

# HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th December 2010 at 7.30pm in The Mill Centre

ACTION

### Present

Chairman Geoffrey Moulton, Vice Chairman David Hook, Debbie Ashford, Peter Workman and the Clerk - Ian Nelson.

### Members of the public present

County Councillor Alison Thomas

### Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Mr Windridge, Mrs Ashton, Richard Delf, Liz Allen and Hamish Rose.

### Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made re items on the agenda:  
Mr Moulton declared an interest in the wind turbine and bat survey items.  
Mr Hook declared an interest in the Hempnall Tennis Club planning application.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were approved and signed.

### Public Participation

#### **Hempnall / A140 Crossroads**

County Councillor Thomas reported that the following proposal was passed last night at District Council regarding the A140/B1527 crossroads:

" Noting:

- (a) the success of the Pulham roundabout in improving road safety on and to the A140;
- (b) the lapse of planning consent for a County Council Long Stratton bypass beginning at the Hempnall crossroads;
- (c) the continuing dangers posed to residents throughout the district in accessing the A140 at the Hempnall crossroads;
- (d) the uncertainties over the design and route of a developer-funded Long Stratton bypass;

South Norfolk Council urges Norfolk County Council to include the construction of a Hempnall roundabout in its forward programme and to consider any traffic managements that might offer immediate relief in the meantime."

#### **Big Conversation**

County Councillor Thomas stated that the proposals outlined in the Big Conversation were suggestions only and are therefore open to change following input from interested parties. NCC would like to know the top 6 things that the parish council would not like to be cut. She also gave an outline of matters surrounding the main issues.

Mr Hook asked Councillor Thomas if NCC would consider removing it's support and funding for a northern distributor road and a Postwick hub in order to free up funds which would enable the retention of local frontline services. Councillor Thomas expressed the view that funding for the NDR and Postwick hub budgeting could not be reassigned in such a manner.

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## **Long Stratton 1,800 houses**

**ACTION**

Mr Hook asked County Councillor Thomas if she supported the Joint Core Strategy of building 1,800 additional houses in Long Stratton. He explained why Hempnall parish council had objected to such large scale development to the east of Long Stratton and asked if she, as our County Councillor, would support the objections of both Hempnall and Long Stratton parish councils to such a massive suburbanisation of the countryside. Mrs Thomas did not give a clear view as to whether she supported the development or not, even when pressed by the parish council chairman. However she did say that she would be prepared to argue for lower local housing targets.

## **Planning Applications**

### **New application since the last meeting:**

Mr W McAllister, Walsingham Cottage, Lundy Green, Hempnall - Replacement of 3 first floor windows – Recommended approval. IN

Hempnall Tennis Club, Bungay Rd, Hempnall - Upgrading existing floodlighting to 2 tennis courts – Recommended approval. IN

### **Applications approved since the last meeting:**

Mr J Nolan, The Old Vicarage, The Street, Hempnall - Proposed erection of detached garage building with first floor play space.

## **Minerals & Waste**

Mr Hook explained the consultation process and the suggested response were discussed.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook would draft the response in accordance with the views expressed by Hempnall parish council at an earlier consultation stage of the Minerals and Waste policy strategy. DH

## **Storage of Village Records**

Mrs Ashton of the WI was unable to attend so the matter will be re-scheduled. IN

## **Matters arising from previous parish council meetings**

### **Change of use of Queens Head**

The clerk reported that there was no change since the agent's letter of 3 November. The clerk to monitor. IN

### **Football Club Lamp Posts**

The clerk had written to the football club giving a deadline of 14 days to make safe and instruct that the lights should not be used in the meantime. The secretary of the club had written to apologise for the delay in resolving this matter and stated that they had now completed 5 of the flood lights, the remaining two are hard to get to, and they will need to trim back growth in order to get to them. The clerk had given permission to gut back (as little as necessary) in order to undertake the remaining work. The Clerk to monitor. IN

### **Parish Dog Warden**

The candidate was still liaising with SNC to learn more about the role. The clerk to obtain a decision for the next meeting. IN

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## **Budget/Precept 2011/12**

**ACTION**

The clerk pointed out that the precept voted on at the last meeting did not take into account the wages of a dog warden, so he had not submitted the claim to SNC yet. As a consequence of the Big Conversation Mr Hook pointed out that there may also be a need for Hempnall parish council to take on services currently undertaken by NCC - e.g. the maintenance of footpaths – which could well be axed from the NCC budget as a result of the cuts outlined to the council today by Mrs Thomas.

Mr Hook proposed, Mrs Ashford seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the precept be set at £17,000.

The Clerk to inform SNC of the required precept.

IN

## **Appointment of Reps to The Hempnall Trust**

The clerk had written to Mr Webster and Mrs Dye to express councillor's gratitude for their service and circulated details of the trustees job spec to councillors. The clerk had also requested a job spec from the chairman of the trust and circulated this to councillors. All to bring suggestions of candidates to the next meeting. The clerk to advertise on the website and the newsletter.

ALL  
IN

## **Proposed changes to Public Rights of Way service - The Big Conversation**

Notice had been received that Norfolk County Council is predicting a budget gap of at least £155 million over the next three years unless it acts to change things. Norfolk's Big Conversation is about how, with our help, they can help create a new chapter for some of the county's public services.

Some of the proposals for Public Rights of Way include:

- Exploring the scope for Parish Councils and community groups to contribute more to the management of public rights of way
- Withdrawal of our path cutting programme over 3 years
- Reduced maintenance and promotion of the public rights of way network including Long Distance Paths and other publicised routes e.g. Marriott's Way

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook should respond to Norfolk County Council along the following lines: That the parish council considers that one of the great improvements in the Norfolk countryside over the past 20 years has been the opening up and maintenance of footpaths. This has been good for locals and visitors alike and promotes healthy activity. The parish council would not like to see cuts in this area.

DH

Mrs Ashford proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook respond to the Big Conversation survey.

DH

The NCC survey relating to maintaining the street scene and public rights of way will be carried forward to next meeting.

IN

## **Items for next main meeting agenda**

- Grit Bins
- None other than mentioned above and in the previous minutes.

IN

Mr Moulton handed the chair to Mr Hook.

## **Wind Turbines**

Mr Hook had nothing to report.

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## ACTION

### Bat Survey

There had not been a report from the surveyor as yet. The clerk to monitor.

IN

Mr Hook handed the chair back to Mr Moulton.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.57pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011