

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at 7:30pm at The Mill Centre

ACTION

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Vice Chairman, Mrs Allen, Mr Richard Delf, Mr Stephen Burley, Mr Roger Parker, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Mike Turner, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

Mr John Dixon, Mrs Joan Dixon, Mrs Sylvia Cundy, Mrs Alison Buck, Mrs Carol Gormac, Ms Matilda Jones, Ms Lesley Mitchenall.

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Allison Thomas, Mr Kevin Cunningham.

Declarations of Interest

Mr Delf declared an interest in the planning application re Green Boughs.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Burley proposed, Mr Delf seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2016 were approved.

Public Participation

Comments made are recorded under the relevant sections below.

Road traffic accidents in Hempnall

Priority Chicanes

The Clerk had responded to Mrs Jessop to express disappointment at the response and ask for suggested alternative measures.

NCC re anti-speeding measures

Mrs Jessop had responded and her letter had been circulated to councillors. In short as there had been less than 5 fatalities on the B1527 in Hempnall there are no funds available from NCC for safety measures. Mrs Jessop suggested investigating any funding that may be available from the Parish Partnership Scheme should it be renewed in 2016/17. Public comment was made that even without fatalities; the cost to the emergency services must be high and thus justify a smaller cost for preventative measures.

It was noted that the recent accidents and the continued danger had been reported in the EDP and Diss Mercury.

Mr Burley noted that the SAM2 records have not provided any evidence of excessive speeds into the bends and he thought the parish council should challenge NCC Highway's contention that speed was the issue. Most accidents seem to happen when the roads are damp, indicating a road surface issue. Mr Burley noted that there had been very few accidents on the bends before it had been resurfaced.

Ms Mitchenall felt the Speedwatch team were being a good deterrent and thanked Mr Burley for coordinating this. She felt that residents should keep up the pressure on NCC. NCC has stated they are working with the police and will report back to the Parish Council.

IN

It was also noted that lorries were regularly driving on the pavements, which apart from being illegal was a danger to pedestrians.

It was felt that the road looked wide and thus encouraged speed, so measures to give

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drivers the perception that the road was narrower may help. Mr Workman suggested yellow lines across the road may help but recognised that it could result in some noise for houses in the vicinity.

The public asked if the village signs, especially at the Woodton end of the village, could be made bigger and placed on a yellow background with the addition of “please drive carefully” signs or picket fences to give the impression of the road narrows. It was asked if it was possible for the village to make its own picket fences and employ its own contractors.

In view of vast public concerns and continuing spate of accidents Mr Hook proposed, Mrs Allen seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk write to NCC Highways in the strongest possible terms to request a road resistance test on the bends and ask for details of the result and the already recorded PSV values. In addition the clerk to write requesting what possible measures could be pursued via a Parish Partnership approach. It was also agreed to copy in the elected member for NCC responsible for Highways and ask County Councillor Thomas to review and press for action.

IN

Mr Hook thanked the public for the continuing pressure they were placing on NCC.

Play Area Project

The Clerk had written a letter to Mrs Howard to demonstrate the Parish Council was fully committed to the project.

The Clerk had allocated the £10,000 in the budget and informed the play area team.

Use of Playing Field for business

Mrs Alison Buck had requested use of the playing field for a boot camp fitness business. Mrs Buck explained her vision for community activity for all ages all year round if possible. She has public liability insurance cover of £10m.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Workman seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the venture go ahead, but the rental and location on the field to be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting.

IN

Mr Hook thanked Mrs Buck for bringing the initiative to the Parish Council’s attention.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2016/0197 - Mr & Mrs M Saul, 5 Nuttele Close Hempnall - Proposed Front extension – Mr Parker proposed, Mrs Allen seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

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2016/0292 - Mr Ben & Mr Luke Todd, Moulton's Stores 43 Alburgh Road Hempnall Norfolk NR15 2NS - Proposed Single storey extension to side of property – Mr Burley proposed, Mr Delf seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

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2016/0337 - Mrs Barbara Jeffery, Lime Tree Cottage The Street Hempnall Norfolk NR15 2AD - Proposed 1st floor rear extension over the existing rear single storey extension – Mr Turner proposed, Mr Burley seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

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2016/0340 - Mrs Barbara Jeffery, Lime Tree Cottage The Street Hempnall Norfolk NR15 2AD - Proposed 1st floor rear extension over the existing rear single storey extension – Mr Turner proposed, Mr Burley seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

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Mr Gregory Munson, Green Boughs, Mill Road, Hempnall, Norfolk, NR15 2LP - Roof extension and garage replacement – amendment.

Mr Rose proposed, Mr Burley seconded that the application be approved, however this was defeated 3 votes for, 5 against.

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Mr Hook proposed, Mr Parker seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk respond to Mr Munson's email to state that whilst 2 of our councillors did declare an interest, neither are barred to vote by law and that it is a matter of fact that the Parish Council can only make recommendations and it is not the determining authority. Furthermore, individual's judgement of taste is based on the context of the building in the conservation area and opinion will undoubtedly differ between councillors.

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Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

Mr Ben & Mr Luke Todd, Land East Of, Alburgh Road, Hempnall - Detached dwelling with associated parking. Demolition of existing out building.

Applications outside the parish boundary

There were none to consider.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

Repairs to hand rail

Mr Rose had chased NCC Highways to repair this but the repair had not as yet taken place.

HR

Playing Field Container

Mr Delf had arranged for the container floor be concreted at the same time as the "Tennis Club path." To be carried forward following agreement of the appropriate action re the "Tennis Club path."

RD

Churchyard Maintenance - Tree

The tree pruning had been arranged but was yet to take place.

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Trees overhanging pavement in Roland Drive

The Clerk had visited the householders concerned requesting that they cut back their trees and put them in touch with a suitable contractor.

Playing Field / Village hall rental setting

The Clerk had invoiced the Football and Tennis Clubs.

Budget/Precept 2016/17

The Clerk had informed SNC of the required precept prior to the deadline.

Speed limit extension along the B1527 to beyond the Recycling Depot

The Clerk had written to NCC Highways, Morningthorpe PC and Mr Roger Stretton.

Internet Speed

The Clerk had informed County Councillor Thomas of Mr Turner's contact details as the parish councillor's co-ordinator.

Maintenance of footpaths

The Footpath officer had reported the issues to NCC Highways for action.

The Clerk had added the topic as to the agenda as a standing item.

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Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion

See-saw

Mr Delf reported the cost of a new see-saw was £2,500+VAT for a metal one or £800 to £1,000 for a wooden one. He also said that the central post was in good condition and could be reused to enable just the top to be replaced. It was agreed that Mr Delf should investigate further this cheaper option.

RD

Grit Tub

The possibility of supplying a grit tub on the corner of Bungay Road near Ms Lesley Mitchenall's was considered. Mr Workman proposed, Mr Parker seconded and it was unanimously agreed that as the B1527 was a priority gritting route, there was no need for a grit bin at that location and if any additional grit was required it could be obtained from the grit bin in close proximity at the bottom of Roland Drive.

Long Stratton By-pass

The Clerk had written to Tracy Jessop at Highways to chase for a response and copied in County Councillor Thomas.

Public concern was expressed about the lack of a roundabout at the junction of the B1527 and the A140. It was noted that the Parish Council had emphasised this when responding to Long Stratton Area Action Plan.

It was agreed that the Clerk should chase Mrs Jessop for a response.

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Community Speed Watch

Mr Burley reported that the training had taken place on 13 February with 8 volunteers signed up and ready to go. He asked if the Parish Council could pay for high visibility jackets for the volunteers.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that 6 high visibility jackets be purchased, Mr Burley to order and present the Clerk with the invoice.

SB/IN

Mr Burley reported that they had 2 Speedwatch sessions on Friday last, one at the Village Hall and one at the Mill Centre, however no motorists were recorded exceeding 35mph and therefore nobody had been reported to the police. He also reported that today at Broaden Lane there were many speeders leaving the village between 7.30 to 8.30am who had been reported to the police.

Hugmore Pond

The Clerk had written to the occupiers of Hugmore House re intension to sell and invited them to make an offer. The owner is taking advice and will be in touch. c/f.

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The Hempnall Trust – Parish Council Reps

Mrs Jean Griffiths and Mrs Chris Barnes have put their names forward as PC Reps. Mr Workman proposed, Mrs Allen seconded and it was unanimously agreed that both should be so elected. The Clerk to write to them to thank them and to The Hempnall Trust to inform them of the decision.

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Path near the Tennis Club

Three quotes had been obtained for concreting the path, however it was agreed to research and obtain a quote for levelling and "roller tracking" the area.

RD

Moles

The Clerk had requested but not received a quote from a local licenced mole exterminator, and will chase up for the next meeting.

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Mr Delf also has a contact and will ask them for a quote for the next meeting.

RD

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Items for Newsletter

- Reduction in precept
- Speed watch initial results
- Crashes – any problems getting round corners contact me

The Clerk to write and publish.

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Items for next meeting

- Parish Meeting
- Playing field trees

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Date of next meeting

The following meeting will be the parish meeting at 7:00pm on 15 March 2016.

The next Parish Council main meeting will take place on 15 March 2016 at approximately 8:00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:05pm.

Signed _____ Date 15 March 2016