

HEMPNALL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Parish meeting held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 7.00pm in The Nelson Suite of the Village Hall.

ACTION

Present.

Chairman Mr Geoffrey Moulton, Mrs Debbie Ashford, Mrs Liz Allen, Mr Richard Delf, Mr David Hook, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Peter Workman, Miss Marjorie Emery, Mr Ian Nelson. District Councillor Windridge, Mr John Ellis, Mrs Hilary Battye, Mrs Miriam Elston, Mr Rodney Downing, Mrs Sylvia Cundy, Mr Ian Cundy, Mr Edward Millar.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Kevin Cunningham, Mr B Masterson, Mr Rosalind Jones, Mrs P Brookes and Mr D Ashcroft.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th March 2009 were approved before being signed by the chairman.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

Other than were indicated below there were no issues raised from points discussed last year, however a report on each point is included for completeness.

Hedge Trimming

Appropriate arrangements had been made with the landowner.

Allotment Hedging

Mr Hook reported that SNC had not been in a position to offer free hedging in 2009 so it had not been possible to progress this matter.

Swan Meadows Footbridge

NCC had repaired Swan Meadows footbridge.

Road Conditions

Highways had carried out repairs.

Annual Reports

The following annual reports were read out to the meeting :

Report	Written By	Read By
Chairman	Mr G Moulton	Mr G Moulton
The Church & Town Estates Property Charity	Mr B Masterson	Mr I Nelson
Town Estate Education Foundation	Mrs P Brookes	Mr I Nelson
The Church Estate Charity	No report received	
The Hempnall Trust	Mrs R Jones	Mr G Moulton
Playing Field Users Association	Mr R Delf	Mr R Delf
Hempnall Village Hall Committee	Mr D Ashcroft	Mrs L Allen
Footpaths	Mr H Rose	Mr H Rose
Tree Warden	Mr D Hook	Mr D Hook
Hempnall School	D Freeman	Mrs M Elston

Copies of all reports are attached to these minutes (Master copy minutes only).

Matters arising from the reports above

One of the stiles and bridges on a path that borders Topcroft needs attention and has been reported to NCC. Mr Rose will make Topcroft parish council aware of this.

HR

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New Style of Stiles

Mr Rose would welcome comment on these new stiles.

ACTION
ALL

Any Other Business

Parking

Mr Rodney Downing commented on the article in the recent church news letter requesting residents to park in their driveways rather than on the road. He agreed that this was possible but the problem was that residents could then not get out of their driveways as people parked in front of their gateways and blocked residents in. This affects many residents on The Street. He suggested that yellow lines might be the best solution. Mr Moulton said this would be raised at the parish council meeting.

PC

Mr Hook commented that he thought that parking on The Street was good for traffic control as it slowed traffic down.

Mrs Ashford indicated the article resulted from complaints re parking in the Old Market Way area, not The Street.

Mrs Allen supported Mr Downing's complaints but thought that action would need to wait until after the school was finished.

Miss Emery requested that people should not park on the pavements generally. In addition the pathway from the B1527 to the village hall door is often parked on.

Roland Drive

Miss Emery indicated that Roland Drive road conditions were again poor. Others stated that following the recent bad weather conditions most of the roads in Hempnall had pot holes and surface dressing problems. The clerk stated that he had already reported this to NCC Highways. – This matter to be raised at the parish council meeting.

PC

Cost of Public Inquiry

Mr Ellis questioned the parish council's decision to spend money on the public inquiry and read a prepared speech the main issues arising from which were:
He felt that the decision may have been legal but is was not democratic or fair.
He stated that the costs had not been widely published to residents.

Mr Moulton thanked Mr Ellis for his comments and stated that the information was available to the public at parish council meetings which the public can attend, it was also on the parish council website and on the noticeboard in the shop as part of the minutes.

The clerk indicated that the information was also available upon request if more information was required and that he had provided such information to anybody, including Mr Ellis, who had requested it.

Mr Hook agreed that all decisions should be made in open public meeting and went on to say that with regard to democracy, a great deal of effort had been made by the parish council to seek public opinion and on each occasion the feedback had been in the ratio 9-1 against the turbines, thus the parish council's actions represented the majority of parishioners. He further stated that all taxes are decided democratically and the elected few are put in that position by the public to make those decisions. Mr Hook stated that the government spent his taxes on matters which he did not agree with but he accepted this as part of living in a democracy.

Mr Moulton indicated that there was a chance to have a parish council election next year so the public would be in a position to express their views by voting at this occasion.

Mr Windridge stated that he knew of at least 5 people who will be putting their names forward for parish council at the next election. He also stated that the parish council had not,

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as Mr Ellis had implied, used public money to fund the SHOWT campaign.

ACTION

Mrs Baytte commented on behalf of SHOWT that they had in fact raised £27,000 from public donations which demonstrated the level of public objection to the turbines and had reduced the cost of the inquiry to council tax payers as a whole.

Mrs Baytte went on to state that Enertrag had stated that it was their intension to submit another planning application for 4 turbines that were 15m higher than those in the previous application. She asked the parish council to consider asking the landowners to review their option agreements with Enertrag and if they were able to do so under those agreements, consider withdrawing permission to use their land.

Mr Hook commented that the cost of employing expert professionals was high but unfortunately this is the going rate.

Mr Cundy said that at one point the parish council had approved costs up to £15,000 but stated that the cost may increase, however indication had been given that SNC may be able to help with costs. He asked if this had happened. Mr Moulton explained that SNC had paid for the majority of the cost of the landscape specialist and expert witness, M Boulger.

Play area bark

Mr Ellis indicated that the bark around the play equipment needed topping up and that big bags of bark would cost £67 each. If the parish council wished to purchase this he would be pleased to lay it. This matter to be raised at the parish council meeting.

PC

Mr Moulton thanked Mr Ellis for all his hard work maintaining the play area.

Minutes in the shop

Mr Cundy and Miss Emery both stated that they had not seen any minutes displayed in the shop. The clerk confirmed that they were placed on the notice board however he had noticed that they did not stay there very long. The clerk offered to speak to the shop manager again to try and obtain their permission to have the minutes on the post in a bulldog clip as this method worked well under the management of the previous shop owners.

IN

Thanks

Miss Emery thanked the parish council for “doing a very nice job”.

Next Meeting

The next parish meeting is provisionally scheduled for 10th March 2011.

All

The Chairman thanked everybody for their active participation in the meeting. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8pm.

Signed _____

Date 8th March 2011