

Annual report for Hempnall Parish Council

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PARISH **C**OUNCIL



Chairman's report / review

My report for 2011/12 comes at the end of another interesting and varied year in the life of Hempnall Parish Council.

It was most gratifying to recently witness the formal adoption of Back Lane as a formal Public Right of Way. This process of adoption was started by the council some 3 years ago and it is good to know that a path that has been used unofficially for many years has now been status protected for future generations of walkers.

It is of considerable concern to me, that upon entering into the heart of our village, a key landmark, in the shape of the former Queen's Head public house, is now in a very poor state of dilapidation. The present incumbent of this property applied for a change of use from a public house to a domestic residence, the main reason given being "lack of potential". This view was not shared by this council who recommended refusal of application.

South Norfolk Council then requested that the owner conducted a marketing exercise with a view to selling the property as a public house. I was appalled to note that South Norfolk Planning Department, and the council's solicitor sanctioned a clause in the sale document which effectively means that if the property is old, and the buyer sells off adjacent land for building purposes, then the entire proceeds of such a sale pass to the present owner. Clearly, such a clause makes a sale highly unlikely. If only those in power had just a little more business acumen!

For the past year, I have commented on windfarm planning applications within our village, this year will be no exception!!

Last year, Enertrag (UK) Ltd sold its options for windfarm developments in South Norfolk to TCI Renewables Ltd, and made it known that they intended submitting a planning application for four 131m turbines in the Bussey's Loke area of Hempnall.

As part of their "public consultation" exercise, TCI held an exhibition at the village hall in December. The content and quality of this event was an insult to the intelligence of the people of Hempnall and surrounding villages as TCI were not even able to indicate the exact locations of the proposed turbines.

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It was important to the parish council, that the views of the people of our parish were known in the light of a potential new application and a public meeting was held in January for this purpose. An exit poll from the 200 plus attendees concluded that approximately 96% present were opposed to any such application.

If such an application is forthcoming, the parish council will conduct a Parish Poll to ensure they have a clear mandate when considering the proposal.

I am encouraged by recent political events in respect of onshore wind turbines with over 100 MPs writing to the Prime Minister in protest of the excessive subsidies paid to developers and in the light of the very poor contributions these make to the National Grid.

The Prime Minister responded in the House of Commons last week, and said “we shall be cutting these subsidies because they have been oversubscribed and wasteful of public money” and “when the Localism Act 2011 fully comes in, that will give local communities a greater say about issues such as wind turbines” This suggests that at last there is widespread political realisation of the folly of onshore wind turbines being a credible contributor to energy production.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to my colleagues on this parish council for their continued dedication to the parish matters. Over the last few years we have seen a significant increase in the number of meetings required to do justice to our community roles and I am mindful of the impact this has on their lives.

As ever, my special thanks go to Ian Nelson, our parish clerk, for his superb administrative support, all of which ensures that our business runs smoothly and effectively. Ian is also very good at giving me a firm kick under the table when I (just occasionally) overstep the mark and am in danger of running foul of protocol.

Finally, a word of thanks to Derek Cracknell for his part in keeping our streets clean and tidy, this does really make a difference and I am sure is very much appreciated by all!

Geoffrey Moulton

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2012

<u>31st March</u> <u>2011</u> £		<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2012</u> £
	INCOME		
16,000.00	Precept		17,000.00
83.76	Interest on investments		82.34
400.00	Recycling receipts		400.00
-	Donation		-
100.00	Land rent	7	100.00
-	Agency Services Reimbursed		-
-	Loans taken out		-
-	Capital receipts	1b	-
1,490.22	Playingfield Users Assn. Income	6	1,364.08
18,073.98	TOTAL INCOME		18,946.42
	EXPENDITURE		
1,572.26	General administration		1,321.75
3,173.04	Wages		3,273.00
2,545.40	Grass Cutting		2,601.04
510.00	Village improvements		-
254.70	Capital spending	1a	-
255.31	Street lighting		273.25
341.00	Annual subscriptions & donations		380.18
545.00	Litter Clearance		565.00
732.19	Playground Maintenance		501.53
200.00	Churchyard Maintenance		-
168.21	Dog Bins		202.60
-	Agency services		-
-	S137 payments	8	-
-	Provision for bad & doubtful debts		-
-	Interest on long term debts		-
-	Wind Turbine Bat Survey		4,549.00
1,557.66	Playingfield Users Assn. Expenditure	6	1,240.20
11,854.77	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		14,907.55
	GENERAL FUND		
8,761.32	General fund at beginning of year		15,302.67
18,073.98	Add total income		18,946.42
(11,854.77)	less total expenditure		(14,907.55)
6,219.21	Surplus/(Deficit)		4,038.87
14,980.53	General fund at end of year		19,341.54
254.70	Transfers from Capital Fund		-
67.44	Transfers from Earmarked Funds		-
-	Transfers to Earmarked Funds		(123.88)
15,302.67	Balance at 31st March 2012		19,217.66

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Financial Information – Extract from Full Accounts
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012

<u>31st March</u> <u>2011</u> £		<u>Notes</u>	<u>31st March</u> <u>2012</u> £	£
	LONG TERM ASSETS			
5,000.00	Investments - National Savings Bonds			5,000.00
-	Long term debtors			-
<u>5,000.00</u>				<u>5,000.00</u>
	CURRENT ASSETS			
-	Stocks and stores			-
-	Work in progress			-
403.25	Debtors (Net of provisions)	4	400.00	
-	Payments in advance		454.00	
425.89	V.A.T. recoverable	4	1,330.84	
-	Temporary lending		-	
16,240.84	Cash at bank and in hand		<u>18,574.40</u>	
<u>17,069.98</u>				20,759.24
<u>22,069.98</u>	TOTAL ASSETS			<u>25,759.24</u>
	CURRENT LIABILITIES			
1,057.21	Creditors		507.60	
-	Receipts in Advance		200.00	
-	Temporary borrowing		-	
-	Bank overdrawn		-	
<u>1,057.21</u>				<u>707.60</u>
<u>21,012.77</u>	NET ASSETS			<u>25,051.64</u>
	REPRESENTED BY:			
2,089.09	General Fund - Earmarked	6		2,212.97
15,302.67	General Fund - Not Earmarked			<u>19,217.66</u>
17,391.76				21,430.63
3,621.01	Capital Reserve	5		<u>3,621.01</u>
<u>21,012.77</u>				<u>25,051.64</u>

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