report

The Clerk has reviewed the Council's Privacy Statement and no changes are required. The SAM sign is currently out on The Street. The Clerk will be attending a Freedom of Information training session on the 9th July 2024.

c. Village Hall Report

The AGM has now taken place and a new chair and treasurer are in place. Cllr S Ward is staying on as Vice Chair for one year. It was noted that a resident kindly did some litter picking at the Hall on the 13th June 2024 and thanks were sent for that. The Clerk advised the play area has now been inspected with a few minor issues needing to be attended to. The Clerk and Chairman will contact David Seppings to see what he is able to do. Any remaining jobs will need to be discussed at the September meeting.

d. Police Report

The Clerk advised there were 6 crimes in the village during April: 3x Criminal Damage/Arson (on or near Morgans Way) and 3x Violent & sexual offence (1x on or near Churchill Close, 1x on or near Morgans Way and 1x on open park land). Further information can be accessed via www.police.uk.

e. District and County Councillor Reports

There was nothing to report from either Councillor.

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Farmers allotment rents and flooding on Westgate.

Next meeting is on 3rd September 2024 at 7:30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:36