

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 2ND APRIL 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr S Ward (Chairman)
Cllr D Holmes
Cllr A Bunn
Cllr S M Ward
Cllr I Nickalls
Cllr E Mills
Cllr T Palmer
Cllr C Alpe
Mrs K Medler (Clerk via Skype)

Parishioners: 7

In attendance: District Cllr S Ward

The meeting was chaired on this occasion by Cllr D Holmes

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs M Williamson and V Johnson and noted from County Cllr D Roper. The absence of Cllr A Ramsbottom 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 5th March 2024 were agreed by all.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- The Clerk has yet to receive any update regarding Camping Beck. It was agreed this should be chased.
- Cllr E Mills advised she has begun work on organising a litter pick and so far has 2 volunteers. Cllr Mills is hoping a few more people will come forward and then a date can be agreed.
- The Clerk received a response from Highways concerning the church layby, referring her to BDC, however BDC have come back saying it is a Highways matter so the Clerk is now awaiting their further response. Following a suggestion from a member of the public, Cllr S M Ward agreed to contact the owner directly.
- Cllr D Holmes has replaced the internal boards on one of the notice boards and will be replacing the others this evening. This was at the Clerks request outside of a meeting due to the internal boards deteriorating in the sun and becoming unusable.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

The agenda was altered at this point with the Chairmans approval to accommodate residents needing to leave.

6. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

b. Allotments

i) Fencing:

A tenant asked if consideration could be given to either the tenants putting some fencing up themselves, made from pallets, or a dead hedge being installed for which funding could possibly be obtained.

The Chairman (DH) advised some signs have now been put up asking people to keep their dogs on leads but if funding could be obtained, a dead hedge sounded like a suitable alternative to replacing the fencing and all agreed. The tenant will speak to Becky Rolf concerning this and come back to the Clerk.

ii) New issues:

Cllr I Nickalls completed an inspection in March and noted one of the water tap locks was broken, further parts of the fence near the school are rotten and some plots are messy with weeds. It was agreed the Clerk will look at replacing the lock, allotment committee members will remove the rotten fencing and the Clerk will contact the necessary tenants to tidy their plots.

3 members of the public then left the meeting

e. Flooding on Westgate

The Clerk advised she has not received any information from the handyman yet to be able to move this forward but it was suggested he may be away on holiday which would explain the lack of response.

An affected resident advised they have asked Saffron to put in a large bund (rather than a small one) to stop any flooding from their field and thanked the Parish Council for their help in trying to resolve this issue.

The resident has a drainage contractor going out this week to look at his drainage so could ask them to look at the Parish Councils land too - all agreed this was a good idea and Cllr S Ward will be available if required to attend.

1 member of the public left the meeting at 20:10

a. Finance

i) Accounts for payment

The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

SSE (Electricity for street lighting in Feb – paid by Direct Debit)	£56.81
Red Dragon Media (Signs and internal board for notice boards)	£96.00
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£19.01
BDC (Business rates on HP car park)	£nil (as small business rate relief given)

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

There were no receipts.

Balance at the bank at the end of March was £20,361.82.

ii) Internal Control Report

It was agreed that Cllr I Nickalls, with support from Cllr D Holmes, would complete the 2 outstanding internal audits to cover for the financial year 2023/2024 and a new councillor will be appointed to do this for this financial year at the May meeting.

iii) Internal Auditor for year end 2023/24

The Clerk advised our previous auditor is happy to do this for us but has had to increase her fee to £120.00. All agreed this was still good value for money and so she should be appointed for this year.

c. Planning

i) New applications

2024/0697 – 1 The Turn – demolish side/rear extension, new 2 storey side/rear extension and single rear extension
The Council considered the application alongside their biodiversity plan and all agreed to support the application without the need for any biodiversity requests.

ii) Outcomes of previous applications

Nothing to report.

d. Highway Matters

Cllr S Ward stated The Turn is no longer fit for purpose and needs to be resurfaced. Cllr D Holmes agreed to take suitable photographs for the Clerk to forward onto Highways for action.

It was also noted that the ditches were recently cleared on The Turn with debris left in the area. This will also be commented upon to Highways.

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence

None.

b. Clerks Report

The Council's Training policy has been reviewed with no alterations required. This will be reviewed again in 3 years or earlier if required.

c. Village Hall Report

- Cllr S Ward advised when he took on the role of Chair, he only intended to fill the role for a year. Providing all members are re-elected, he is pleased to report someone is 'waiting in the wings' to take on the Chair and Treasurer roles.
- David Seppings has asked when the Youth Shelter is going to be repainted. The Clerk advised the handyman will be completing this in April.

d. Police Report

The Clerk advised there is no information available for February or March at present.

e. District and County Councillor Reports

District

- The GNLP has now been approved and adopted.
- A lot of building has not progressed due to the Nutrient Neutrality issues however a grant has now been received from the Government of £9.6 million to put into schemes to try to resolve these issues. The grant covers 3 authorities but BDC are in charge of allocating this.

County (read by the Clerk)

The prime issue that has arisen at the County Council is the challenge of new guidance from Natural England that makes it unlikely that the Council will be able to secure the necessary licences to proceed with the Western Link road. The Council are looking at ways to challenge or overturn the guidance via MP's and other channels. It has been stated that it is still the intention to submit the planning application but this must now be in doubt.

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Cllr E Mills would like to know how many children there are in the village for a children's project she is considering. Cllr T Palmer would like to know the population of the village to clarify if the Parish Council has the correct number of Councillors.

Next meeting is the Annual Parish Council meeting which takes place on 7th May 2024 at 7:30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:37