

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15 March 2016 at 7:45pm at The Mill Centre

ACTION

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Vice Chairman Mr Richard Delf, Mr Stephen Burley, Mr Kevin Cunningham, Mr Roger Parker, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Mike Turner, and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

Mr Ian Cundy.

Mrs Sylvia Cundy, Mr Joolz Clarke, Ms Lesley Mitchenhall, Mrs Carol Cormac and Mr David Key for public participation re the road traffic accidents / speeding in Hempnall matter.

County Councillor Mrs Alison Thomas for public participation re the road traffic accidents / speeding in Hempnall matter and her report.

Ms Gill Moulton to end of planning applications.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Liz Allen and Mr Peter Workman.

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Burley proposed, Mr Parker seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting on 23 February 2016 were approved.

Public Participation

Comments made are recorded under the relevant sections below.

County/District Councillor update

Mrs Alison Thomas reported as follows:

County matters:

Morningthorpe Recycling Centre is to return to full time opening from 1st June 2016 as a result of reassessing budget constraints. Library hours and Fire Service reductions have also been averted.

There may be an announcement shortly in relation to local devolution covering Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Mrs Thomas assured attendees that this was only a proposal to explore devolution, not an agreement to adopt it.

District matters:

Central government had indicated that district councils should be self-funding by 2020 so many district councils would be raising their council tax rates this year and in future in order to prepare for this.

Mr Thomas indicated that if she was aware of a planning application that was controversial at parish council level and district council officers were minded to approve such an application, she would ask for it to be considered at planning committee.

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Parish Meeting

The Clerk had sent out notices and invited reports. The meeting had been held and the following these matters arose for discussion:

Smoking in children's play area

Mrs Pauline Brookes asked if the parish council would consider erecting a no smoking sign in children's play area. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the cost of a sign stating : "Please refrain from smoking in the children's play area"

IN

Land near the old Queen's Head PH

It was noted that the plot of land near the old Queen's Head PH was for sale. It was further noted that there were Tree Preservation Orders in force on the trees thereon. The Clerk to point this out to any new owners.

IN

Pavement in Coronation Crescent

Mr Stephen Burley reported that weeds were already growing through the tarmac surface of this new pavement. The Clerk to report to NCC.

IN

Play Area Project

Mrs Howard had not supplied a report, however the Clerk reported that he had supplied extra information to her to assist with further grant applications.

Road traffic accidents / speeding in Hempnall

It had been noted that NCC/the police had been monitoring traffic speeds and counts on Bungay Rd on the approach to the S-bends from the Woodton direction, the Clerk awaits the results.

IN

The Clerk had written 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 requested what possible measures could be pursued via a Parish Partnership approach. Mr Edwards had responded as follows:

"Thanks for your e-mail which I sent to our Asset Manager. His reply was as follows:

"In accordance with Norfolk County Council's Skid Resistance Strategy we undertake an annual Sideway-force Coefficient Routine Investigation Machine (SCRIM) survey on all of 'A' road network in both directions. 'SCRIM' is a seasonally dependant survey and is undertaken within specific time period to ensure the results can be correlated using the Characteristic 'SCRIM' Co-efficient. Our skid resistance strategy determines the network, method and the approach to any investigations. 'B' roads are not within the planned testing plan. Our design team have confirmed that the surface laid in 2011/12 was a Hot Rolled Asphalt and the pre coated chippings had a PSV of 55."

As I explained when I met with parishioners, a SCRIM survey of the bends at Hempnall would be of little use on its own. With the A Roads, we test them all then the SCRIM results are overlaid with the Recorded Injury Accidents data. If it shows a number of skid-related accidents at a point that has a low SCRIM reading, it helps inform our planning of potential surface dressing sites for the forthcoming year. Obviously, this is considered along with engineering need and all in the context of the available Road Improvements budget (which has reduced dramatically since 2010).

A test result for Hempnall would have no comparison data for the rest of the B road network. Whilst the reading might be relatively low, the same might be true of a multitude of sites on the B road network so it wouldn't necessarily mean that Hempnall would achieve any kind of priority. The accident on 31st January 2016 is now recorded on our system although it is the only injury accident at present.

With regard to the Parish Partnership scheme, you could bid for a fixed VAS (vehicle actuated sign) that has a flashing warning sign and message and this can be set to flash at a certain speed (say 25mph). Possibly a bend sign with SLOW DOWN message would be

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most appropriate. I've attached examples of the sort of signs below along with a plan of the wide verge where the sign might go. A Fixed sign with a solar power unit is around £6,000 although you would only need to contribute half of this amount if your bid was successful. I appreciate there will be some who feel the Parish shouldn't have to pay towards a highway improvement but, sadly, there is just no other fund available for such a sign."

The Clerk read out an extract from NCC Highways re other measures. *"Traffic Calming schemes are very costly and challenging to implement and are not appropriate in all locations. Speed ramps are not viable on busy rural B class roads because they create a lot of traffic noise at sensitive times from goods and agricultural vehicles (particularly when empty). This really only leaves chicanes as a calming measure but these features are not without challenge. If adequate visibility is not available, chicanes would be rejected on road safety grounds. Even if visibility were adequate, maintenance of build-outs on HGV routes is difficult because the kerbs and posts tend to get regularly damaged by careless drivers. The fact that the road has been narrowed means that a full road closure is required to work on the damaged asset. Needless to say, this can be very disruptive.*

With regard to review of the B1527, it is unlikely that an alternative route could be found. Traffic still needs travel to the many farms and businesses in the greater Hempnall area and down-grading the road would not alter this. The B1527 is a properly constructed 'Main Distributor' road and is capable of carrying larger vehicles. We know from experiments in Starston that trying to down-grade a B Road and introducing weight restrictions merely shifts the traffic onto minor roads in the vicinity. This has resulted in decades of costly maintenance to the minor network and has blighted the lives of many other residents who never expected heavy lorries to be travelling past their properties."

County Councillor Thomas offered to speak to Mr Tom McCabe the director of Highways as despite there being no injuries so far it seemed this was more by luck than judgement as all of the accidents involved vehicles crossing pavements. She would ask Mr McCabe to consider surface dressing the road on and around the bends.

County Councillor Thomas requested that comments from parishioners on this matter be sent to highways@ncc.gov.uk rather than direct to Bob Edwards as this would result in the communications being directed to the most appropriate individual at Highways.

AT

Mr Rose said that 55PSV is an average reading and one would look for a higher PSV on junctions and outside schools for example. Others commented that the rubber from lorry tyres laid on the road surface could be causing the surface to be slippery. The parish council could commission its own SCRIM survey to be undertaken when the road is damp. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Rose seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Burley would contact Norfolk Laboratories to obtain a quote.

ALL

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should request a meeting with Bob Edwards to discuss in more detail the options open to the parish council under the Parish Partnership Scheme re road safety measures generally in Hempnall.

SB

Other relevant points noted during discussion were:

IN

- The parish council could consider contributing to the cost of safety measures via the Parish Partnership Scheme.
- A flashing sign could be erected.
- The existing chevron sign could be upgraded with a yellow background.

Mr Hooked thanked the public for their efforts.

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Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2016/0447 - Mr Gregory Munson , Green Boughs , Mill Road, Hempnall, Norfolk, NR15 2LP - Proposed Side and roof extensions – Mr Burley proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was agreed 5 votes for and 2 against that the application be approved.

IN

2016/0546 - Mr & Mrs Rumsby , Smithy Cottage, The Street, Hempnall, Norfolk, NR15 2AD - Proposed Two storey side extension and demolition of existing garage – Mr Parker proposed, Mr Cunningham seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2014/2496 – Norfolk Land Ltd & Norfolk Homes Ltd - Land East, South, West And North West Of Long Stratton Norfolk - Scoping opinion for bypass, residential development, link roads, retail floor space, employment land, community facilities, public open space, green infrastructure and supporting infrastructure and utilities. It was noted that the 200th house triggered the improvements to the B1527/A140 junction (not necessarily a roundabout). The parish council had already submitted its comments.

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 Cunningham proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed to reconsider the application as he felt that the decision previously reached was inconsistent with that given on the original application.

Ms Gill Moulton indicated that the same issues re septic tanks applied to this application as the previous one submitted by the applicants. In fact as there was no sewage treatment plant proposed in the new application, the position would be worse. The new application would increase the occupancy capacity of the property and hence the sewage output.

Mr Parker pointed out that the out building had been demolished; however this did not form part of the new application and asked the Clerk to report this to SNC.

IN

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was agreed 6 votes for and 1 against to recommend refusal and ask that there be no more development until the sewage issues in the area had been solved.

IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

Mr J Dixon, Old Orchard, Mill Road, Hempnall - Proposed single storey rear extension, extending 3.85m from the rear wall of the original dwelling house, with a maximum height of 3.5m and an eaves height of 2.7m.

Mr & Mrs M Saul, 5 Nuttele Close Hempnall - Proposed Front extension

Applications refused since the last meeting:

None

Applications outside the parish boundary

Mr Hook volunteered to review the Groove Farm retrospective application and report to next meeting.

DH

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

Mr Munson

The Clerk had written to Mr Munson.

The Hempnall Trust – Parish Council Reps

The Clerk had written to the new trustees and The Hempnall Trust.

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Newsletter

The Clerk had drafted and issued the newsletter.

Churchyard tree

This has been cut. Mrs Key had written to say “*On behalf of the Church PPC, we would like to thank Hempnall PC for paying for the trimming of the Holme Oak tree in the front church yard. The tree looks a lot better, and we can now see the Church Tower Clock.*”

Overhanging trees in Roland Drive

Cutting arranged.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting others

Nobb’s Lane Hedges

Mr Hook would continue to monitor. Please also refer to the tree warden’s report given in the parish meeting immediately preceding this meeting.

DH

Nobb’s Lane Spur

We await NCC investigations. Further forms are required to be completed. Mr Hook will co-ordinate.

DH

Local Council Award Scheme

The Clerk had submitted the relevant forms and data to the accreditation panel. We await the outcome.

IN

Repairs to bridge hand rail

Mr Rose had contacted NCC Highways asking them to repair this.

HR

Playing Field Container

Mr Delf will arrange for the container floor be concreted in due course.

RD

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion

Playing field and Football Pitch Maintenance - Moles

The Clerk had obtained a quote to deal with the moles on the playing field. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Cunningham seconded and it was agreed 6 votes for and 1 abstention, that the Clerk arranges for Mr D Whiting to tackle the mole problem on the whole area of the playing field.

IN

See-saw

Mr Delf is still making enquiries.

RD

Playing Field Maintenance

Mr Delf said that there was nothing to report and gave notice that he would like to stand down from being responsible for this role at the May meeting.

Path between the tennis courts and the properties on Bungay Rd

Further quotes are being obtained.

RD/LA

Football Pitch Alterations

Mr Shurmer had yet to set a date for pegging out the proposed football pitch. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Playing Field Trees

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the parish council investigate planting an oak tree on the playing field in memory of Mr Roger Davy. This would need to wait for the planting season in November and should be placed on the agenda again in September. In the meantime a suitable location is to be identified.

IN

DH

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Long Stratton By-pass

The Clerk had written to Tracy Jessop at Highways again to chase for a response regarding public concern about the lack of a roundabout at the junction of the B1527 and the A140. A response was received from Matt Tracey, Developer Services Manager at NCC as follows:

“Improvements to the Hempnall crossroads (together with the A140 bypass) are a direct requirement of the planned housing growth to come forward in Long Stratton and are contained in various policy documents including the Long Stratton Area Action Plan (AAP).

This has been the subject of recent consultation and the circulated draft AAP requires delivery early in the development. As part of our representations we have sought to clarify this by suggesting the improvements at Hempnall crossroads are required by a specific point in the development (the occupation of the 200th dwelling). This will be the subject of detailed design in conjunction with the planning proposals.

Details of the Long Stratton Draft Area Action Plan and the recently undertaken consultation can be found here:- <http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/planning/4954.asp>

We are currently waiting for the Inspector to release the final version of the AAP, which should be in the coming month. All other direct impacts will be scoped and covered in the developer’s Transport Assessment, which will accompany their planning application.”

Community Speed Watch

Mr Burley reported that the team were undertaking 2 seasons a week and they were having a deterrent effect.

The 6 high visibility jackets are yet to be ordered. The Clerk will pay upon invoice.

SB/IN

Hugmore Pond

The Clerk had received a response from the occupiers of Hugmore House indicating their interest in the pond and sent a holding response. The Clerk had liaised with SNC who were carrying out a valuation and calculating the costs of sale. The Clerk to monitor

IN

Correspondence

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

Various police crime summaries
Relevant notices/agenda and minutes
Reuse & Recycling event
South Norfolk Council Corporate Plan 2016-20
Emails re accident on B1527 bends
District Boundary Review
The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations
Streamlining the Planning Process - Site Notices and consultations
Community Biodiversity Awards 2016
South Norfolk Older People’s Forum
Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative Call For Data
Consultation on NCC Local List for Validation of Planning Applications
Report on Meeting of 26th February re NALC
Response re Long Stratton By-pass
Wymondham Leisure Centre reopening 11/04/16
R Youngman comments re playing field and award

No further matters were raised from the above.

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Items placed directly onto the Parish notice boards were:

Notice/Agenda for Parish Council meeting 23 February 2016
Notice/Agenda for Parish Council meeting 15 March 2016
Notice/Agenda for Parish meeting 15 March 2016
The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick poster
Reuse & Recycling event
NHS Health Check campaign

No further matters were raised from the above.

Website

The following changes had been made since the last main meeting:

Added Parish Council approved minutes of 19 January 2016
Added Parish Council draft minutes of 23 February 2016
Added Notice/Agenda for Parish Council meeting 23 February 2016
Added Notice/Agenda for Parish Council meeting 15 March 2016
Added Notice/Agenda for Parish meeting 15 March 2016
Added various planning application details
Added various papers to be tabled at meetings
Added Chimney sweep to business page

No further matters were raised from the above.

Correspondence from Parishioners

The Clerk reported the receipt of several emails from parishioners relating to the road traffic accidents on the B1527, many of which had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. The points raised had been taken into account above.

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 20 January to 15 March 2016. The statement was in line with the annual budget. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Parker seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the statement be approved.

Use of Playing Field for business rental terms

The Clerk had contacted Norfolk ALC, National ALC, Suffolk ALC and NPFA, none of which had example terms and conditions of hire. The Clerk offered to draft suitable terms, however indicated that these may not be adequate as he was not a solicitor.

IN

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Burley seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the rent for Mrs Buck be set rent free for 3 months to start the project off. The Clerk to send the relevant contract.

IN

Newton Flotman Parish Council letter re improvements to A140 Junctions

The Clerk had circulated the letter from Newton Flotman PC before the meeting.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk respond to Newton Flotman PC to state that Hempnall parish council had already:

- made such representations
- asked for impact statements to take place
- asked for a roundabout at B1527/A140 junction
- raised concerns re rat runs
- raised concerns about the knock on effect on surrounding villages

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- responded appropriately to the Long Stratton Area Action Plan and shared their concerns re the impact of new developments on increased traffic movements along the A140.

IN

Maintenance of footpaths

Mr Rose proposed, Mr Parker seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Rose will investigate when the footpaths are scheduled to be cut and the possibility of extra cuts will be considered at the next meeting.

HR

Items for Newsletter

- Hedge cutting / birds – diary note for next year’s Spring Edition
- New opening times of Morningthorpe Recycling Centre

IN

Items for next meeting

- Appointment of Chair and other Officers
- Internal Audit
Annual Accounts to 31/03/16
- Notice of expenses
- Insurance renewal
- Standing Orders Review
- Risk Assessment Review
- Declaration of Interests Review
- Action Plan

IN

Date of next meeting

The following meeting (subject to receipt of applications) will be primarily planning at 7:30pm on 19 April 2016.

The next Parish Council main meeting will take place on 17 May 2016 at 7:30 pm.

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

Signed _____ Date 17 May 2016

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Presented to meeting on 15 March 2016

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting :		£
03/02/2016	CGM grass cutting	(56.68)
05/02/2016	Interest	5.31
11/02/2016	Eon - streetlight electricity	(7.01)
22/02/2016	Hempnall Tennis Club PU Fees	218.75
28/02/2016	Hempnall Village Hall - for Speedwatch group	(8.62)
04/03/2016	Ian Smith - Cut Churchyard Tree	(350.00)
04/03/2016	C R Cawston Ltd spray playing field	(88.05)
07/03/2016	Interest	4.97
08/03/2016	CGM grass cutting	(56.68)
11/03/2016	Eon - streetlight electricity	(6.56)
15/03/2016	Norse Eastern Ltd - Newsletter printing	(48.00)
15/03/2016	Mileage re course attendance	(51.50)
15/03/2016	W H Smith - envelopes	(3.79)
15/03/2016	Cables 2U ltd - cable for projector	(12.70)
15/03/2016	Stamps	(3.71)
15/03/2016	Hempnall Village Hall - for sports use	(668.00)
		<u>(1,132.27)</u>

Closing Balance 2,002.80

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting :		£
07/03/2016	Interest	6.33
		<u>6.33</u>

Closing Balance 50,558.97