

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 August 2022 at 7:00pm in The Mill Centre

Present

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

Members of the public present

Ms Georgina Warne, Mrs Melanie Hook, both to end of planning application 2022/1417.
District Councillor Michael Edney from The Deals matter to end of mobile library service cuts.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Liz Allen and Mr Mike Turner.

Declarations of Interest

Messrs Hook and Rose declared an interest in the planning application 2022/1417

Mr Delf declared an interest in the Land East of Field Lane planning matter.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 19 July 2022 reflect the new information re the zip wire, the cost of which is in fact included in the revised quote for the play area. The total cost now stood at £102,776 plus VAT plus the cost of dismantling the old equipment and site preparation.

Mr Driver proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed with one abstention that the revised minutes of the meeting on 19 July 2022 be approved.

Public Participation

There were none.

County Councillor Update

There was none.

District Councillor Update

There was none.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2022/1417 – Mr Joesbury, 2 Freemasons Cottages Mill Road Hempnall, New door opening within side (northwest) elevation and new single storey rear extension including internal alterations (Revised)

Messrs Hook and Rose voluntarily left the meeting because of their declared interest. Mr Delf took the chair.

It was noted from SNC's decision on the previous application that it had been refused on 3 main grounds, namely:

- The scale and bulk
- Contemporary design not in keeping with the non-designated heritage asset
- It protrudes from the side of the dwelling to be seen from Mill Rd

Ms Warne and Mrs Hook stated their objections to the application.

It was noted that the revised plan showed the same footprint as the old and that the eaves of the single storey extension would still be as high as the neighbour's 2nd storey so was still an over-bearing building.

It was also noted that the CIL form had not been completed correctly. Mr Driver to supply the details to the Clerk.

AD

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

In light of the new information, Mr Driver proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be refused as even with the removal of the second storey the plans did not address any of the reasons for refusal of the first application.

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Messrs Hook and Rose returned to the meeting and Mr Hook took the chair.

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2021/1933 - Mr and Mrs Pointer, 4 Bridge Terrace, The Street Hempnall - Erection of rear extension to dwelling.

Applications withdrawn since the last meeting:

2022/1362 - Daniel Scott, Hannah's Pightle Land west of Lower Lane Hempnall - Erection of steel framed barn with corrugated metal roof.

Applications refused since the last meeting:

2021/2637 – Mr Marc Joesbury, 2 Freemasons Cottages, Mill Road Hempnall - Two storey rear extension with external and internal alterations.

Applications outside the parish boundary since the last meeting

There were none.

Millfields Exception Site

Messrs Delf, Hook, Driver and Mrs Allen met with Richard Bland of Saffron Housing in July. It seems Saffron believe that the site will be developed as social rented housing. When details of the proposed new law re tenants right to purchase are known Saffron would look to ensure that the properties were retained in perpetuity as social housing. The Clerk to monitor.

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Land East of Field Lane

Mr Delf reported that the plans do not show his barn. He wondered what provision is being made for foul wastewater as the Deals pipes go under his property, but he would not allow the same for the proposed development. He was also concerned about surface water drainage given it was proposed to fill the ditch in.

Mr Delf left the meeting.

The Clerk / Mr Hook had responded to SNC on the application. District Councillor Edney had called in the application to planning committee on several grounds if officers were minded to approve it. Mr Edney thought any decision will be delayed for at least a year as a result of the nutrient neutrality rules. It was noted that the parish council and the district councillor would each have 5 minutes to present at any planning committee hearing. The Clerk to monitor.

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Mr Delf returned to the meeting.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

District Council Grant for Play Area

The Clerk had passed on councillors thanks to Sarah Batchelor for her excellent presentation to successfully obtain this grant.

Hedge cutting adjacent to pavements

The Clerk had written a suitable letter to the relevant property owners to ask them to cut their hedges and one had already done so, so far. The Clerk to monitor the others.

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Defibrillator at Village Hall

Mr Michael Herring had added a shelter above the defibrillator.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Pandemic Commemorative Plaque

Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk display this on the parish council noticeboard.

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Play area redevelopment

The Clerk had provided a cash float of £250 to Mr Delf for the sub-committee.

Mr Delf had removed the steps and taken other action necessary to overcome the urgent issues with the fort highlighted in the ROSPA report.

Mr Delf reported that the fund-raising events were underway.

The Clerk and Mrs Batchelor are to meet with the Big Lottery on 25 August.

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Mr Delf said that the configuration of the play area and apparatus close to the tennis courts could be agreed with the Tennis Club at a later date.

RD/LA

Dog Bin - footpath 9 off B1527

The exact location has been agreed by Mr Delf with Mrs Allen representing the landowner. The Clerk to order the bin and post if required and arrange for SNC to add it to the emptying schedule. Mr Delf volunteered to erect the bin in a concrete footing and replace the footpath sign at the same time.

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RD

Cost of Bus Shelter repair

The Clerk and Mr Delf reported recent events with James Banner in seeking a fuller explanation of the quote over-run from Banner Roof Services Ltd. No such explanation had been provided and the bill remains unpaid although the Clerk had offered to pay the quoted amount whilst the extras were being reviewed. Mr Banner had threatened to take legal action and the Clerk read his response to councillors.

Mr Driver proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should await a response from Mr Banner as there was still insufficient information for councillors to make a decision on how much to pay.

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Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership 2023/24

Bids need to be submitted by 09 December 2022. Mr Edney revealed that the community Action Fund had been reopened, so grants of up to £15,000 were again available.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should prepare a case for both the Parish Partnership and the Community Action Fund to replace or widen the concrete footbridge on footpath 9 to allow access for mobility scooters / wheelchairs and buggies. He should also research other possible wooden plank footbridge widening to benefit the community as a whole. The Clerk to also establish if planning permission would be required for bridge widening and to seek County Councillor Thomas' support. District Councillor Edney said that he would support such a proposal.

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Defibrillator at Hempnall School

The Clerk had agreed with Hempnall School to move the defibrillator to the front of the school so it can be accessed outside of school hours. The charity who donated the defibrillator are called Heart2Heart, the Clerk had contacted the charity and they agreed to the move and to supply the external box. Mr Workman had met with the school's maintenance man and a contractor to look at options for supplying power to the unit. The Clerk had written to the charity to establish the power requirements of the unit and awaited a response.

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HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Correspondence from Parishioners

Mobile library service cuts

Mr Driver had discovered NCC proposed to cut the Mobile Library budget by 47% (£200,000). It is proposed that no mobile library will be supplied to areas within 4 miles of a library. This is likely to result in Hempnall losing the service completely. Consultation runs from 22nd July to 14th September.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk respond to the consultation based on a response drafted by Mr Driver in support of the mobile library. Mr Edney said he supported the retention of the service. Mrs Thomas is to be asked for her support.

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Cyclists slow down sign

Mr Ian Holland had written to ask if it were possible to have a sign asking cyclists to slow down when entering the village from Saxlingham on Broaden Lane, part of a popular cycle route. Such a sign exists on Newmarket Rd in Norwich.

Mr Driver proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk pass on Mr Holland's comments to the Highways Authority (NCC) and ask them to inform Mr Holland of any action they might take.

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Anti-social behaviour at night on playing field

A parishioner had written to make councillors aware of loud drunken behaviour and people smashing vodka bottles on the basketball court / youth shelter area and riding mopeds on the field at night until up to 2am.

The Clerk had reported the anti-social behaviour and smashed vodka bottles to the police last week and they had promised to undertake extra patrols and talk to youths on the playing field. The Clerk and Mrs Allen had both cleared up glass on separate occasions. The Clerk had also spoken to some youths on Monday to make them aware of police involvement and asking them to spread the word in the hope the behaviour would stop. CCTV footage had also been obtained from the village hall. The Clerk to continue to collate evidence and liaise with the police.

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Hempnall Speed Watch team

Mr Robert Elliott of the Speed Watch team had provided a written update to the Clerk which had been circulated to councillors.

It was agreed to thank Mr Elliot for the update and the proactive initiatives it outlined. The parish council will supply him with historical data from the SAM2 units and future readings (The Clerk to ask Mr Turner to action the later). The Clerk to invite Mr Elliot to write an advert for the next parish council newsletter and provide an open invitation to attend any parish council meetings.

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Items for next main meeting

- There were no new items

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Items for next newsletter

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

- Hedges over pavements
- New dog bin
- Speedwatch

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HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council main meeting will take place on 20 September 2022 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 18 October 2022 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm. IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:05.

Signed _____ Date 20/09/2022

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