

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 April 2024 at 7:00pm in the Mill Centre

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Mr Phil Bates, Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Richard Delf, Mr Robert Elliott, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Mike Turner, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

County Councillor Alison Thomas and Mr Peter Rogers.

Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Martyn Hooton.

Declaration of interests

Mr Hook declared an interest in the CPRE matter.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 19 March 2024 be approved.

Public Participation

Mr Rogers wished to continue to bring the speeding traffic issues on Alburgh Rd to councillors' attention, which was considered further under the B1527 declassification matter.

County Councillor Update

County Councillor Alison Thomas provided the following report.

The Long Stratton bypass work will start Monday next week, with the appropriate road closures. This will impact on traffic volumes in surrounding villages over the build period of 18 months.

District Councillor Update

District Councillor Mr Martyn Hooton had reported prior to the meeting that there were no new parish issues.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2024/0875 - Mr & Mrs Weal, 7 Broadway Close Hempnall - Single storey side extension – Mr Workman proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2024/0941 – Un-named applicant, Deja View, Field Lane, Hempnall - Details of condition 3 of 2020/0018 - external materials – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed not to comment on the application.

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2024/0816 - Mr S Carver, Pear Tree Farm Alburgh Rd Hempnall - non-material amendment to 2024/0151 - change of material for external cladding

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

2023/2521 - Land Adjacent to The European Trade Centre Hempnall Road Morningthorpe Norfolk - 4 no. temporary employee static mobile homes.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting

There were none.

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B1527 Declassification / road safety in general

Mrs Thomas had reported that the cost of the route classification review far exceeded the budget available to both her and the other county councillor in our area. She went on to report that a potential route reclassification would require extensive public consultation over a wide geographical area, and with legal costs and construction costs factored in, we would be looking at a very substantial amount of money, which is not something NCC have for this type of project at this time.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should respond to express the parish council's disappointment and ask what measures are now open to NCC Highways and the parish council to protect its residents from speeding and large vehicles. The Clerk and Mr Hook to present a summary of all outstanding safety measures communicated to NCC and in addition ask for the legal basis on which NCC state that unless the B1527 is declassified and re-defined as no longer being a lorry route it is not possible to introduce traffic calming measures such as chicanes. The request for a meeting with Gary Overland is to be repeated so that practical solutions can be found for all areas of the village. The fact that the parish council is prepared to help fund and organise road safety measures is also to be re-presented to NCC Highways.

DH/IN

Roadside nature reserves / rewilding verges

The Clerk had received the following report from the NCC Ecologist, Sonia Seaton "*I have put forward one verge near Silver Green as an RNR. I have provisionally allocated this verge as RNR140. I have attached a map of the location. The new Roadside Nature Reserves that have been recommended are being reviewed by our Highways Engineers. However, this verge needs appropriate management as it was a borderline verge for RNR status. For example, it would be important for adjacent land owners or other individuals not cut this verge, this spring. I understand from my 3 site visits to this location, that this verge is cut more than once a year! Therefore, improved management is essential for this habitat to flourish. When funds become available, RNR posts will be erected, but this may not be carried out before the verge cutting season in May. The Green Spaces Team have planned to send letters to adjacent landowners, to make them aware of the importance of these verge locations, when the RNRs have been approved by Highways.*".

Mrs Cann proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk write to Sonia to thank her for progress and inform her that the parish council supports the above. The Clerk to monitor progress.

IN
IN

Football pitch cutting

The Clerk had written to the contractor to instruct him to cut south/north and east/west on alternate visits so as to minimise grass waste clumping and wheel tram lines on the pitch. The contractor had confirmed he would do but there would be an extra cost. The Clerk awaits a price from the contractor for the extra work. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should discuss the extra cost with Mr Shurmer once known.

IN

Churchyard rewilding

Messrs Hook and Rose to meet with Mrs J Turner to explore this further.

DH/HR

Footpath 9

The Clerk had obtained a quote from Mr Whiting to treat the area with hardcore and the work had been carried out.

Footpath 6

Mr Bates reported that footpath 6 had now been cut back by Mr Whiting and NCC had put back up several figure posts.

Footpath 6 in Morningthorpe/Fritton

Mr Rose reported a fallen down Ash tree blocking the path. Mr Delf volunteered to contact Mr Rodger about this.

RD

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Streetlight timers and heads

Mr Hook had obtained a quote from Amey, to replace the 6 streetlight heads in Roland Drive with LEDs lamps incorporating timers which would not need to be reset after every power cut. The new lights would be LEDs and have better controls to facilitate accurate timing. The new lights would be more environmentally friendly and there would be savings in power usage and maintenance requirements. It would also help ensure a better service for parishioners. The new lights would be full cut-off, 4000 Kelvin (neutral white) and cost £4604.54 plus VAT fitted. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to upgrade the lights and contact UK Power Network for a reduction in electricity cost for the unmetered connection.

DH/IN

Correspondence from Parishioners

There was none.

Policy re social media

After detailed consideration, Mr Elliott proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the most appropriate forum for consideration of parish issues by the parish council is parish council meetings with communication via the minutes, newsletter and Facebook page.

Defibrillator coordinator

Mr Simon Ludkin had volunteered to take over responsibility for caring for the parish council defibrillators. He is already experienced in maintaining defibrillators in his workplace. Mr Rose proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk book a hand over meeting with Mr Ludkin and provided necessary training and information.

IN

CPRE Norfolk's election manifesto

Mr Hook declared an interest but explained the rationale behind the manifesto. The council to consider whether to support the manifesto at the next meeting. The Clerk to circulate the relevant documentation.

IN

National Grid - NISP – Consultation

Mr Hook explained in outline the dramatic and long-lasting local impact of the pylons proposals.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook and the Clerk should restate the parish council's previous response in the current consultation by the deadline of 18/06/2024 with emphasis being placed on routing the cables via the seabed or underground.

DH/IN

Art Club Container – hole in roof

Mr Delf had already repaired the container and was thanked for his work.

Footpath 6 plank

Mr Bates pointed out that the plank across the path near the stream is no longer required for animal control or preventing vehicles using the footpath, but it was a barrier to some parishioners using the footpath. Mr Delf agreed to speak to Mr Allen to determine if he would mind if the plank was removed. Mr Rose and the Clerk to investigate if PROW's permission was necessary to remove the plank.

RD
HR/IN

Collapsed tree on the edge of the churchyard near Bussey's Loke

Mr Delf reported that Mr Allen was removing the tree.

Items for next newsletter

The Clerk to draft and publish, when appropriate, articles on the following:

- Big Help Out – Mr Elliott to supply information.

RE
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Items for next main meeting

- Annual review of policies etc
 - Weeds on path next to the tennis courts
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Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 18 June 2024 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 21 May 2024 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm.

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There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:43pm

Signed _____ Date 21/05/2024