

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th November 2012 at 7.30pm in The Mill Centre

ACTION

Present

Vice Chairman David Hook, Liz Allen, Debbie Ashford, David Pointer, Mike Turner and the Clerk Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

Mr Roger Parker, Mr Ian Cundy, Mr Paul Scott, District Councillor Windridge (from Alternate use for Methodist Church matter), Mr Paul Ellis & Mr D Young (both from Public Participation to the end of the Queen's Head matter)

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Windridge (who indicated he would attend after 7.30 as he had conflicting parish council meetings), and Geoffrey Moulton.

In Mr Moulton's absence, Mr Hook took the chair.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs Allen declared a prejudicial interest in the Wind Turbine matters and the Village Hall issues.

Mrs Ashford declared an interest in the Wind Turbine matters.

Mrs Allen declared an interest in the matter re Diagonal footpaths across field adjacent graveyard (Footpaths 6 & 7)

Mr Pointer declared an interest in the Village Hall issues.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9th October 2012 were approved and signed.

Public Participation

Mr Paul Scott wished to comment of the electricity capacity matter. He explained that he had been informed by UK Power Networks that his property was on the limit of electricity capacity. He had been trying to get his new bungalow connected and had been informed verbally that each property is supposed to be supplied with 100amps and he is only asking for 80amps. Mr Scott was not sure if the issue is localised to his property or affects a wider area in the village.

County/District Councillor updates

No updates.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

There had not been any.

Applications approved since the last meeting:

There had not been any.

Matters arising from previous parish council meetings – completed

Enforcement Report re 7A Alburgh Road, Hempnall - Unauthorised boundary fence

The clerk had written to SNC.

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GNDP Consultation

The clerk and Mr Hook had written to SNC and District Councillor Windridge had written to support the parish council's views.

ACTION

Government consultation re Payments by Parish Councils

The clerk had responded.

Matters arising from previous parish council meetings – awaiting others

No smoking Sign in Bus Shelter

The sign is to be erected.

DA

General Power of Competence

The clerk will attend a course on 20th November and subsequently undertake the relevant module/exam.

IN

Re-turf swing area

Mr Delf to determine if the turf is still required as the Clerk reported that grass seemed to have grown again. Reference will be made to the ROSPA report.

RD

Notice Boards

Mr Delf to arrange for Mr Cracknell to repair the notice board.

RD

Repair of Play Unit

Further work is required, so a quote for the work is to be obtained by Mr Delf, who will liaise with the clerk.

RD

Matters arising from previous parish council meetings – for discussion

Water laying on new road surface

Highways had responded – see “Road surfaces and drainage channels” below.

Youth Shelter on playing field

The clerk had contacted Monster Play Systems to ask their advice on how best to repair the youth shelter. They are due to pay a site visit on 15 November and report back to the clerk with their recommendations.

IN

Adoption of BT phone box at the Three Horseshoes

This item was carried forward in the absence of Mr Moulton.

GM

Jubilee Oak Tree

Mr Hook and the clerk had met with Mr Youngman on the playing field and found a suitable area to plant it where the cricket nets used to be. Mrs Allen to explore getting an Oak tree with a view to planting it in December.

LA

Diagonal footpaths across field adjacent graveyard (Footpaths 6 & 7)

NCC Highways have now responded and said that they would visit the site. The clerk had informed Mrs Allen.

Mrs Allen stated that they have now visited the site and said that they would consider the matter further. A response is awaited.

LA

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Speeding traffic on Mill Rd

ACTION

The clerk had contacted Highways to see if they could help. They responded as follows:
“Whilst I know that an improved road surface can sometimes have a negative effect on traffic speeds, I am surprised that this would be the case near the bridge as the trajectory of the road (the sharp bends and the poor forward visibility) make it difficult for large vehicles to attain high speeds. Speed enforcement and prosecution for dangerous driving can only be carried out by the police. I have been informed by a Chief Inspector that, if you raise the matter as top priority in your Safer Neighbourhoods forum, they will prioritise enforcement. We also have SAM 2, temporary speed awareness message signs that can be placed for a period of one month. This flashes up the vehicle speed if a pre-set limit is exceeded and I could add Mill Road to the schedule if you wish.”

NCC asked for suitable sites for SAM and the clerk had sent a map indicating sites covering all main entrances to the village and in particular Mill Rd.

SNC had purchased a SAM unit and were looking for volunteers to use it. The clerk had forwarded SAM information to Mr W Lloyd who had previously expressed an interest The clerk had not since heard anything from Mr Lloyd

It was agreed that a request for volunteers should be placed in the HPC Newsletter.

IN

Norfolk Public Rights of Way (“PROW”) service (including Back Lane)

The clerk had received a response from NCC that did not give a list of works undertaken by NCC historically in relation to footpaths in the area but did say:

“As you will be aware, going forward, it will not be possible for us to carry out the level of maintenance we did in the past to PROW's and we consulted with Parish and Town Councils to enquire whether they would wish to take on some of the maintenance tasks. We have received interest from some Parishes and this is mainly with respect to cutting or strimming paths. The Highways Team and the Rangers are available to assist with more complex issues although the Ranger resource is, obviously, limited. If Hempnall Parish are interested in possibly assisting us, this is certainly something I could take forward although there is no financial assistance currently available.”

Mrs Allen proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook and Mr Pointer obtain a quote for footpath cutting in time for the next meeting.

DH/DP

Road surfaces and drainage channels

The clerk had now received a response from Highways as follows:

“I apologise that the recent surfacing scheme did not fully address the situation with regards to standing water. I am aware that some remedial drainage works will be undertaken in Mill Road to address the puddles and the design work for this is in progress. We were able to address some significant puddling in Bungay Road in front of Willow House by introducing a high point to shed the majority of the water. Unfortunately, there are still a few puddles adjacent to and opposite Willow Barn but our Design Team have taken levels and they are unable to address these through the same method. There is no positive drainage in this immediate vicinity so, regrettably, we have no way of addressing these puddles as part of the surfacing scheme.”

Mrs Allen proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk respond to NCC pointing out that if the levels of the road had been laid correctly by the contractor there would not be an issue as it was not a problem before the resurfacing. Repair should be carried out, in particular, at the location opposite Mr Allan Page's house and near Willow Barn.

IN

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Ray Youngman 60 Years Service

Mr Delf had taken the matter to the PUA which had agreed with the suggested position of the seat. The clerk to bring a selection of seat options to the next meeting.

ACTION

IN

Relocation of Queen's Head Recycling Unit

The clerk had written to trustees of the Village Hall and the Mill Centre to offer them the opportunity to have it on their property and receive the £200pa rent. The Mill Centre had declined. The Village hall committee have also declined the offer but suggested the school might be interested.

Mrs Ashford proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk should contact the school and put an article in the newsletter.

IN

Alternate use for Methodist Church

The clerk had written to Irelands giving them an update and asking for an extension of time to consider the issue until today's meeting. They responded as follows:

"I have spoken with my clients and they are happy to wait until November which I think gives the community more than enough time to consider what they would like to do.

From my point of view, come November I would really like to receive a short list of alternative uses for the Church i.e. a maximum of 3, but ideally 1 'front runner' with a brief summary behind the idea, how it may work and who would operate it - that sort of detail. There must be a demand for the proposed use in the village and it must be viable. A long 'wish list' will just mean that we continue to go round in circles.

Finally, the community also needs to remember that planning permission will need to be obtained and so material considerations such as parking and access need to be considered as part of any ideas for alternative uses."

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that The clerk to write to Mrs Tooms to let her know that unfortunately there had not as yet been any proposals put forward and request that she passes this information on to all members of the congregation.

IN

Correspondence

Information Pack

The items placed in the information pack envelope circulated to all Councillors on 13th November are:

NALC Annual Report
NPFA Autumn Newsletter
CPRE Field Work Autumn 2012
Clerks and Councils Direct issue 83
Clerks & Councils Direct issue 84
Norfolk RCC Signpost October 2012
CPRE Countryside Voice

No further matters were raised from the above.

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

NALC re LAIS 1342 Council Tax
NALC re LAIS 1343 Rural Statement
NALC re LAIS 1344 S 106

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NALC re Better Broadband
NALC re Community Construction Fund
NALC re Play Inspection Training Course
Long Stratton crime summary
Taxbase for parishes - proposed SNC response to Gov't consultation
Tas Valley Neighbourhood "Road Safety / Highways" Public meeting
SNC re Youth Activities Coordinator
NCC re Public Rights of Way Information
Free use of SAM in your Parish
Norfolk County Council Emergency Traffic Order – Steppings Lane
Fields in Trust Seminar
NALC re Flexibus service
Norfolk Constabulary survey
Biodiversity News In Norfolk - No 19, October 2012

ACTION

No further matters were raised form the above.

Items placed directly onto the parish notice boards were:

Notice/Agenda for 9th October 2012 meeting.
Notice/Agenda for 13th November 2012 meeting.
SNC Mortgage help poster
Kickstart Poster
Election items re Police & Crime Commissioner elections

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 14th August 2012 final.
Added Parish Council draft minutes of 28th August 2012.
Made Parish Council minutes of 28th August 2012 final.
Added Parish Council draft minutes of 9th October 2012.
Added Notice/Agenda for 9th October 2012 meeting.
Added Notice/Agenda for 13th November 2012 meeting.
Added various planning application details
Added 2013 diary dates

No further matters were raised from the above.

Correspondence from Parishioners

Hempnall Post Office

Mr Hook reported that there were rumours of a proposal that the post office counter is to be closed in its current position and the post office function is carried on from behind the existing general till area in McColls.

Mrs Ashford proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk write to McColls to establish whether the rumours are true and if so express concern that this would be a retrospective step to the facility and the parish council very much hopes that the status quo will be maintained.

IN

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Queen's Head

ACTION

Mr Paul Ellis's letter that had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting was read to the meeting.

The clerk had contacted the parish council's insurance agents who had advised that if the matter was taken forward it should then be reported to them to enable their legal department to advise thereon..

IN

Mr Hook read a draft response to Mr Ellis.

There was much discussion on various aspects before Mrs Allen proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that a copy of the relevant extract of the minutes of 12/07/12 be sent to Mr Ellis re his query in respect of the PCs instruction to Mr Moulton.

IN

Mr Pointer proposed, Mrs Allen seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook's draft response be circulated to councillors for comment. Comments to be sent to Mr Hook prior to the next meeting so that the letter could be adjusted and recirculated to councillors to read in advance of the meeting with a view to approving it at the meeting. Mr Ellis accepted that the response to him would therefore be delayed until after the December PC meeting.

ALL/DH

Mr Hook assured Mr Ellis that the parish council had not behaved in a "malicious and vindictive" fashion as stated in Mr Ellis's letter of the 4th of November and that our response to the SNC consultation on proposals to realign the development boundary in the centre of Hempnall was guided by the principle of ensuring that all parishioners affected by South Norfolk Council's proposed changes to the development boundary were treated in a consistent and fair manner. We were using local knowledge to inform SNC of inconsistencies in the Environment Agency's Map upon which they (SNC) had based their proposed re-alignment of the development boundary.

Mr Windridge suggested that in the spirit of cultivating future good relations, Mr Ellis may wish to withdraw his allegation that Hempnall Parish Council has acted maliciously.

Mrs Allen advised the meeting that since the flooding experienced in 1968 the bridge in the centre of Hempnall had been re-engineered to allow for the passage of a greater volume of water and that this could affect the extent of the area liable to flood in the event of extreme rainfall. It was unanimously agreed that this information be supplied to SNC.

Mr Hook thanked Mr Ellis for his letter and his comments in the meeting.

Mr Ellis and Mr Young left the meeting.

Mr Penn's Hedge

Mr Hook explained that Mr John Ellis had commented that Mr Penn's hedge on the B1527 on the approach to the village needed cutting. Mr Pointer commented that the hedge actually had the effect of slowing traffic down due to the perceived narrowing of the road.

Mrs Allen proposed, Mr Pointer seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the matter should be monitored and action taken if the hedge became dangerous by making traffic divert to the other side of the road.

Heating Oil Buying group

The clerk read a letter from Mr Alan Page on this subject.

Mrs Allen proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the matter be referred to in the newsletter and people asked to contact the clerk.

IN

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The clerk to respond to Mr Page.

IN

Electricity Capacity

Mrs Allen proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the clerk should write to UK Power to establish whether the issue experienced by Mr Scott is local to him or a wider issue for the village as a whole.

IN

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 29th August to 13th November 2012. 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.

Playing field Users Association Report

In the absence of Mr Delf this was carried forward.

Play Area Report

The clerk had arranged the ROSPA inspection and the report had been given to Mr Delf.

In the absence of Mr Delf other matters were carried forward.

Hempnall Primary School Play Equipment

Miss Annalise Walpole an ex-pupil at Hempnall School had written to Mr Moulton and the letter was read to the meeting. In summary, help was being requested regarding new play equipment.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mrs Allen would attend the opening of the school's new library on the council's behalf and make further enquiries at that time. The clerk to send a copy of the letter to Mrs Allen.

LA/IN

Blocked drain pipe – Village Hall/car park

The Village Hall committee had reported that there was a problem with a blocked drain pipe which runs under the playing field parallel to the edge of the car park. This pipe was originally laid by Jimmy Rodger to carry the Village Hall rainwater to Back Lane and then later was used to carry some of the Car Park drain water in addition. Part of this pipe is now blocked and needs some remedial work i.e. a new length of pipe approximately 40 metres long. This will entail digging the 40 metre length trench on the playing field to the manhole near the corner of the tennis court, laying new pipe on shingle and reconnecting and, in addition, installing a rodding manhole where the middle car park drain enters the pipe. This will alleviate future problems of blockage.

The Village Hall committee consider that the work falls under the 50/50 maintenance agreement for the car park between themselves and Hempnall Parish Council.

Mrs Allen temporarily left the meeting.

Mr Pointer proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the work should be done but it was noted that three quotes would be required to comply with parish council standing orders. Mr Parker will liaise with the Village Hall Committee to obtain 3 quotes in the name of the Parish Council and then liaise with the clerk.

Mrs Allen returned to the meeting.

IN

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Dispensations re Budgets

ACTION

The Localism Act brought about major changes to the Code of Conduct for Parish Councils. Hempnall PC has adopted a code in line with the statutory requirements of the Localism Act. There is a need for all councillors to record their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and if something relating to a DPI is discussed at the meeting councillors are not allowed to take part in the discussion.

One unfortunate, and problem unforeseen, change in this legislation is that under the old code councillors did not have an interest in the working of the council on which they served – this is no longer the case. This has therefore led to the opinion that councillors with properties in the parish (which all councillors do except Mr Moulton) have a DPI on the Parish Council's budget as it relates to the council tax for their property which is listed on the register of interest.

The solution to this is for affected councillors to be granted a dispensation on the setting of the budget.

It was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting.

IN

Field lane hedge cut

It was noted that the hedge had now been cut so no further discussion was required.

Ash Tree Chalara (Ash Dieback Disease)

Mr Hook reported that the current advice is not to cut down established trees as this will make the situation worse. It is in order to destroy affected very small saplings, but only if they are infected by the disease.

IN

Mr Hook proposed that a sum of money be set aside to plant alternative trees to the Ash trees. It was agreed that this would be considered with the precept setting next meeting.

Items for Newsletter

The following items were identified for the newsletter:

- SAM volunteers
- Parking – Old Market way estate / Coronation Crescent
- Recycling Unit
- Heating Oil Buying group

The clerk to draft and issue.

IN

Items for next meeting

- Precept
- Paul Ellis

IN

Mrs Allen left the meeting.

Wind Turbines

Bat Survey

The clerk had sought independent guidance regarding the law relating to TCI's request for a copy of the bat survey and reported the result to the meeting.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the survey be released to TCI.

IN

Complaint

The clerk also reported that TCI had complained to the Information Commissioners Office

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that the parish council had failed to respond to their request to supply information. The clerks proposed response was read and agreed to be sent.

IN
ACTION

Response to John Hayes MP

Mr Hook referred to a recent statement by Mr Hayes MP. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that because of the intense interest in the local community about the TCI proposals the clerk should write to Mr Hayes MP to attempt to clarify at what point a proposal was considered to be officially in the planning system and to ascertain the relevance of such a proposal to renewable energy targets. A copy of the letter to be sent to District Councillor Windridge and to Mr Richard Bacon MP.

IN

The above three decisions were made on the condition that the clerk confirmed his view via NAPTC that Mrs Ashford was able to vote.

IN

Date of next meeting

The next planning meeting will be primarily planning and precept on 11th December 2012. The next Main meeting will be on 15th January 2013.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:20pm.

Signed _____ Date 11th December 2012

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Presented to meeting on 13th November 2012

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting :		£
31/08/2012	SNC Recycling adaptor receipt re 2012/3	400.00
11/09/2012	Eon Streetlight Electricity	(10.51)
20/09/2012	tr from BPA	920.00
06/09/2012	NSB Interest	0.00
30/09/2012	I Nelson salary	(912.84)
03/10/2012	Precept	11,750.00
09/10/2012	Computer repairs	(112.99)
09/10/2012	stamps	(7.00)
09/10/2012	David Bracey Play Safety Inspections Ltd	(78.00)
09/10/2012	Norse Commercial Services Ltd - Grass cutting	(665.44)
09/10/2012	Ian Smith - Grass cutting	(125.35)
09/10/2012	Ian Smith - Grass cutting	(430.70)
21/10/2012	CPRE	(29.00)
09/10/2012	tr c/a to BPA	(10,000.00)
05/09/2012	NSB Interest	6.14
05/10/2012	NSB Interest	5.95
12/10/2012	Eon Streetlight Electricity	(10.17)
22/10/2012	NALC Training course	(40.00)
22/10/2012	Delfs - bark replacement	(340.80)
01/11/2013	K & M Lighting Services Ltd	(110.60)
		<u>208.69</u>
		<u>361.06</u>

Closing Balance

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting :		£
20/09/2012	tr to c/a	(920.00)
09/10/2012	tr c/a to BPA	10,000.00
03/09/2012	Interest	2.99
		<u>9,082.99</u>
		<u>33,116.89</u>

Closing Balance