

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 7:00pm in the Mill Centre

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Mr Phil Bates, Mr Richard Delf, Mr Robert Elliott, Mr Hamish Rose, and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

Mr John and Mrs Joan Dixon.

Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Martyn Hooton, Mr Mike Turner, Mr Peter Workman.

Declaration of interests

Mr Delf had an interest in planning application 2020/2396.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 19 September 2023 be approved.

Public Participation

See comments under the flood map matter.

County Councillor Update

There was no report.

District Councillor Update

There was no report.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

Mr Delf left the room.

2020/2396 - Clayland Estates Ltd, The Deals, Mill Road, Hempnall - Residential development of 2 dwellings (with demolition of existing outbuilding) – Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be rejected on the same grounds as previously.

DH/IN

Mr Delf returned to the meeting.

2023/2818 - Mr R Allen, Manor Cottage, The Street Hempnall - Proposed replacement windows – Mr Bates proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2023/2677/78 - Joanne Sutherland, Wood Farm, Fairstead Lane Hempnall - Conservation and alteration work to include demolition of derelict farm building, extension with link, cart lodge, bore pump enclosure and garden shed – Mr Bates proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed 4 votes to 1 that the application be approved.

IN

2023/2831 - Mr & Mrs M Tomlin, The Cottage Turkey Row Lundy Green Hempnall - Single and two storey extensions, new solar PV panels, new air source heat pump and associated internal alterations – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2023/3039 - Mr A. D. Stephens, 3 Bridge Terrace, The Street Hempnall - Rear first floor extension – Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

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2023/3074 - Mrs R Shreeve, 10 Roland Drive Hempnall - Garage and conservatory conversion, erection of carport and single storey extension to dwelling including associated internal alterations. – Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

2023/3065 – Mr Beeney 16 Willow Drive, Hempnall – Works on TPO tree - Oak tree -To crown raise all lower branches back to trunk and up to just 16ft from ground. (no reduction on complete side, just removing 5-6 lowest branches). To confirm all branches within 16ft from ground to be pruned back to trunk/stems/natural unions on his side only.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be rejected on the grounds the proposed work was not in the best interest of the tree. It was noted that:

Simon Aylmer & Associates, professional arborists had inspected all the trees on the playing field on 20/01/2023 and found this Oak, referred to as tree 9 in their report, to be “sound” with no work required.

The tree surgeon acting for the applicant confirms the tree is not diseased nor is there a fear of it breaking or falling and there is no alleged damage to property, drains or driveways.

The proposal would make the tree lopsided and out of balance which is not healthy for the tree.

The applicant bought the house less than 2 years ago in full knowledge of the scale and nature of the tree.

DH/IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2023/2257 - Mr & Mrs J Kirk, The Long House, The Street, Hempnall - proposed 2 x rooflights to kitchen.

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

Tasburgh Neighbourhood Plan - Reg. 16 Consultation by South Norfolk Council was issued today therefore the matter was carried forward for further review at the next meeting.

ALL

CIL

The Clerk reported that the parish council should receive £19,141.07 CIL re planning application 2022/0180. The funds can be used as follows:

- a) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

The parish council has up to 5 years to spend the funds received, after which time South Norfolk District Council as the charging authority has the right to require repayment of any unspent funds.

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Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

Dead branches on playing field trees

The Clerk had obtained a quote from Mr Havens to remove dead wood from the large Ash tree in the children's play area. The Clerk to ask Mr Havens to also quote to remove deadwood from tree No 9 and for tree/hedge planting – see matter below.

IN

The Clerk to also approach Mr Whiting to quote for the same.

IN

The Clerk to check that Mr Havens had carried out all the work recommended in the January arborist's report.

IN

Proposed Woodland on Playing field

Mr Hook and the Clerk had identified 3 potential areas for small copses which, once planted, would need to be protected by posts and chicken wire (1m high).

Mr Hook had ordered trees free of charge available via the Tree Wardens' Network. They come with stakes, guards and matting. They will include Oak trees and under story trees with a mix of Maple, Holly and Hawthorne. There were circa 50 trees in total. 15m of native hedging has also been ordered to shield the gas shed.

Mr Hook proposed ordering a 3m Oak in memory/honour of Mr Geoffrey Moulton, former chair of the parish council, to be positioned between play area and car park. It was noted this will provide shade for users of the play area. The tree would need a wooden protection frame.

Mr Hook had contacted both Sara Batchelor and Katie Barnes to inform them that we would like to name copses after them in recognition of their hard work re the play area and they were agreeable to this.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk arrange a meeting at 2pm on Friday 03/11//23 between councillors, Sarah, Katie, Trevor Shurmer to agree the final positions for planting.

IN

Bid for Parish Partnership 2024/25

The Clerk had circulated papers relating to the parish partnership bid for 2024/25 which has a submission deadline of 8 December 2023. The following potential projects were identified:

- Wheelchair / walking impaired bench for play area.
- Landscaping the playingfield. (would need to be in a later year's application).
- Footpath cutting / maintenance.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk prepare an application to fund a wheelchair / walking impaired accessible bench for the play area and for footpath cutting / maintenance.

IN

Messrs Bates and Delf volunteered to talk to Mr R Allen re cutting the footpaths on church field off Busseys Loke.

PB/RD

Policy for use of chemicals

Mr Bates reported he is running a trial at home to determine the best options. He asked for the item to be deferred for 6 months.

PB/IN

County Deal

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the parish council would maintain its opposition to this proposal.

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Long Stratton Bypass

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk write to SNC to ask how much of the bypass is funded by the developer and how much by the taxpayer.

IN

Slow Ways national walking network

Mr Bates had researched this and found it to be an excellent idea. He asked the matter be carried forward.

PB/IN

Flood risk maps

Mr Dixon explained he had recently suffered the loss of a sale on our house. The reason given by the potential buyer was that the house was in a high-risk area for surface water flooding, according to the Environment Agency's ("EA") map for Hempnall. He said he had been given to understand that there had been previous concerns about the mapping of the flood areas. He also said that he understood that the methods that were used to produce the map, are based on theoretical assumptions which do not coincide with what actually takes place when flooding occurs. Despite this having been drawn to the attention of the EA, they were not prepared to amend the maps. (The EA did not make amendments in 2014 either when the parish council last wrote to them on this matter) This of course, means they lost their buyers and does not bode well for any future sale. It may also affect many other properties in the village.

Other examples of the inaccuracy of the maps were given by councillors and the Clerk.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to the Environment Agency ("EA") pointing out the inaccuracies and inconsistencies of the maps and information provided. Now that the EA is publishing more detailed information in regard to every property in the village it is even more important to ensure the information is accurate in order to avoid unnecessary negative consequences re property values / home insurance / planning etc. The EA are to be asked to correct the information in relation to Mr & Mrs Dixon's property and to liaise with the parish council to ensure local knowledge and evidence of previous floods and subsequent preventative works is taken into account.

DH/IN

Mr Bates is also to make enquiries about historical conversion of a ditch to a drain opposite Field Lane.

PB

Items for next main meeting

- Playing Field / Village Hall rental setting
- Statement Regular Payments
- Precept / Budget 2025

IN

Items for next newsletter

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

- Adult Gym – gauge interest

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 19 December 2023 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 21 November 2023 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm.

IN

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

Signed _____ Date 21/11/23