

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15th November 2011 at 7.30pm in The Mill Centre

ACTION

Present

Chairman Geoffrey Moulton, Vice Chairman David Hook, Liz Allen, Debbie Ashford, Kevin Cunningham (arrived during public participation), Richard Delf, David Pointer, Mike Turner, Peter Workman and the Clerk Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

County Councillor Alison Thomas (to end of planning section), Mr William Lloyd, Mrs Irene Lincoln, Ms Diane Freeman, Mr David Burrows, Mr Gerald Giddon, Mr Roger Streton, Mrs Julie Parker, Mr Roger Parker, Mr Patrick Stone, Mrs Melanie Hook, Mr David Key, Mrs Hilary Battye, Mr Theo Newstead, Mrs Pam Newstead, Mrs Tina Beckett, Miss Lesley Oldfield. (Members of the public left at various points after the planning section)

Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Windridge.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs Allen declared a prejudicial interest; Mr Moulton and Mrs Ashford declared an interest in the Wind Turbine matter.

Mr Turner declared an interest in the Alburgh Road foot way t matter.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 11th October 2011 were approved and signed.

Mrs Allen suggested and it was agreed that any alterations to the draft minutes, once collated, should result in the clerk circulating the revised version prior to the next meeting.

IN

Public Participation

Wind Turbines

Mrs Hook said that she felt that she had to ask a question to which many Hempnall residents would like the answer: The previous turbine application was defeated democratically at Parish Council, District Council and Public Inquiry level. Given the enormous cost of this process in time, effort, money and anxiety for the village and the huge opposition to the scheme which was recognised by Enertrag when they withdrew, did Mrs Allen, as a Parish Councillor, in hindsight regret her involvement and is she in a position to withdraw at this point?

Mrs Allen responded that she did not regret it as she felt the nation needed renewable energy although she did appreciate that it was not the total answer to energy needs. Irrespective of the energy argument she did not regret making the land available and she would not withdraw it.

Mrs Battye asked that given the unfortunate timing of the news that TCI will be submitting a new application for a wind farm, would the parish council consider it prudent, in the light of the level of the opposition and the parish council's decision to oppose the previous application, to set aside a sum from the precept to deal with this new application? This was considered by councillors below.

Trevor Shurmer urged the parish council to defend the village in same way as with the previous wind turbine application. He felt that the public was now much more aware of renewable energy issues. He considered these were a political promotion by government. In his view turbines do not work and cost a fortune with no benefit to the village or society in general.

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County/District Councillor updates

ACTION

County Councillor Thomas reported the following:

Icelandic banks

NCC with others won their court hearings against the Icelandic banks to recover money. This should result in about 95% of funds being recovered. Despite the Icelandic bank having been on the government's authorised list of investments, NCC is no longer placing money outside the UK.

Fair Fares campaign

The bus transport budget was £4.5m underfunded by central government which NCC had managed to reduced to £3m after working with bus companies. The rural bus routes are at risk as they are subsidised. There is still opportunity to sign up the petition on NCC website to obtain more funding for rural areas.

ALL

Hempnall School

The suggested proposal for the Hempnall school access will be available to consider at the December parish council meeting and NCC would like the views of the parish council before submitting a planning application. Councillors called for a site meeting in order to help the designers understand the issues. County Councillor Alison Thomas agreed that a site meeting would be arranged and would liaise with the clerk.

IN

District Councillor Windridge's written report was read out and reproduced below.

Wind Turbines

"I understand that you may be considering the Parish Precept on the agenda and I just wanted to make a few observations in that context.

I am greatly dismayed to learn that TCI is attempting to flout the clearly stated will of the majority of Hempnall's parishioners by seeking to rescue Enertrag's abortive plans for an inappropriately sited wind turbine development.

As I told the EDP recently: *"the reason they [Enertrag] are pulling out is that they can not earn the support of the local community and it is really disappointing that TCI Renewables do not understand that. They are as misguided as Enertrag were in failing to understand the attachment local people have to the landscape and local environment."*

My own view is that opposition to the TCI scheme is likely to be much stronger than towards Enertrag this time round. A growing number of people are now much better informed about the true cost and limitations of onshore wind power.

At last it is dawning on members of the public that it is the ordinary domestic electricity user - especially the elderly who can least afford it- who are paying, as part of their rocketing electricity bills, for the 'green' subsidy which delivers such massive profits into the hands of the fortunate developer and landowner.

As you did so magnificently last time, I sincerely hope you will resolve to interpret the will of the vast majority of Hempnall residents and put money aside to oppose this undesirable development.

You will earn the continued support and admiration of the people of Hempnall for maintaining the courage to do so."

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Planning Applications

ACTION

New applications since the last meeting:

Apple International Inc, Orchard Villa, Hempnall Road, Morningthorpe has retrospectively submitted a planning application and a new application regarding retention of existing poultry house for use as office and storage space for helicopter parts renovation business and the proposed erection of a workshop for use to store and renovate helicopter parts.

Mr Hook reported that lighting was not on the planning applications but had already been erected. He also stated that the applications said that they will not be removing any hedging or trees, however hedges and trees had already been removed from the site.

It was felt that the site was being tidied up and councillors wished to support job creation. Concern was expressed about potential ribbon development and the flouting of planning laws by building in advance of seeking permission.

It was agreed 6 votes for and 3 against to recommend approval subject to conditions being imposed to deal with the concerns already noted about external lighting, hedging and trees. Our concerns re retrospective applications should also be conveyed to SNC.

DH/IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

There were none.

Lighting at Roadtechs, Barondale Road

Mr Hook presented his report and it was agreed to write to SNC accordingly.

DH/IN

Localism Bill/Neighbourhood Plan

The clerk to monitor as government develops this.

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2011

Mr Hook stated that the parish council had responded.

Wind Turbines

The clerk reminded councillors of the rules relating to predetermination.

Mr Moulton handed over the chair to Mr Hook.

Mrs Allen left the meeting.

Mr Hook stated that an article in EDP stated that TCI Renewables had announced that a public exhibition will be held at Hempnall Village Hall on December 5 from 3.30pm to 7.30pm regarding their proposals for turbines in Hempnall.

ALL

SNC had confirmed that they have received a scoping document and that this will be made available to the parish council to comment upon, so another meeting may be required to consider this as the parish council will only have 28 days to respond.

Mr Hook reported that the bat survey commissioned by the parish council has been completed and will be supplied shortly.

In 2006 the parish council convened a public meeting to assess public attitude towards the proposals of the last planning application re wind turbines and it was thought useful to do this again. Mr Workman proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that a public meeting be held in order to reassess public opinion. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the meeting should be convened as close as possible after 5th December. A leaflet drop will be needed to advertise this. The clerk to coordinate arrangements.

IN/ALL

Mr Moulton retook the chair.

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ACTION

Matters arising from previous parish council meetings – completed

Parish briefing Site Specific Policies & allocations GNDP/LDF

Mr Hook and the clerk had responded to the consultation.

Container painting

This had been completed.

Quality Status

The parish council had been successful in re-qualifying for quality status.

Hempnall Trust

The clerk had notified the Hempnall Trust of Mr Jonathan Holtom's appointment.

Response to Landmark Associates

The clerk had sent.

Matters arising from previous parish council meetings – awaiting others

Change of use of Queens Head

There had been no movement since the last meeting. The clerk to monitor.

IN

Back Lane Willow Trees & Fencing

Awaiting possible adoption of Back Lane.

IN

Claim for public rights over Back Lane

NCC has made the order and it had been advertised in the Eastern Daily Press on 11 November. Any representations or objections must be sent to NCC by 23 December 2011. The clerk to monitor.

IN

Memorial seat for Mr Tweeddale maintenance

Mr Delf to steam clean, bolt down and varnish the seat.

RD

Matters arising from previous parish council meetings – for discussion

Re-turf swing area

Mr Delf to ask John Ellis for a price and liaise with the clerk for financial approval.

RD/IN

Churchyard boundary

The clerk had heard from the Diocesan of Norwich who responded that the land had now been registered but they did not know anything about ownership of the boundaries. They stated that this should be discussed with the local Vicar and Churchwardens. The clerk to try this avenue again and send a letter to Mrs Sutton to inform her that we continue to try and resolve the situation.

IN

Adoption of BT phone box at the Three Horseshoes

The clerk is awaiting further documents from BT.

IN

Hempnall Playing Field and Village Hall car park

The estimated cost of repairs was £18,000 provided by the village hall committee of which ½ would have to be paid for by the parish council.

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was agreed that the independent expert opinion be sought.

IN

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

ACTION

Safety of footpath from Roberts Close to The Street

The clerk had contacted Highways again, however, there were no alternatives available other than the lower cross bars. As this would prevent disabled parishioners from using the footpath it was agreed not to install them.

MUGA

Mr Pointer is to carry out further research re the Multi Use Games Area ("MUGA") and considered the provision of a small grass five a side pitch by simply supplying two goal posts and markings which might be a more economical way forward.

DP

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Mrs Allen reported that progress is awaited from the village hall committee. She will follow up.

LA

PUA rep on village hall committee

Mr Delf reported that the PUA do not have a rep at present. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Cunningham seconded and it was unanimously agreed that it should be advertised in the next parish council newsletter.

IN

Hempnall Playgroup

Mr Hook had liaised with the school and reported that he had discussed various options with Mrs Elston, the head teacher, however she felt that there were practical problems associated with the setting up of a school based playgroup.

Children's play area fence

The clerk reported issues with the spec. It was agreed that Mr Delf would arrange for 3 quotes on a revised spec.

RD

Sign in Knudson Close

We await the council to erect.

Notice Boards

It was agreed to inspect the existing notice boards at the same time as the school site meeting.

ALL

Correspondence

Information Pack

The items placed in the information pack envelope circulated to all Councillors on 15th November are:

CPRE – How to respond to planning applications 8 step guide
Norfolk RCC Signpost magazine October 2011
Norfolk Link Issue 185
Clerks & Councils Direct
The Playing Field Autumn 2011

No further matters were raised from the above.

Items given directly to Councillors or representatives since the last main meeting were:

Saffron invitation
Invitation to the South Norfolk Older People's Forum meeting on Wednesday 19 October 2011.
Funding Available
Safety Campaign to cut thatched property fires in Norfolk

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Consumer Champions needed **ACTION**
Big Lottery Funding Workshop Invitation
Norfolk ALC AGM agenda
NALC re What could your community do with a share of £5m?
Saffron Tour 10 October 2011
2012/13 draft budget precept
Future of small schools in Norfolk
Norfolk Minerals And Waste Local Development Framework Core Strategy And Minerals
And Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2010 –
2026) Notification Of Adoption
Saffron Tour Monday 10 October 2011. Pictures of two recently completed sites.
Parish Crime Statistics for September 2011
Service information update - Norfolk Community Law Service
Festive Fusion - seasonal events in South Norfolk
American Trail
Community Infrastructure Levy – Consultation
NCC Highways Playing a Bigger Part
Norfolk Resilience Forum Voluntary & Faith Group Workshop - 15th November 2011
Police and Crime Survey 2011 - Help shape the way Norfolk is policed
Community Infrastructure Levy Meeting
NALC re Better Broadband
Joint Meeting of the Norfolk Rural Community Council and Norfolk Rural Forum on
Wednesday 23 November 2011 - Fuel Poverty
Norfolk County Council's Norfolk Matters
NALC LAIS 1330 Broadband
NALC LAIS 1331 Pensions
NALC LAIS 1332 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations
Parish Crime Statistics for October 2011
Community safety problem solving training event
Be part of Norfolk's Olympic Campaign - Pledge 2012
RTPI East of England Conference for Councillors
Civil Parking Enforcement - information for Town and Parish Councils
Temporary Road Closure - The Street
The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

No further matters were raised form the above.

Items placed directly onto the parish notice boards were:

Notice/Agenda for 11th October 2011 meeting.
Notice/Agenda for 15th November 2011 meeting.
Service information update - Norfolk Community Law Service
Audit completion notice
Annual return
Is your community looking for funding poster

No further matters were raised form the above.

Website

The following changes had been made since the last main meeting:

Made Parish Council minutes of 26th July 2011 final.
Added Parish Council draft minutes of 13th September 2011.
Made Parish Council minutes of 13th September 2011 final.
Added Parish Council draft minutes of 11th October 2011.
Added Notice/Agenda for 11th October 2011.
Added Notice/Agenda for 15th November 2011.
Temporary Road Closure - The Street

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Added new Trust rep Jonathan Holtom
No further matters were raised from the above.

ACTION

Communications from Parishioners since the last meeting:

Pavements

Mrs Janette Franks had written to state that weeds were already growing through the pavements after they were resurfaced by May Gurney in August. She had arranged for weed killer to be applied.

Youth Club

Mrs Janette Franks had also written to state that the Youth Club is probably going to close after Christmas due to the red tape involved and asked if Parish Council could look after the funds (approximately £500) ready for when someone wants to take it on. Mr Moulton proposed, Mr Delf seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk should indicate that this was in order and make suitable arrangements for the transfer of funds and in addition express parish councillor's regret that the club was closing.

IN

Mrs Allen proposed, Mrs Ashford seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk write to Richard Bacon MP to express concern about the number of local activities/clubs closing as a result of bureaucracy.

IN

The Silver Green road sign

This was reported as damaged, the clerk reported it and it has been repaired.

Alburgh Rd Footway

Mr Turner had written to state that "It is now become very dangerous to walk along Spring Lane towards the bus stop at the horse shoes public house because of the increased traffic activity from the greenhouse ("Berries are us" and Road Techs) plus general increase in traffic movements, there are no speed limits signs on this section of the road, so vehicle's are travelling at speeds in excess of 60mph approaching the Horseshoes cross roads. As it has been stated the section of road from Plumtree cottage to the Horseshoes cross road does not meet the criteria of 40mph speed limit signs, I think this is still the case. The verges are not suitable to walk on (ditches & rabbit holes lack of maintenance), hedges on one side of the road are over hanging to the road, and if two vehicles are approaching from opposite directions at high speeds there is no protection for pedestrians. In view of the fact that traffic is allowed to travel at high speed on this section of road with no speed limit signs, a path is required to make a safe transit to the Horseshoes bus stop."

Mr Turner proposed, Mr Delf seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk should contact the Highways department with the intension of cutting back vegetation and making the footway a safe path way to the bus stop to rectify this dangerous situation.

IN

Village Hall AGM

Mrs Davey had written to invite councillors to attend the AGM to be held at 7.30pm on 23 November 2011.

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 14th September to 15th November 2011. The statement was in line with the annual budget. Mrs Allen proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the statement be approved.

External Audit of accounts to 31/03/11

The clerk reported that a clean audit report had been received and the appropriate notices had been displayed on the parish council notice board.

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ACTION

Youth Shelter on playing field

It was agreed that Mr Moulton would liaise with Mr Lincoln regarding maintenance of the shelter.

GM

D Cracknell

Mr Hook proposed, Mrs Allen seconded and it was unanimously agreed that a gratuity of £565 be paid for his sterling work around the village over the last year in maintaining the bus shelter, litter clearance and bin emptying.

IN

Budget/Precept 2012/13

The Clerk presented the budget for 2012/13 as previously circulated to Councillors and various adjustments were made to allow some funds for flexibility in spending. It was agreed to build up a cyclical maintenance reserve to cover large irregular expenditure on items that are the responsibility of the parish council.

Mr Hook took the chair.

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Delf seconded and it was agreed with one abstention, that an amount of £5,000 be precepted as a contingency in connection with the proposed wind turbine planning application in order to ensure the parishioners wishes could be responded to if necessary. It was noted that if the funds were not required for this purpose they could be used for other purposes, including reducing next year's precept.

Mr Moulton took chair.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was agreed unanimously that the precept be set at £23,500.

The Clerk to inform SNC of the required precept.

IN

Playing field Users Association Report

Mr Delf reported that the back hedge may need trimming at the top in order to thicken out the bottom. Mr Delf to look at this with Mrs Allen.

RD/LA

Play Area Report

Mr Delf had liaised with Mr Ellis and reported that all was in order.

Dates and venue of meetings

It was agreed that the following dates be set for parish council meetings in 2012.

Date	Time	Event
10/01/2012	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
07/02/2012 P	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
06/03/2012	7.00pm	Parish Meeting
06/03/2012	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
10/04/2012 P	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
08/05/2012	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
12/06/2012 P	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
17/07/2012	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
14/08/2012 P	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning
11/09/2012	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Full
09/10/2012 P	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting - Planning

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13/11/2012 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting - Full **ACTION**
11/12/2012 P 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting - Planning

The clerk has published the dates on the website.

IN

Items for Autumn Newsletter

- Quality Status requalification.
- Playgroup - sad loss and like to encourage the formation of a new one.
- Queen's Jubilee – hoping to make joint arrangements with the village hall committee and ask for ideas and people who wish to be involved to contact the village hall committee or the clerk.
- Advertise PUA rep on village hall committee.

The Clerk to draft and copy.

IN

Mrs Allen to assist with distribution and fold.

LA

Items for next main meeting agenda

- No additional items.

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.47pm.

Signed _____ Date 10^h January 2012

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Presented to meeting on 15th November 2011

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting :		£
05/09/2011	NSIB Interest	6.16
12/09/2011	SNC 2 yrs adapter payments	400.00
15/09/2011	MHB Services Ltd - Streetlight maintenance	(14.23)
25/09/2011	Transfer BPA to C/a	850.00
28/09/2011	SNC Precept	8,600.00
30/09/2011	Ian Nelson Salary	(874.50)
05/10/2011	NSIB Interest	5.96
07/10/2011	tr c/a to BPA	(8,000.00)
11/10/2011	Mazars llp - audit	(162.00)
11/10/2011	Norse - 1/2 yrs grass cutting	(643.56)
11/10/2011	Eon – street lighting electricity	(10.31)
11/10/2011	Ian Smith Services - Grass cutting	(105.00)
25/10/2011	CPRE Subs	(29.00)
27/10/2011	tr BPA to c/a	500.00
27/10/2011	R Delf - paint for containers on field	(253.84)
27/10/2011	R Whymark - vegetation clearance	(50.00)
27/10/2011	Mark Seaman - painting containers on field	(200.00)
31/10/2011	MHB Services Ltd - Streetlight maintenance	(14.23)
07/11/2011	NSIB Interest	6.16
		<u>11.61</u>
Closing Balance		<u>350.63</u>

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting :		£
25/09/2011	tr BPA to c/a	(850.00)
05/09/2011	Interest Business saver	2.35
07/10/2011	tr c/a to BPA	8,000.00
27/10/2011	tr BPA to c/a	(500.00)
		<u>6,652.35</u>
Closing Balance		<u>24,376.01</u>