

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 10th JANUARY 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL
AS AMENDED**

Present:

Cllr S Ward (Chairman)
Cllr S Benton
Cllr I Nickalls
Cllr S Howes
Cllr D Holmes
Cllr A Bunn
Cllr A Ramsbottom
Cllr M Williamson
Mrs K Medler (Clerk)

Parishioners: 2

In attendance: County Cllr D Roper
District Cllr J Neesam

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone back and wishing all present a Happy New Year.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Councillors A Long, T Palmer and J Norton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

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

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th December 2022 were agreed by all.

4. MATTERS ARISING

An update on some of the footpaths was given by those who had walked them. There are a few outstanding and the Chairman would ideally like to send a full report to Highways by March so things can be dealt with during the better weather.

Cllr S Benton reported that she had spoken to the owner of the hedge on Brick Kiln Road and this will be cut when the contractor is next in the area.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A member of the public wanted the Parish Council to be aware that she has spoken to a pest control company concerning the rats and they have advised her that it is not an issue to leave rat boxes in the open as long as *they are secured and* the instructions on the box are followed. Also, the best way to get rid of them is to track and bait the burrows. The Chairman thanked the lady for that information.
- Cllr M Williamson asked Cllr D Roper if there was any update on the fence on the beck as he is tired of being asked about it and asked why the Parish Council can't contact Highways to find out what is happening. It was confirmed that whilst the matter was reported by the Parish Council, resolving the matter is now the responsibility of Highways and the landowner. Anyone asking for an update should be re-directed to Highways. Cllr D Roper agreed to speak to the Boundaries Team in Highways and explain the level of impatience in getting this resolved.

Cllr A Ramsbottom joined the meeting at 19:45

6. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

a. Finance

i) The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

T T Jones Electrical Ltd (Street lighting contract)	£27.00
HMR&C (PAYEx3)	£198.80
Npower (Electricity for street lighting)	£94.13
Westcotec Limited (SAM sign bracket)	£71.40
F J Martinez (Handyman work – table tennis table at V/Hall)	£215.00
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£48.93
South Norfolk & Broadland District Council (Dog bin emptying at V/Hall)	£237.12
F C Hambling (Bus shelter cleaning 6 months)	£40.00

The Clerk's standing order was paid on the 5th January 2023.

The following receipts were noted:

Cambridge Building Society interest	£70.61
E-on refund	£23.46

Balance at the bank at the end of December 2022 was £26,235.76.

ii) The Chairman has spoken to the vicar and the Church agreed a two year contract with their grass cutting contractor last year so their costs for this year are fixed and can't be altered. Following discussions and a vote, it was unanimously agreed the Parish Council will make a 50% contribution to the grass cutting for this year. The Clerk will inform the vicar. Next year, if the Church is passed over to the Churches Trust it may be easier to negotiate on costs.

PC Lucas Ward joined the meeting at 19:52

b. Allotments

i) Rats

There has been a definite decline in the number of rats being seen with some people commenting that they haven't seen any for a while. 9 traps were put down in mid December and so far, only 3 rats have been caught. All agreed once the 4 week contracted period is up, there is no need to continue with the traps. The Clerk will remind tenants to regularly turn their compost heaps and avoid putting food waste in them.

ii) Fencing

It has been noted that quite a lot of the fencing needs attention and one of the gate posts is broken. Cllr S Howes advised he is happy to sort as necessary if the Parish Council will reimburse any materials costs, which he believes will be around £40.00. This was agreed. Cllrs I Nickalls and D Holmes also offered to assist. Thanks were extended to all. Mention was made of the central road needing attention but it was felt this is fine for now.

iii) Updates and new issues

Nothing to report.

c. Planning

i) New applications

20222014 – Land off The Street – Erection of new dwelling and garage

Object on the grounds this is outside of the village settlement area and the access is on a junction with limited visibility.

ii) Applications considered in between meetings

20221995 – 2a Westgate – Rear orangery extension – No objections

iii) Outcomes of previous applications: None to report.

d. Play Equipment at the Village Hall

It has been confirmed the CIL fund can be used to replace play equipment at the Hall. The Chairman is currently looking at the options available. Consideration also needs to be given to putting some plastic mesh near the table tennis table to help avoid making the area muddy. The Clerk confirmed the CIL fund needs to be used by the end of March 2023 if the Parish Council are to avoid BDC requesting it back.

e. Risk Assessment Document

The Clerk has reviewed this and some minor alterations are required. Proposals had been circulated and were agreed.

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence

None.

b. Clerks Report

- The SAM sign is currently up on The Street and will come down on the 26th January. The Clerk has purchased a bracket for the new SAM sign post near 32 The Street but needs a volunteer to take on the responsibility of putting up and taking down the sign at that location. Cllr I Nickalls agreed to do that. The sign will go up at the new location next.

- The consultation proposal for the Gypsy and Traveller Sites went before BDC Cabinet today and there are 3 sites close to the village: Cawston, Stratton Strawless and Horsford. District Cllr J Neesam confirmed the consultation will take place between the 30th January and the 30th March. This will enable a response to be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting in March, if required.

- The Clerk reminded Councillors of the upcoming election on the 4th May and explained briefly what happens when. Full details will be publicised when available.

c. Village Hall Report

Some possible grant funding is being looked into.

The Hall covered the cost of Anthea's farewell reception last week.

d. Police Report

PC Ward advised over the last 28 days 3 calls have been made to the Police: 2 relating to vehicles and 1 safety of a person and 2 'malicious' crimes have been recorded. PC Ward has been present at the Hall when the Post Office van has been there, just to keep a watchful eye but generally speaking he can say Hevingham is a safe place to live. The Clerk asked if the village needed to be concerned at the number of 'violent and sexual offence' crimes that keep popping up and PC Ward said 'no' and went on to explain that this category is quite far reaching and covers everything from murder to voiced abuse. PC Ward will send a categorisation list through to the Clerk to help explain for the future.

The Clerk advised there were 4 crimes in the village during October:3 x Violent & Sexual Offences (2 on or near Pound Road and 1 on or near Town Corner) and 1 x Other (on or near The Turn) with 4 crimes during November: 1 x Drugs (on or near Low Lane), 1 x Burglary (on or near Town Corner), 1 x Violent & Sexual Offence (on or near Bentons Way) and 1 x Other (on or near Bentons Way). Further information can be accessed via www.police.uk.

e.

i) District Councillors Report

- The Communities Panel met recently to discuss the Nutrient Plan. The intention is for BDC to work with other Councils in the area and Anglian Water to put together a Migration Plan so any development has to 'buy' credits to offset the development within the local area. There will be a broad range of options such as planting trees, hedging, reed beds, winter cover crops etc along with smaller individual options. All options have to be in place for 80 years although it is unclear how this will be monitored. It is hoped 40% of plans will be offset. Currently there are around 10,000 new dwellings being held up by the plan across the Councils involved but there isn't a set timescale in which this will be completed.
- There is an expectation that homelessness will increase and so BDC plans to purchase 1 or more properties in urban areas to house up to 21 people on a temporary basis while they help them find more suitable accommodation. Should there be spare capacity, other Councils will be able to purchase space to help the homeless in their area.

ii) County Councillor Report

- Devolution is still on the agenda with an emergency meeting taking place next Tuesday (17th). This is worth £20million for Norfolk and would continue for 30 years. Nothing would change from a Parish or County Council point of view other than the Leader would be an elected person. If agreed, a consultation will take place before fully approved.
- Hainford and Stratton Strawless have now submitted their applications for a 40 mph speed limit along the A140. Hopefully they will have a response in March.
- All local buses will now have a £2.00 cap in place thanks to Government funding.
- The Budget is still being considered as there is currently a £30 million shortfall.

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Footpaths, Play Equipment and Gypsy and Traveller Sites consultation.

Next meeting is on the 7th March 2023 at the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:34