

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:**

Cllr D Holmes (Vice chair)  
Cllr M Williamson  
Cllr S M Ward  
Cllr T Palmer  
Cllr C Alpe  
Cllr I Nickalls  
Cllr A Bunn  
Mrs K Medler (Clerk)

**Parishioners:** 3

**In attendance:** N/A

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs S Ward and E Mills and noted from County Cllr D Roper. The absence of Cllrs V Johnson and A Ramsbottom was noted without contact.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS**

Cllrs M Williamson and T Palmer declared an interest in item 6c Farmers Allotments. There were no dispensation requests.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 were agreed by all.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

- The bin post has now been replaced by the handyman and he also straightened the Pound Road sign which was leaning.
- Cllr C Alpe confirmed her and her son will paint the telephone box on The Heath when time permits.
- The crushed gravel for the village hall car park was ordered following discussions between the Clerk and Chairman as the cost fell within the current budget and financial regulations and has now been delivered.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- A member of the public asked what was happening regarding the fencing on the beck. It was confirmed that nothing more has been heard since that reported at the July meeting. Following discussions, it was agreed the Clerk should request a further update from Highways.

**6. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

**a. Finance**

i) Accounts for payment

The following accounts had already been paid and were approved:

Baileys of Norfolk Ltd (Gravel for village hall car park)	£352.80
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The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

SSE (Electricity for street lighting in August – paid by Direct Debit)	£60.85
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Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£15.45
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Norse Eastern Ltd (Grass cutting September)	£279.97
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Mr F J Martinez (Replacement of bin post)	£100.00
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The Clerk's standing order will be paid on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

The following receipts were noted:

B.D.C. (2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment Precept)	£9,000.00
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Allotment rent	£40.00
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Balance at the bank at the end of September was £27,738.80. The Clerk supplied Councillors with a breakdown of Receipts / Expenditure against the Budget for the year to date for reference.

ii) Remembrance Day wreath and service

The Clerk had previously circulated options for this year's wreath and all agreed the Clerk should order Option B at a cost of £20.00 (to be paid under Section 137) with the remaining Section 137 budget of £80.00 to be given as a donation.

Cllr M Williamson advised he is unable to attend the service this year to lay the wreath so it was agreed, in his absence but with confirmation from his wife, that the Chairman would attend on behalf of the Council.

iii)

Village Hall play area

The Clerk had previously circulated a quote for repairs to the Basket Swing from the original supplier and all agreed this should be authorised. The Clerk advised she has received a quote for repainting the underside of the youth shelter roof at £215.00 and this was also agreed.

#### **b. Village Allotments**

Following discussions, it was agreed the rent will remain as it is at £40.00 per plot, per annum.

*Cllrs M Williamson and T Palmer left the meeting*

#### **c. Farmers Allotments**

Cllr S Ward had circulated some information following the last meeting and felt this item needed to be considered again in light of the information obtained and asked that Councillors agree to put the decision made at the September meeting on hold until the December meeting. Following discussions, this was agreed.

*Cllrs M Williamson and T Palmer re-joined the meeting*

#### **d. Urban grass cutting in the village**

Having received further information concerning this, it was agreed the Parish Council did not wish to take this on and would leave the cutting of these areas to NCC Highways.

#### **e. Flooding on Westgate**

It was reported by a resident that Saffron have said, as they will have a digger on site to complete works on their land, they can complete the works required on the Parish Councils land too. A meeting is hopefully going to take place this week with Saffron to confirm exactly what is going to be done and when and ascertain if any costs will be passed onto the Parish Council.

#### **f. Allotments**

i) Updates

Cllr E Mills has recently inspected the village site and found no evidence of dog fouling this time. There are still some plots which appear to be un-used and are overgrown and the Clerk has already contacted the necessary tenants. A question was raised as to whether up-turned bottles being used to form a path edging could be a hazard if broken but having checked, the Clerk does not believe there to be an issue, especially as no-one other than the tenant who put them there, should be going into that plot.

ii) New issues

A tenant has asked permission to install a small plastic potting shed alongside a shed – picture supplied. All agreed as long as it is maintained in line with the Tenancy and Rules and Regulations, that would be fine.

#### **g. Planning**

i) New applications:

2024/2648 – Southview, 29 Westgate Green – Variation of condition 2 of 20180942 (design). Support.

ii) Outcomes of previous applications:

Nothing to report.

iii) Carbon Plantations Woodland Project

The following was read out in the Chairmans absence:

*No action need be taken at the moment although I spent some interesting time at the consultation meeting and learned quite a lot, as there are a number of interested agencies also looking into this, including the Environment Agency, water ways and Natural England.*

*There are potentially six fields, four of which come under Hevingham and two presumably in Felthorpe as they are opposite the turning of Brick Kiln Road onto Holt Road.*

*The sites in Hevingham are all situated on the other side of the road to the turnings of New Road and The Turn. Planting Paulownia trees would be introducing a new species of plant to the present environment. Concerns were raised at the meeting over water management and irrigation, the impact on protected sites and the experts challenged the claim that the hybrid species intended is, in fact, an infertile species.*

*Paulownia as a tree in itself is highly invasive if allowed to flower and set seed. Much emphasis has been made about the fact that this hybrid is infertile but experts in the field (at this meeting) insist that insufficient evidence has been demonstrated and not enough time given to demonstrate that this particular hybrid may yet flower when mature.*

*Brown & Co mentioned about regular inspections for 'suckers' and I commented that as a representative of Hevingham, I was very concerned as to why they were concerned about suckers and if those suckers were allowed to grow would then be flower producing specimens. The experts also said that there was insufficient evidence that new flowering plants could grow from leaf, branch or root. The roots themselves grow 6 meters into the ground. I said the last thing Hevingham would want was a potential Japanese Knotweed scenario, where an invasive species becomes almost impossible to get rid of; not to mention the cost of doing so. Brown & Co took on board these comments and further conversations will be had by the experts.*

*The proposed date for planting is set for 2028 but maybe in the light of comments made, it could be longer.*

## **h. Highway Matters**

Cllr M Williamson asked if Church Lane could have its verges pulled back as the road is getting narrower.

A resident advised works completed outside 23 The Turn to repair a water leak have not been finished properly.

The Clerk will raise both issues with NCC Highways.

Cllr D Holmes advised he will be reporting potholes on New Road.

## **i. Meeting Dates 2025**

The Clerk had previously circulated proposed dates and these were agreed by all.

## **7. MATTERS TO REPORT**

### **a. Correspondence**

None.

### **b. Clerks Report**

The Clerk has reviewed the Councils Equality and Diversity Policy and also the Grant Awarding Policy and no changes are required.

### **c. Report from Chairman on Carbon Literacy Training attended**

The following was read out in the Chairmans absence:

*I attended the Carbon Literacy training on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024, which was a 7 hour course. There are weekend courses available and they will be trialling these and evening courses, some of which may be split into 2 rather than just a one-day event. People who attend and then apply can be accredited with a Carbon Literacy certificate. If 20% or more complete the training and demonstrate their understanding, the Parish Council could be accredited.*

*I have to say that even though I knew a lot of what was presented, there were still things to learn and the practical side of it comes out in where we as a Council can apply that knowledge in the things we do.*

*Planting 159 trees will help reduce CO2 emissions. I think that planting an avenue of crab apple trees along the path up to the garden allotments will not only look nice and reduce carbon emissions but also intercept some of the water run-off. If there is space to plant some hawthorn and blackthorn behind it, there would be the sought after barrier between the path and the allotments. Perhaps room for discussion at December's meeting.*

*I have already given a 'member's community grant' of £500 to the tots group with a view to getting not only tots but more immediately the elder siblings and mums to learn about conservation, biodiversity and effective recycling, which in turn will help reduce landfill and the subsequent methane build up. Methane is 25 times more potent than CO2 and takes considerably longer to get rid of.*

*Did you know that if the world achieves net zero in terms of its carbon footprint that the temperature will only plateau at the point we achieve it and it will take best part of 100 years for the damage we have already done to be repaired.*

*I fully recommend that if you have a chance to attend the course that you book it.*

### **d. Village Hall Report**

The bins are going to be moved to aid movement on bin day. The Christmas decorations will be going up on the 1<sup>st</sup> December – all are welcome to help. A Bingo night is being held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and other events are being planned.

Cllr C Alpe asked if she could do something to improve the outdoor planted area at the Hall. This is actually the responsibility of the Parish Council and so it was agreed this could be done at a minimal cost.

Concerns were raised regarding the rental costs of the Hall but that is the responsibility of the Hall committee. The committee are still looking for others to join them should anyone wish to contribute to the decisions made.

### **e. Police Report**

The Clerk advised there were 9 crimes recorded in the village during July: 4x Violent & Sexual Offence (on or near Open parkland x1, Town Corner x1, Morgans Way x1, Westgate x1), 4x Criminal Damage & Arson (on or near The Street x1, Churchill Close x1, Westgate Street x2) and 1x Drugs (on or near Churchill Close). Further information can be accessed via [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

### **f. County Councillor Report**

The following was read out in Cllr Ropers absence:

- This weekend sees the hazardous waste days at the Norwich North recycling centre from 9 till 4.

- NCC has announced when changes to recycling centres will take effect:

Anyone wishing to visit a Norfolk recycling centre from Monday 18 November 2024, must book in advance.

Bookings can be made up to seven days ahead either online via the council's website or by phoning the customer service centre. The new booking system will be live from Monday 11 November. Slots are available every fifteen minutes and people can make a booking or cancel one right up until the time of the booking. People will be asked to give the registration number of the vehicle they will be using on the day. Business and trade waste customers will also be asked to provide their waste carriers licence number. Everyone has to book to drop off waste at the recycling centre, including those arriving on foot or by bicycle. People do not have to book if they only want to visit the Re-use Shop but if they also want to leave waste in the same visit, then they need to book ahead.

In addition to the booking system, trade customers will also see a change to the way they pay to dispose of their waste from the 1 November. Businesses will be charged based on the size of vehicle and the type of waste they bring, instead of the number of bags.

- The budget consultation will begin in October. The proposals are for a further £33m of cuts next year together with the maximum allowed Council tax increase.
- There are a series of works planned for the NDR, these will require evening closures from 8pm. It is intended that the work will be completed under a road closure between three sections between 20:00 and 05:00 Mon – Fri. This will ensure minimal disruption to the public and businesses.

The 1<sup>st</sup> weeks closure (21/10/24 – 27/10/24) will be between the A1067 Fakenham Rd roundabout & and the A140 Holt Rd slip roads.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> weeks closure (28/10/24 – 03/11/24) will be between the A140 Slip roads and the A1151 Wroxham Road Roundabout.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks closure (04/11/24 – 10/11/24) will be between the A1151 Wroxham Road roundabout and A1270 Postwick.

Members of the public present and Councillors were very concerned about the impact of the recycling centre changes which will undoubtedly see an increase in fly tipping and have a huge commercial impact on businesses. Councillors all agreed a letter should be sent to Cllr D Roper stating their concerns.

## **8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

For future discussion: Farmers Allotments and Carbon Literacy actions.

Next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at 7:30 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:40