

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 25 August 2020 at 7:00
virtually via Zoom

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Vice Chair Mr Richard Delf, Mrs Liz Allen, Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Andy Driver, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Mike Turner, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

There were none.

Apologies

There were none.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Driver seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 18 August 2020 be approved.

Public Participation

There was none.

Parish Partnership 2020/21

Repairs/improvements are required to the following plank bridges:

- Footpath 11 – over the stream halfway between B1527 and Busseys Loke
- Footpath 18 - at junction with Lower Lane
- Footpath 25 - Turkey Row – south side of road

The Greens' bus shelter roof could also be considered.

It was noted the deadline for submissions is 4 December 2020 and decisions will be made by NCC in March 2021.

Mr Driver proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was unanimously the Clerk should enquire if the work on the footpath bridges identified above would qualify under the scheme and whether the bus stop roof project could also be applied for if the total cost of projects was less than the £25,000 upper limit.

IN

Hempnall doctors' surgery

A number of suggestions regarding re-opening were made.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed Mr Driver would write a suitably positive letter to the surgery and send it to the Clerk to forward to the surgery.

AD/IN

Community awards

After much discussion:

Mr Rose proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and a candidate was unanimously agreed for nomination for the Community Wellbeing Champion. Mr Rose to inform the person nominated and to supply some suitable wording to the Clerk who will make the submission by 4 September.

HR/IN

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and a candidate was agreed 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention for the nomination of a Lifetime Community Hero. Mr Delf to inform the person nominated and supply some suitable wording to the Clerk who will make the submission by 4 September.

RD/IN

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Mr Driver proposed, Mrs Allen seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the Clerk should put an article in the next available newsletter to recognise all the volunteers in the village and encourage people to thank them.

IN

Bridge on footpath 9

Mr Rose reported that the concrete bridge vertical metal support had rusted off at the base and now the hand rail had been bent over and is no longer safe.

Mrs Allen had already liaised with a contractor, Mr Barnby and reported he could undertake the repair for a maximum of £200 including the supply of a handrail. The contractor was trying to obtain a new handrail free of charge and if successful the overall cost would be much lower. Mr Delf may have such a handrail and volunteered to supply it if it were the correct length.

RD

Mr Rose proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed Mr Delf and Mrs Allen would liaise with Mr Barnby to instruct him to undertake the work.

RD/LA

Government white paper on planning reform

Mr Hook explained there are 27 questions in the 63page consultation document. He explained the proposals were a radical change to existing planning law which would restrict parishioner's rights to comment on specific planning applications in a "growth area".

In short, all areas would be designated into one of three types:

Growth areas - planning applications will be given automatic planning approval if they comply with the local plan / policies. Parish councils and parishioners would only be able to comment on the local plan / policies and not on the specific planning applications.

Renewal zones – mainly town centres where there is a decline in retail but also some other brown sites. In these areas too local councils and members of the public could also possibly lose their right to comment on specific planning applications.

Protected areas – these include areas of outstanding natural beauty, conservation areas, SSSIs and national parks and some parts of open countryside. Thus Hempnall conservation area would be included but not necessarily the rest of the village

Most of Hempnall is likely to be classed as Open Countryside which could therefore potentially be zoned as a Growth or Renewal Area. However there is no specific guidance on this to date. If it were classed as a Growth Area there would be a severe restriction on parishioners' and the parish council's ability to comment, and as most people do not engage in the planning process until an application is made near them, this would have a significant effect.

Mr Hook further explained there were proposals relating to Affordable Housing. At present a percentage of the total houses on sites over certain limits have to be affordable. This will be replaced with a new tax on the developer. A reformed Infrastructure Levy, the use of which will be decided centrally, would be employed to finance affordable housing.

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed Messrs Hook, Rose and Driver would form a sub-committee to prepare a response to the consultation on behalf of the parish council.

DH/HR/
AD

The Clerk will circulate the white paper consultation questionnaire. Any councillors with comments should contact the Clerk as soon as possible so these could be passed on to the sub-committee.

ALL

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New Items for next newsletter

The Clerk to draft and publish when the physical newsletter is available again.

- Volunteer thank you

IN

Items for next main meeting

There were no new items.

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 15 September 2020 virtually or at the Village Hall at 19:00.

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.22

Signed _____ Date 15 September 2020