

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20 April 2021 at 7:00pm
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

Donna Dixon of County Broadband to the end of her presentation.

Mr Rob Webb, Mrs Katie Barnes, Mr James Barnes to end of the play area development matter.

Mrs Sarah Batchelor to the end of the telecommunications mast matter.

Apologies

Apologies were received from District Councillor Mr M Edney. Mr Delf also apologised for needing to leave the meeting at 8pm.

Declarations of Interest

Messrs Delf and Workman declared an interest in planning application 2021/0752.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mrs Allen proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 30 March 2021 be approved subject to changing one reference to Mr Thomas to Mrs Thomas.

Public Participation

This is recorded under the County Broadband and Play area development matters.

County Broadband

Donna Dixon of County Broadband gave a presentation to the meeting the main points of which were as follows:

- County Broadband is a private company backed by Aviva Investors
- It is already installing broadband in many villages in the county and beyond
- It provides fibre broadband not just to its own “green boxes” but from those to each individual premises. It has an access agreement with Openreach so would use existing routing via ducting and overhead cables.
- Fibre provides up to 1000mbs of which 900mbs would be available to users.
- They need pre-orders from parishioners of 25% uptake to start the infrastructure work.
- Once the 25% take up target has been reached infrastructure is provided for the whole parish, so even outlying properties could be connected.
- There are no upfront fees, the first payment would be made only when the premises is connected.
- Tariffs start at £28/mth with a minimum 2 year contract.
- The intention is to sell the network to other providers in 2 or 3 years time which should create competition re tariffs.
- Free service for life of County Broadband to the village hall, the school and public service for pubs if the landlords take up a private service.
- There would either be a sunken termination unit outside individual properties connecting to a router inside or connection via overhead cable to the router inside.
- No line rental on top of County Broadband’s tariff, however you would need to continue to pay existing line rental if you kept a landline.
- Router would fail in the event of a power cut unlike traditional landline.
- Donna asked the parish council to consider a joint communication with them to parishioners. She would send example letters and the presentation slides to the Clerk for circulation within the parish council only.

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Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the Clerk should write to County Broadband to indicate the parish council encouraged the provision of fibre broadband to properties in the parish but did not feel it was appropriate to be involved in any marketing thereof.

IN

Play area development

Mr Webb introduced the team of parishioners interested in being active in the development of the play area, namely: himself, Mrs Katie Barnes, Mr James Barnes and Mrs Sarah Batchelor.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to accept Mr Delf's willingness to be the parish council representative joining the team. Mr Hook and the Clerk to liaise in order to provide the team with a map showing the locations of the existing play area and the area available for development. The Clerk to also provide a copy of the latest ROSPA report. The team would then consider and present their ideas for development to a future parish council meeting featuring plans for a range of age groups including adults, costings, funding and maintenance proposals.

DH/IN

IN

RD

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2021/0752 - Mrs Claire Delf, Galen, The Street, Hempnall, Norfolk, NR15 2AD - Erection of a three bay cart shed – Mr Driver proposed, Mr Turner seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2021/0722 - Mr Colin Hawes, Hempnall House, Lundy Green Hempnall NR15 2NU - Construction of 3 bay oak framed cart lodge of traditional design – The application had been withdrawn prior to the meeting.

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2021/0354 - Mr and Mrs Bates, 31 Coronation Crescent Hempnall - Proposed single storey rear extension and internal alterations.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting:

There were none.

Pre-application consultation

Proposed telecoms installation CTIL_3036910_TEF_090991 grass verge of Spring Lane

It would seem that the primary reason for the mast was to facilitate smart metering and may not be used to enhance mobile phone coverage in the village. Mr Turner had contacted Vodafone and BT and reported they had no plans to erect masts nor increase coverage in the Hempnall area.

Mr Terry Balaam, the landlord of the Three Horseshoes PH had written to express the following concerns:

“Firstly the health issues as you are probably aware you can find plenty of for and against on this issue.

Secondly the adverse effect on local house prices it is widely known that property in and around these Ariel's suffer between 20 and 30+ percent drop in value.

Thirdly due to covid the pub has had the least productive year since I came here and back to item one people have the perception that these Ariel's are not to be around and I am reasonably confident it will affect trade.

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Lastly I have medical equipment that relies on wifi business equipment as well - is the Ariel going to affect these also TV / sky / cordless phones ?

I believe this Ariel is for smart meters surely a better site might be found causing less inconvenience and loss to locals."

Mr Turner stated he knew of people who lived within 200m of such masts and had issues with TV sound bars and HiFi equipment. The mast's transmissions create a constant buzz on such equipment, so this issue would need to be mitigated by the mast company.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the Clerk should respond to the pre application consultation to state that the proposed site was not thought suitable due to its proximity to houses and local business, especially the only public house in the village. It was also close to trees which was one of their reasons for rejecting other sites. Concern had also been expressed about the effect on TV sound bars, HiFi and medical equipment in properties within a 200m range. It was also noted that owners of at least 2 of the alternative sites considered by the potential applicants had not been contacted to discuss the matter. Councillors considered that a site towards the northern end of Alburgh Road close to the entrance to Back Lane would be far more suitable as it was on land owned by Norfolk County Council (a former recycling site) avoided houses and trees and was a high, open and central point between the main village and Hempnall Greens.

IN

New entrance to estate off Bungay Road

Mr Hook had witnessed a car mounting the newly lowered pavement to pass an oncoming vehicle. In the past this would not have happened as the kerb was in place. Thus the design has created a new hazard rather than making the road safer.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the Clerk should write to NCC urgently in order to point out the extra danger and ask them to consider as a matter of urgency the proposals put forward previously by the parish council to create a traffic priority system. The Clerk to copy in County Councillor Thomas.

IN

Coronation Crescent

It had noticed there was a large development being constructed at the rear of a property on Coronation Crescent for which no planning application had been seen. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Driver seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the Clerk should write to SNC to ask if it was a permitted development. Mrs Cann to inform the Clerk of the house number.

JC/IN

Vandalism repair re play area

The Clerk had reported the matter to the insurers and awaited a response regarding which contractors to use. The Clerk had been provided with contact details of the culprits by the police.

IN

It was agreed to ask Mr Cracknell to paint the garage doors as soon as possible to cover up the most offending word.

IN

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Play Area Repairs & ROSPA report

The following work requirements are outstanding:

- The fibre glass slide was starting to chip off and needed replacing.
- A bolt at the bottom of the slide needs replacing.
- The rocking horse may need replacing
- The bark supplier has promised to be in touch as soon as supplies of bark are available.

Carried forward due to lockdown and to be considered in the light of any potential development of the facilities.

RD

Rewilding

Mr Rose proposed, Mr Driver seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that should an opportunity arise to purchase land suitable for rewilding and the creation of an amenity area for parishioners, in principle the council would consider using a proportion of the CIL funds to make such a purchase.

Football Club Nets

The club are putting the proposed changes re movement of the pitch and potential new dug outs to the Football Association and we await their response.

Mrs Allen pointed out the “Tasburgh pitch” appeared to be too close to the MUGA again.

The Football Club had requested financial support via the CIL money. Councillors wished to ensure that the football club had sought funds from other sources. Mr Workman volunteered to raise this issue with Mr Shurmer and to ask him to move the existing “Tasburgh pitch” to the agreed distance from the MUGA. Mr Workman informed the meeting that the 2nd (Tasburgh) pitch would disappear once the Hempnall FC pitch was relocated.

PW

Items for next newsletter

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

- Polite parking

IN

The Clerk to ask the group office about distribution of the physical newsletter again.

IN

Items for next main meeting

- Uncontrollable dogs

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council main meeting will be on 4 May at 7pm virtually by Zoom and the next planning meeting will take place on 8 June by Zoom at 7.00pm.

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:20

Signed _____ Date 4 May 2021