

# HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 27 September 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 Mike Turner, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

### Members of the public present

Mr Simon Carver – to end of planning application 2022/1297.  
Mrs Sarah Batchelor and Mr Rob Webb – to end of play area matter.  
Mrs Sylvia Driver, Mr Terence Read, Mr Robert Jupp, Mrs Jan Alden, Mr David Alden, Miss Lisa Cornish and Mr Matt Rudling – to end of planning application 2022/1803.

### Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alison Thomas and Mr Hamish Rose.

### The Late Queen Elizabeth II

A minute's silence was observed in respect of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Mr Hook suggested that councillors consider how best to mark the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. He suggested councillors may wish to name the playingfield, which opened in 1952/3, after her or consider planting oak trees. It was agreed to consider at the next meeting.

ALL/IN

### Declarations of Interest

Mr Turner declared a neighbour interest in planning application 2022/1803.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 19 August 2022 be approved.

### Public Participation

There were none.

### County Councillor Update

Mrs Thomas was attending 2 other PC meetings but had furnished the following report:

- *Bypass side road orders were agreed to proceed at last cabinet. Also, discussion around increased project costs and likely funding of shortfall.*
- *Very informative discussion at Health and Well-being Board around changes planned in social care but still real problems supporting the care market as costs rise for them (along with us all)*
- *Budget consultation will be launched in Oct so there may be areas you wish to comment on.*
- *Just a reminder South Norfolk have a discretionary hardship fund so if you know of people who are really struggling, please ask them to contact our help hub for support and advice 01508 533933*
- *I will pick up the verge issue with Andy depending on the outcome of recent contacts.*

### District Councillor Update

No report received.

### Planning Applications

#### **New applications since the last meeting:**

2022/1297 - Mr Simon Carver, Pear Tree Farm Alburgh Road Hempnall - Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of carport and garage with office space and gym above.

Mr Carver explained the rationale behind the application, showed some artists impressions and answered councillors' questions.

Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Allen seconded, and it was unanimously agreed subject to one abstention that the application be approved.

IN

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2022/1745 - Mr & Mrs Tim & Gill Vowles, Croeso, Fairstead Lane Hempnall - Remove existing roof and raise roof to create a dormer bungalow. Remove existing rear 'lean-to' extension and replace with a single-rear storey extension. External wall insulation with render finish. Open-sided porch over front door. Solar Photovoltaic panels to South facing roof elevation. – Mr Turner proposed, Mrs Allen seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2022/1803 - Mr Sean Charlton, Spring Farm Spring Lane Hempnall - Erection of glasshouses, polytunnels, general purpose agricultural storage/cold store building, biomass building, water storage tanks, thermal water tanks, drainage and landscaping.

There was much discussion about this application. The residents and councillors in attendance were absolutely opposed to the plans and this led to a proposal by Mr Workman, which Mrs Cann seconded, that the application be refused. This recommendation for refusal was unanimously approved by councillors who also agreed that a full and detailed letter of objection would be sent to SNC by the deadline of 17 October 2022.

The grounds for objection were identified as:

- A lack of an NCC highways assessment and numerous concerns about increased traffic flows and their impacts
- Visual impacts in an area of rural , attractive and tranquil landscape
- Increased light pollution in an area of rural dark landscape
- Loss of a Greenfield
- Transformation of a Greenfield into an industrial style operation including a large packaging building
- The impacts on drainage (including unknown impacts of foul sewage) in an area that suffers greatly in this regard due to the high water table
- Potential impacts on the number of residential caravans on site at a location outside the settlement limit (development boundary) in Hempnall – the applicant requested 48 extra caravans which, although not part of this application at present, represent a large future threat
- The fact that the site is not identified as an employment site in the current local plan (The Joint Core Strategy)
- Impact on visual amenity for the users of local PROW including footpath 24 which runs through the site
- Impact on water supply in an area that suffers from low water pressure through industrial scale irrigation
- The magnitude of the development – potentially trebling the size of the operation
- Loss of good arable land
- Increased noise in a tranquil area - helicopter flights in to site, night time parties at weekends, fork lift movements and other industrial disturbances created by the operation
- No Environmental Impact Statement
- A failure to engage with the local community e,g by attending a parish council meeting
- Too close to existing dwellings – impacts on neighbours
- Does it comply with Defra guidance on polytunnels and glasshouses?
- It is questionable to call this an agricultural operation – it would look like an industrial enterprise
- Destruction of habitats for flora and fauna and negative implications for the movement of the local red deer population
- The local community was not invited to contribute to pre application discussions between the developer and SNC which have taken place since February 2022
- Concerns about a past history of retrospective applications re. this operation

DH/AD/  
IN

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## **Applications approved since the last meeting:**

2022/0192 - Mr and Mrs M Lightfoot, Cart Lodge Barn, Lundy Green Hempnall - Rendering and timber board cladding to cover existing brickwork to external elevations of existing barn conversion.

2022/1060 - Mr & Mrs McCluskey, The Hayloft, Bungay Road Hempnall - Replace existing rear extension with new single storey rear extension. New front porch and installation of front and rear dormer windows.

## **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.

## **Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed**

### **Pandemic Commemorative Plaque**

The Clerk had displayed this on the parish council noticeboard.

### **Mobile library service cuts**

The Clerk had responded to the consultation based on a response drafted by Mr Driver and a positive support email was received from Mr Edney.

### **Cyclists slow down sign**

The Clerk had passed on Mr Holland's comments to the Highways Authority (NCC) who responded as follows: "*Unfortunately this is not something we would consider, the existing speed limit applies to both 4 wheel and two-wheel traffic, the signs on Newmarket Road are for the cycle lane*". The Clerk had informed Mr Holland.

### **Anti-social behaviour at night on playing field**

Since the Clerk had spoken to young people on the play area, troubles had ceased for a while, but there was glass found again last weekend, hopefully a one off.

### **Speed Watch Team**

The Clerk had written to Mr Elliot and provided councillors with his response and included Mr Elliot's article in the parish council's newsletter.

### **Cost of Bus Shelter repair**

The Clerk and Mr Delf had settled this matter with James Banner by paying the contracted amount quoted and the additional costs for extra work. Total paid £827.33 not the £1096.00 invoiced.

### **Parish Council Newsletter**

The Clerk had written and published.

### **Footpath and bridleway / Crossfield cutting**

The Clerk had written to Mr David Penn requesting that when he replants the field, he ensures the footpath is clearly accessible.

## **Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting others**

### **Nobbs Lane Spur**

Further forms are required to be completed. Mr Hook will co-ordinate. Names of users are being collated.

DH

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## **Alburgh Rd repairs**

The poor road condition of the road surface at Alburgh Rd / B1527 junction and Villa farm entrance, had not been attended to by NCC, but they updated on 11/08/22 that the road is on the schedule for resurfacing, prior to which any additional minor or new defects will be repaired. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

## **Tree Preservation orders for Playing Field**

SNC had issued consultation re TPOs on an additional 7 trees around the playingfield and the Clerk had responded and awaits SNC decision.

IN

## **Planning permissions & Business Rates**

Andy Baines, SNC enforcement officer reported as follows:

*"I have contacted business rates who have all but one of the businesses listed. That being Harvey Lane Garage. They will carry out their own investigation into this and do what is necessary. I have invited an application for the garage use to be regularised.*

*I have also requested an application for the Evergreen Insulation business."*

## **Caravan encampment at Spring Wood**

Andy Baines, SNC enforcement officer reported as follows:

*"I visited the site, and it appears the use of this area is well established and could possibly be immune from enforcement through the passage of time. I am currently looking into the use and structures to establish how long they have been there."*

Mr Baines had indicated that, in short, buildings become immune from action after 4 years and use of land becomes immune from action after 10 years.

## **Hempnall Natural Flood Management scoping report**

We await the outcome of liaison of the National Flood Manager for East Anglia with landowners. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

## **Speed limit on Alburgh Road**

The Clerk to inform the parishioner, Mrs Judy Askew, who raised the matter and invite her to the November meeting to discuss speed issues in general.

IN

## **Churchyard Tree Pruning – Holme Oak**

Mark Havens to prune the Holme Oak in October/November. The Clerk had also applied for and received planning permission to undertake the work. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

## **Extra 20mph sign in The Street**

The Clerk had written to NCC Highways to ask for another 20mph sign to be erected on the other side of the road to the one above as the one on the left, even when not obscured by the hedge, was not prominent enough to alert drivers. Gary Overland said, "Although I have not had an opportunity to inspect, I do not foresee why this would not be possible, but as it will require a new sign, we would have to look to Alison to fund the work". The Clerk to monitor.

IN

## **Bollard on B1527**

The Clerk had chased NCC re the erection of a bollard on the pavement and Gary Overland of NCC Highways had responded as follows: "A bollard would prevent vehicles cutting across the new tactile paving when entering and exiting the new development but have not had a chance to run this past Julian Fonseka for approval. "The Clerk to Monitor.

IN

## **Roadside nature reserves**

Mr Driver has received a response from NCC Ecologist, Sonia Seaton who will take action with Mr Driver in the Spring.

AD

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## **Roberts Close / The Street footpath safety**

The Clerk had written to highways on 5 January 2021 outlining the safety issues and possible solutions. NCC responded to say they “do not have a problem dropping the kerbs on the opposite side of the road to create a crossing point. The kerbs are not at full height anyway, but they would obviously be better with a standard 25mm upstand. We would not consider installing waiting restrictions at this location, but I think that some h-bar markings (11m length) would help deter drivers from parking close to the bend. This reply obviously crosses over two no enquiries at the same location” The Clerk to monitor.

IN

## **B1527 Declassification**

This can't be considered until after the result of the safety audit being carried out funded by County Councillor Thomas.

IN

## **Millfields Exception Site**

We await Richard Bland of Saffron Housing / SNC since July 2022 and details of the law re tenants right to purchase to ensure that the properties were retained in perpetuity as social housing. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

## **Land East of Field Lane**

We await SNC planning officer's decision. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

## **Dog Bin - footpath 9 off B1527**

Mr Delf had erected the bin and replaced the footpath sign at the same time.

## **Jubilee Trees for Norfolk**

This matter is carried forward as no land was available at present. Mr Hook explained that public access was not necessary, however it was a requirement that the public would see the trees. Councillors to inform Mr Hook of any sites asap. The Clerk to ask the secretary of the Church & Town Estate Property Charity to agenda tree planting on its land.

ALL /  
DH

IN

## **Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.**

### **Play area redevelopment**

Mrs Sarah Bachelor reported the following funding for the project is now confirmed:

Fundraising	£1,122.60
National Lottery	£32,900.00
Community Action Norfolk	£15,000.00
Adnams	£1,000.00
Geoffry Whatling	£7,000.00
Parish Council	£50,000.00
Total	£107,033.60

There is also a possible grant from Saffron for £5,000.00. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Various grant agreements will now be signed.

IN

Councillors thanked Sarah for all her hard work on the grants.

The rope swing and zip wire will be erected in November (weather and time scale permitting) .

NGF are updating their quote for the remaining equipment this week, which if approved by the parish council, will fix the price. The Clerk will email councillors to inform them of the new quote with a view to acceptance if appropriate.

IN

RD/PW

Groundworks are being further investigated by the sub-committee to determine the nature of the work required and the likely cost.

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Mr Delf reported that he had tried to start the roller, but the engine was seized and could cost a lot to repair. He had also made enquiries about the market value of the roller and had been informed that it is not a piece of equipment that any current contractor would buy. It is estimated that it may fetch c£450 in scrap value. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Driver seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Delf should arrange for the sale of the roller for scrap and that the money be used to help pay for the demolition of the garage. A quote to be obtained for this by the sub-committee.

RD  
RD/PW

RD/LA

The configuration of the play area and apparatus close to the tennis courts will be agreed with the Tennis Club at a later date.

## **Appointment of parish council rep to The Hempnall Trust**

The Clerk had checked who were the official parish council representative, they are Mark Williams (due for re-election Oct 2024) and Chris Barnes (due for re-election Feb 2024), thus another is required.

Councillors to look for a suitable candidate.

ALL

## **Historic footpaths**

Mr Rose to investigate further although the government had withdrawn the 2025 deadline for historic footpath registration.

HR

It was agreed that the Clerk should ask NCC PROW if it were possible to have a supply of 6 figure posts for the parish council to erect to replace existing broken / missing ones.

IN

## **Invitation to Bid for Parish Partnership 2023/24**

Bids need to be submitted by 09 December 2022. Mr Edney Had supplied the Clerk with information about the Community Action Fund.

The Clerk had obtained a quote from Mark Havens (preferred contractor of NCC) to widen the concrete footbridge on footpath 9 by adding metal plates either side and moving the handrails. The Clerk had established that planning permission would not be required for bridge widening and NCC PROW were happy to support this project. The Clerk is still investigating the ownership of the land on which the bridge stands, thought to be the Internal Drainage Board, so as to seek their permission.

IN

The Clerk had received NCC's agreement to fill in the ditch which crosses footpath 12. A pipe will be put in to take the water and the ditch filled. This should be funded in full by NCC.

The bridge leading from footpath 12 to footpath 18 (Lower Lane to Hardy's Loke) needs widening with a couple of extra planks. NCC PROW were happy to support this project and a quote had been obtained from Mark Havens.

Mr Driver proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should prepare a submission for the Parish Partnership scheme for both bridge widening projects and seek County Councillor Thomas' support.

IN

## **Defibrillator**

Due to difficulties of moving the school's defibrillator and the fact it was for use on children only Mr Hook proposed, Mr Driver seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that a dual use defibrillator be installed in the phone box instead (which already had an electric supply). The Clerk to inform the school. The Clerk to obtain quotes.

IN  
IN

## **Correspondence**

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

Various police crime summaries

Various planning applications

Relevant notices/agenda and minutes

Various SNC Planning Monthly Enforcement Reports

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Norwich Western Link project - consultation now live  
Emergency Road Closure in the Parish of Saxlingham Nethergate owing to a burst water main - STRO7155  
Norwich Western Link consultation - rescheduled date for Costessey consultation event  
Courses

## **Circulated since the issue of the correspondence list to councillors:**

No further matters were raised from the above.

## ***Items placed directly onto the Parish notice boards were:***

Relevant notices/agenda  
Customer Panel poster  
AGAR including audit report  
Audit completion notice  
Newsletter

No further matters were raised from the above.

## ***Website***

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

Added relevant notices/agenda and minutes  
Added various planning application details  
Added various papers to be tabled at meetings  
Added Statutory accounts  
Added AGAR including audit report  
Added AGAR Reconciliation  
Added Newsletter

No further matters were raised from the above.

## **Correspondence from Parishioners**

### **Field Lane Litter / passing places and speed**

Mr Paul Scott had written to draw attention to littering along Field Lane; vehicles parking in passing places; and excessive speed of vehicle in and outside of the 30mph zone.

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to Mr Scott to explain that although we could not help with the littering issue, the parish council will be considering speeding issue throughout the village at the next main meeting to which Mr Elliott, the leader of the local Speedwatch would be invited. Mr Scott is welcome to attend. The Clerk will also make enquiries via NCC Highways for solutions to the passing places issue.

IN  
IN  
IN

## **Financial Statements**

### **Movements since last meeting**

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 20 August 2022 to 27 September 2022. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Allen seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the statement be accepted.

### **External Audit of accounts to 31/03/22**

The Clerk reported that a clean audit report had been received and the audit completion notice together with sections 1 to 3 of the Annual Return had been displayed on the parish council notice board. The Annual return in full and other financial information had also been uploaded to the website.

## **20mph at East end of village B1527**

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Mr Hook explained issues he had witnessed recently, and it was agreed to consider these further as part of the general review of speeding at the next main meeting. IN

## **2023 Meeting dates**

It was agreed these should be set at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. The Clerk to action and book the Mill Centre. IN

## **Items for next main meeting**

- Litter picking / maintenance IN

## **Items for next newsletter**

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

- Littering
- Play area
- The Hempnall Trust Rep IN

## **Date of next meeting**

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 18 October 2022 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 15 November 2022 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm. IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:12.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 18/10/2022



# HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Transactions to 27/09/2022

#### Current Account

<b>(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:</b>	<b>£</b>
19/07/2022 IJN expenses - stamps	(0.68)
19/07/2022 UK2 web domain	(15.66)
19/07/2022 IJN expenses - Land Reg fee re grants	(6.00)
19/07/2022 Defib Warehouse - Defibrillator pads	(55.14)
19/07/2022 Amazon - Defib Razors	(1.88)
19/07/2022 Medisave - Defib Scissors	(2.39)
19/07/2022 Refresh Cartridges	(49.97)
20/07/2022 SNC Grant for Play area	15,000.00
31/07/2022 Ian Nelson Salary	(394.96)
31/07/2022 Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/07/2022 Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
26/07/2022 Delfs Garage - Phone box repair	(2,132.64)
27/07/2022 Megs Mutts & Cutts - Playarea donation	100.00
26/07/2022 Tracey Fisher Property Agency - Play area grant	50.00
09/08/2022 R & SA Eagle - Play area donation	5.00
05/08/2022 NSIB interest	7.12
01/08/2022 VFM - payroll and accounting	(30.80)
27/07/2022 ICO - DPA Subs	(35.00)
11/07/2022 Tr C/a BPA	(2,500.00)
12/07/2022 Tennis Club Rent	175.00
15/07/2022 CGM Grass cutting	(114.00)
09/08/2022 Playarea donation from Theresa Sutton	5.00
10/08/2022 Playarea donation from Deborah Adams	5.00
10/08/2022 Playarea donation from G Robinson	5.00
11/08/2022 Playarea donation from Lisa Ludkin	5.00
14/08/2022 Cash for sub-Committee float	(250.00)
15/08/2022 CGM Grass cutting	(114.00)
16/08/2022 Playarea donation from APO	5.00
25/08/2022 Banner Roofing	(827.33)
31/08/2022 Ian Nelson Salary	(394.96)
31/08/2022 Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/08/2022 Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
26/08/2022 NGF Play Ltd - deposit for Zip & Rope	(6,919.74)
30/08/2022 CGM Grass cutting	(597.06)
30/08/2022 Playarea donation from R Manning	5.00
31/08/2022 Playarea donation from C Higgins	5.00
01/09/2022 Playarea donation from Paixao Cristo	5.00
01/09/2022 Playarea donation from A Brown	5.00
05/09/2022 Playarea donation from NJ Ireson	5.00
01/09/2022 VFM - payroll and accounting	(30.80)
05/09/2022 NSIB interest	10.19
06/09/2022 Playarea donation from Emirys residential	5.00
08/09/2022 Playarea donation from Delf AJ	10.00
08/09/2022 Playarea donation from Briant Deborah	5.00
09/09/2022 Playarea donation from Eagle R & SA	5.00
12/09/2022 Playarea donation from Clinton R	5.00

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08/09/2022	Barclays cancelled chq charge	(12.50)
02/09/2022	Eon	(15.11)
20/09/2022	PKF Littlejohn - auditors	(240.00)
20/09/2022	Post office - stamps	(4.35)
20/09/2022	Microsoft - 365 annual subs	(59.99)
20/09/2022	Glasdon Uk Ltd - Dog Bin	(196.16)
23/09/2022	Sub-committee fund raising	827.33

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1,185.52

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**Closing Balance**

5,194.79

**Business Premium Account**

**(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:**

£

11/07/2022 Tr C/a BPA

2,500.00

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2,500.00

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**Closing Balance**

114,788.97