

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19 April 2022 at 7:00pm in the Mill Centre.

Present

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

Members of the public present

Mr Terence Read and Mr Bob Jupp to end of new planning application.

Apologies

There were none.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs Allen declared an interest in the Hempnall Natural Flood Management scoping report matter and the Earth bund behind the playing field.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Driver proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 22 March 2022 be approved.

Public Participation

Re planning application 2022/0590

Mr Read expressed concern with regard to potential flooding especially as his house was made of clay lump and had already been subject to flooding in December 2021.

Mr Jupp also expressed concern with regard to potential flooding. He made reference to an existing report by Murray Grey which mentioned lesions in the ground in the area. This could mean that water might leak from the proposed reservoir. He was also concerned as conclusions of the report into the cause of the Whaley Bridge dam crisis, found the cracks in the dam were apparently caused by excess rain and heat, thus with climate change bringing more extreme heavy rain and hotter days, the risk of the proposed reservoir breaching would be increased. He also stated that he feared home insurance would be increased due to proximity to the body of water.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2022/0590 - Mr Sean Charlton, Spring Farm, Spring Lane Hempnall - Construction of a reservoir and landscaping

Mr Driver proposed, Mr Turner seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be refused for the following reasons:

Residents of both Silver Green and Hempnall have expressed great concern over the increased risk of flooding to already high risk areas.

The parish council believe the proposed location gave an unacceptable level of flood risk to properties nearby and as far as the centre of Hempnall village in the event of a breach and/or leakage. The ditch system in the area is already not sufficient to cope with surface water rain, for example properties in Silver Green and Hempnall main village were flooded as recently as December 2021. The parish council has been working with Norfolk County Council and the Environment Agency under the National Flood Management Scheme to identify preventive flood measures but even if and when these are implemented, it is feared that the local drainage system could not cope with extra water leakage from the proposed reservoir.

A report by Councillor Murray Grey, prepared when a landfill tip site was being investigated for the same area as the proposed reservoir, identified many lesions in the subsoils which could lead to leakage.

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It was noted the applicant has not provided a flood risk map with this application. However the one provided with the previous application 2021/1680 shows water would head directly into the ditches in Silver Green (mentioned above) and then flow into Hempnall main village. The properties in Silver Green are very close to the reservoir and are likely to suffer if nearby drainages ditches over-flow. Some of these properties are only made of clay lump and thus are at particular high risk of damage. If the reservoir was located further south towards Spring Lane, the water would flow eastwards over fields and not towards Silver Green and Hempnall.

Positioning the reservoir nearer Spring Lane would also reduce the amount of energy needed pumping water to and from the green houses, thus being more environmentally friendly.

IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

There were none.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting:

There were none.

Millfields Exception Site

No further movement reported to the parish council.

The Deals

No movement had been noted, we await the applicant who has until May 10th to submit a revised application. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Caravan encampment at Spring Wood

A letter received from Mrs Karen Dunnett was brought to the attention of councillors. The Clerk reported that SNC planning enforcement office Andy Baines would be visiting the site to make relevant enquiries. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Earth bund behind the playing field left from the development

Mrs Allen stated that the soil is owned by Allen Farms Ltd who have the licences to store and move it. The bund will eventually (2 to 3 years) be removed and used on the farm. Some of the soil could possibly also be made available for any landscaping on the playing field if desired.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Play area redevelopment

Mr Delf reported that the sub-committee had submitted some grant applications and had been successful in raising £1,000 from the Adnams' trust. The sub-committee were to have a meeting shortly with the equipment supplier to finalise the fine details of the project.

The Clerk reported that the sub-committee had confirmed with SNC that planning permission would not be required.

The Clerk had been informed by SNC that they would release S106 funds to be used for the project.

The Clerk had requested an estimate of the insurance premium to cover the equipment. The new annual cost would be c£1,660 an increase of £1,040 per annum.

It was acknowledged that before the concrete garage could be demolished the motorised roller needed to be sold. Mr Hook proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously

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agreed that the Clerk would research the ownership of the roller to ensure we had the power to sell it. Mrs Allen was asked to research the best net sales value considering alternatives such as auction, scrap and private sale. IN
LA

Hempnall Natural Flood Management scoping report

The Clerk had circulated the report to councillors prior to the meeting. It focused on holding water back upstream rather than clearing out waterways within the village.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Driver seconded, and it was agreed with one abstention that the Clerk write to National Flood Manager for East Anglia to commend her on the report and recommend that she makes contact with landowners and appropriate authorities to try and implement the proposed flood prevention measures. The Clerk to copy in County Councillor Alison Thomas requesting her support. IN

Telephone mast

The Clerk had chased by phone the mast company for the extra details they had promised but still received nothing. He had made it clear that it was essential the company meets with the parish council before the application is submitted.

Mr Hook proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should confirm the above conversation in writing to the mast company re-enforcing the need for a site meeting with parish councillors prior the submission of any planning application. IN

Councillors to look at the potential site prior to next meeting. ALL

Use of the playing field for the annual fireworks display

The Friends of Hempnall School had requested use of the playing field for the annual fireworks display.

Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Allen seconded, and it was agreed 7 votes to 1 that the Clerk should respond that the parish council support the event but must leave it to the organisers to ensure all safety requirements are met, particularly with regard to the new development on the eastern boundary of the playing field and the event is fully insured. The Clerk to also remind them about parking control and not blocking B1527. IN

Potholes

The Clerk to report the large potholes in Fairsted Lane and Busseys Loke to NCC. IN

Items for next newsletter

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

- Flood prevention work
- Parking - not on pavements
- Play area progress
- Monitoring speed - reporting to police

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council main meeting on 17 May 2022 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm and the next planning meeting will take place on 21 June 2022 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:31.

Signed _____ Date 17 May 2022