

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 4th MARCH 2025 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr S Ward (Chair)
Cllr A Bunn
Cllr S M Ward
Cllr T Palmer
Cllr I Nickalls
Cllr D Holmes
Cllr E Mills
Cllr G Peruzzi
Mrs K Medler (Clerk)

Parishioners: 1

In attendance: County Cllr D Roper

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllr A Ramsbottom. Cllr C Alpe's absence 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 14th January 2025 were agreed by all.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- Lottery funding has now been confirmed for the Monkey Challenge climbing wall and so the positioning just needs to be agreed between the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee. The Chairman will deal with this. It will require an area 14 metres by 4 metres. There is an 8 week lead time on installation but a date will be confirmed later this week. The item will be erected in just one day.
- The crushed gravel on the Village Hall car park has still to be fully completed.
- In answer to a question from January – the solar panels on the Village Hall continue to raise an income of around £2500.00 per annum.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- The Westgate end of footpath 2 has now been improved with a kissing gate installed and the hedges cut.
- The BDC Big Litter Pick is taking place again and Cllr E Mills will be organising this for the village.
- Cllr E Mills will be completing a 20 mile sponsored walk on 6th April 2025 with funds being donated equally between the Air Ambulance and the BMX track at the Village Hall. If anyone would like to sponsor Cllr Mills please contact her directly.
- Cllr S M Ward attended a John Hall Charity meeting recently and they will continue to report to the Parish Council annually. The take up on Grants has been quite low despite advertising. Residents can also apply for a fuel grant from the Fuel Allotment Charity in the village. Both charities advertise on the notice boards at the appropriate time of year.
- One candidate came forward for co-option onto the Council to fill the existing vacancy and the candidate was accepted by all. Mrs T Bambridge accepted office.

6. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

a. Finance

i) Accounts for payment

The following accounts had already been paid and were approved:

Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£35.50
SSE (Street lighting for December – paid by Direct Debit)	£9.95

The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

SSE (Street lighting in January – paid by Direct Debit)	£64.92
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£44.37
NPT&S (Annual subscription)	£190.00
P R Gaskin (Hedge cutting on HP car park)	£50.00
ICO (DP fee – paid by Direct Debit)	£47.00

The Clerk's standing order was paid on the 5th February and will be paid again on the 5th March.

The following receipt was noted:

Barclays Bank (Interest)	£23.46
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It was noted that the interest rate on the Councils reserve account will be decreasing to 1.25% on 13th May 2025 and the interest rate on the Cambridge Building Society account will be decreasing to 2.15% on 7th March 2025.

Balance at the bank at the end of February was £25,496.17. The Clerk supplied Councillors with a breakdown of Receipts / Expenditure against the Budget for the year to date for reference.

ii) Website

The Clerk advised the Parish Councils new '.gov' domain name is not compatible with the current website as it is so there are 3 options available: Keep the current site as it is and signpost people from the .gov domain (although storage on the current site is getting low) / Upgrade the current site for a monthly cost / Set up a new website which will be hosted within our current agreement with Freethought at no extra cost.

It was agreed the Clerk will look at setting up a new website.

b. Flooding on Westgate

Cllr G Peruzzi and the Chairman advised on a proposal which they, and the local resident affected by the flooding, are happy with. Following discussions, it was agreed Cllr G Peruzzi will speak to the contractor to clarify some points and providing they are in line with what is needed, the works can be authorised.

c. Handyman

The Clerk, Chairman and Cllr S M Ward have all received various communications from the Handyman concerning this role. Following discussions, it was agreed this role is no longer required.

d. Village allotments

i) Updates

The hedge around the HP car park has now been cut and thanks go to Cllr G Peruzzi and his son for cutting the footpath side, free of charge, which the main contractor could not reach.

Some of the trees have now been planted on the allotments by a tenant and thanks are sent to him for that, however others are considered too prickly for safety. Several Councillors agreed to take the remaining trees to plant in various places around the village.

ii) New issues

Recent inspections have highlighted one or two plots which appear to be un-used and the Clerk has contacted those tenants regarding this.

e. Planning

i) New applications:

2023/0668 – 31a The Turn – Conversion of existing outbuilding to 3 bedroom residential building – amended. Object as this is still outside of the development boundary.

ii) Outcomes of previous applications:

Nothing to report.

f. Freedom of the Parish Policy

A proposed Policy had been previously circulated and this was agreed.

g. Consultation on Custom and Self Build Housing

The Council had no comments they wished to put forward.

h. Highway Matters

We are now coming into pothole season again so residents are encouraged to report any holes encountered.

Anyone can report a pothole at: [Potholes - Norfolk County Council](#).

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence

None.

b. Clerks Report

- The Clerk and all Councillors now have a '.gov.uk' email address and must use them going forward. The new website as mentioned earlier is a 'work in progress'.
- Having investigated the rules concerning the Annual Parish Meeting there is no actual requirement for the Parish Council itself to call this. An APM may be called by either The Chairman, 2 Parish Councillors or 6 Electors but there is no actual rule which states it must be called. All agreed as past APM's have been very poorly attended and have not really proven necessary, such a meeting will not be held unless called as per the rules above. The information usually communicated through this meeting can easily be incorporated into the Annual Parish Council Meeting which is held in May.

c. Village Hall Report

- There was an incident of attempted theft of some lead from the roof recently. Thanks to Cllr G Peruzzi for being the first on scene to access the damage and thanks to George Rust for attending to this promptly at cost only.
- The time capsule is due to be opened on the 19th March 2025 as it will be 25 years when it was put into the ground. Consideration is being given to an event with maybe the original contributors and local children being present. The contents may be displayed in the Hall for a while so people can come and look at them.
- Several things have needed repair in the Hall of late and so the Committee are trying to set up some 'nights' to help raise funds for the Hall. There have been a few 'weird' things happening at the Hall recently so please be vigilant in looking after this village asset.

d. Police Report

The Clerk advised there was 1 crime recorded in the village during December: 1x Other crime (on or near Pound Close). There is no information for January or February. Further information can be accessed via www.police.uk.

e. Reports

District Councillor Report

- The Budget was voted through unanimously and balances without any cuts or increases to Council Tax.
- BDC are now a temporary housing provider which has means the cost of B&B and Hotel accommodation has halved.
- Cllr Ward attended a Parish Forum today and a further Forum will be taking place on the 2nd April 2025 from 9am to 12pm at The Horizon Centre regarding Devolution for any Councillors wishing to attend.

County Councillor Report

- Council Tax will be going up by 4.99%. This is mainly due to living in a rural area which is more costly in providing care for the elderly and children's special educational needs.
- The verges will be getting an extra cut and spray this year.
- There will be extra Hazard Waste Days with the next one taking place over the 2nd and 3rd May at the North Norwich site.
- Devolution means Cllr D Roper will be with us for at least another 2 years as Elections are cancelled for this year. By the end of 2027 the District and County Councils will be abolished and a new Single Tier Unitary Council will be in place. Submissions are currently being made as to how this should work and hopefully a decision will be made by the end of this year. Elections will take place for a shadow Council to be in place from 2027 with the new Council taking over in 2028. Norfolk and Suffolk will have a Mayor from May 2026. Parish Councils will remain.
- The Western Link has been paused and the planning application withdrawn. The good news is the Government does not want its £33 million investment back.
- Cllr D Holmes asked how the booking system was working out at the Recycling Centre. Cllr Roper advised it seems to be working but statistics from fly tipping and bin contents will show how successful they are in due course.
- The Chairman asked when the new speed limits are coming into effect in Hainford and Stratton Strawless but this is not yet known.
- Cllr I Nickalls asked if there has been any movement with Nutrient Neutrality and Cllr Roper advised things are moving. The changing of a septic tank provides enough for 10 houses to be built.

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

For future discussion: Nothing proposed.

Next meeting is on 1st April 2025 at 7:30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:48