

# HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2023 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

County Councillor Alison Thomas (to the end the hedge trim matter), Ms Hannah Groom (until the end of the appointment of parish council nominee to The Hempnall Trust matter)

### Apologies

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

### Declarations of Interest

There were none.

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Driver proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 17 January 2023 be approved.

### Public Participation

Ms Groom took part in the appointment of parish council nominee to The Hempnall Trust matter.

### County Councillor Update

County Councillor Alison Thomas provided the following report:

Mrs Thomas was thanked for assisting in moving forward some of the outstanding points with NCC Highways.

NCC budget has been agreed which confirmed an increase of 4.99% to council tax. The mobile library service was scaled back by stopping the ones where nobody was using it.

Mrs Thomas also sits on the NNUH governing body and will over the next year, review the whole patient journey with a view to making improvement recommendations.

She also reported that the proposal for tomorrow's District Council budget meeting is to keep council tax the same.

Mrs Thomas said she will not be standing as a district councillor after the 2025 elections.

On 15/03/23 full planning permission will be sought for the Long Stratton bypass and an initial 230 houses.

Mr Workman asked about health and school facilities to cope with the planned extra 2300 houses in total, which effectively double the size of Long Stratton. Mrs Thomas said that there should be a new primary school and the high school had capacity; it was not possible in planning law to insist on a new doctor's surgery, however there is a current proposal to significantly increase in size of the existing one; and a dental practice will be returning to Long Stratton and is just awaiting the relevant licence.

Mr Driver asked Mrs Thomas to ensure SNC insist the social housing element is not eroded as time goes by.

Mr Hook asked about the current position re the County Deal. Mrs Thomas said that it had been agreed to continue dialogue with a view to a decision in December 2023. Norfolk MPs have indicated they will be approaching government for a better deal.

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## District Councillor Update

There was none.

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

The Clerk had invited Miss Hannah Groom to the meeting as she had volunteered to be the parish council nominee trustee of the Hempnall Trust. After some discussion with her, Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to accept Miss Groom as the parish council's nominee. The Clerk to inform the secretary of the trust.

IN

## Planning Applications

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

2023/0125 - Mrs Rachel Hyde-Smith, Chapel View Mill Road Hempnall - Demolition of existing rear garage and connecting flat roof. Erection of single storey rear extension – Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

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

Amended - 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.

### **Strawberry farm**

Mr Driver brought to councillor's attention that the strawberry farm application had filed extra documentation relating to the significant increase in internal and external lighting on that site. Mr Hook volunteered to review this, Mr Delf proposed, Mr Driver seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook should do this.

DH

Mr Driver also pointed out that the applicant had now also filed documents indicating that there would be a significant increase in vehicle movements to and from the site, particularly if the new biomass generator went ahead. For this they had estimated a further 160 movements pa. They also intended to bus workers to/from the site daily.

### **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.

### **Willow Drive**

The Clerk had written to SNC on 23/11/22 re the lack of southern boundary trees and hedges and those to be planted on the green area at the Bungay Rd end of Willow Lane. Andy Baines in enforcement officer from SNC responded as follows:

*"I have written to the developer asking for the planting to be carried out this planting season (end of March). I have also asked how they will address the issue of the limited space for the planting between the fencing and the drainage ditch. Once I have heard back on the latter point, I will update you further."*

The Clerk to monitor.

IN

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

### **Play area re-development**

Mr Delf reported that 3 quotes had been received to grade the topsoil. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the quote from IFC be accepted.

RD/IN

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- Mr Delf had also volunteered to move the topsoil from the Allen's farm to the play area and apply the grass seed. RD
- Mr Hook had previously reported the damage to the tennis club post allegedly by contractors. Mr Delf managed to repair the damage and was thanked by Mr Hook.
- Training in play area inspections is required as part of the grant condition. Messrs Delf & Workman to attend and will liaise with the clerk re booking. RD/PW  
IN
- Defibrillator**  
The Clerk had ordered and was due to receive the unit later this week and had obtained details/quotes for installation into the telephone box using a direct connection to the mains electrical supply. K&M Lighting, the streetlight maintenance contractor, had agreed to do this for less than £100. The Clerk to arrange installation. IN
- Mr Delf volunteered to obtain a defibrillator sign to fit in the top of the telephone box door. RD
- New signs for playing field**  
The Clerk had obtained the new signs. Mr Delf volunteered to fit them in place. RD
- Bookmarks/Mugs for school children**  
Councillors had been informed that the PTA had been asked by the school head if it would be able to fund some memorabilia for the students of Hempnall Primary to celebrate the Kings coronation in May. Unfortunately the PTA felt it was unable to as it had only recently raised and spent £5k on a new library, a Spring field trip and a school Disco and don't have enough to be able to include this in their expenditure this year.
- It was noted that bookmarks would cost in the region of £150 and mugs £700.
- Mr Delf proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the PTA to see if a contribution could be made and to investigate if the government would be funding such a project nationally. The Clerk to report back to the March meeting. IN
- Hedge pruning**  
Simon and Suzanne Dodd of Willow Drive, Hempnall had requested a hawthorn in the playingfield hedge be trimmed. The Clerk had circulated details to councillors prior to the meeting. Concern was expressed about setting a precedent, particularly as it takes a long time for a hedge to mature, and it provides food and shelter for birds. Mr Delf proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook will visit the Dodds to discuss further and report back to the March meeting. DH
- Trees**  
The Clerk had circulated the report from Simon Aylmer who undertook a professional tree survey of all the mature trees on the playing field. The Clerk had also obtained a quote from Mr Havens to undertake the recommended work with some small amendments.
- Mr Hook proposed, Mr Driver seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk engage Mr Havens on condition that he was able to confirm in writing that the changes he had made to the recommended work still meant that all of the safety issues mentioned in the professional tree survey were adequately addressed. In addition, Mr Havens to be asked to remove the dead wood from trees identified as 1 & 2 in the report. IN
- Street name signs**  
Mr Driver had prepared a list of road name signs in need of repair, which is the responsibility of SNC. Mrs Cann wished to review signs in her area of the village and agreed to report any others to the Clerk by the end of the week. JC

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Mr Driver proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should request the various repairs be undertaken by SNC. IN

## **Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated the lasted code of conduct approved by the LGA. The model code has already been adopted by SNC. The Clerk had also circulated guidance on the code of conduct.

Mr Driver proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the new model code of conduct be adopted to replace the existing code. The Clerk to upload to the website. IN

## **County Deal for Norfolk**

Mr Hook explained the main issues. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook should respond to the consultation along the same lines as previously communicated opposing the proposed changes. DH

## **Parish Elections: Thursday 4 May 2023**

The Clerk had circulated to all councillors the nomination pack and guidance notes together with the timetable prior to the meeting.

Briefings for candidates /agents /clerks will be held on Monday 27 February at 5pm via Zoom

Anyone wishing to attend should email [elections@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:elections@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk) indicating whether they want to attend the parish briefing.

Completed nominations must be hand delivered (does not need to be the candidate) to the Returning Officer, Broadland District Council / South Norfolk District Council, Horizon Centre (annex), Broadland Business Park, Peachman Way, Norwich, NR7 0WF and can be submitted on any workday from Friday 17 March until 4pm on Tuesday 4 April, 2023 between the hours of 9 am to 4 pm. ALL

This year, all voters who vote in person or by proxy at polling stations will also have to show an accepted form of photographic identification before they are given a ballot paper. ALL

The Clerk stated that it would helpful if anybody not wishing to stand as a councillor again could let him know so that suitable candidates could be sought. ALL

## **Climbing on roofs**

Mrs Cann reported that young people had been observed climbing on the village hall and the container and the gas hut roofs. The Clerk had already received a report of this from a parishioner and taken some action.

It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase and erect some warning signs to attach to the parish council owned containers stating, "Danger Do Not Climb". IN

Mrs Cann also asked that the tidiness of the area around the containers be put on the agenda for the March meeting. IN

## **Grass cutting contract**

The Clerk reported that the existing contractor proposed to more than double the cost of the cutting the playing field and old churchyard. The Clerk would put the contract out to tender. IN

## **Items for next main meeting**

- Container area tidy up. IN

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## **Items for next newsletter**

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

- Play area update.
- Speedwatch
- Defibrillator

IN

## **Date of next meeting**

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 18 April 2023 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 21 March 2023 at the Mill Centre at 7:45pm.

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.52.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 21/03/2023