

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 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, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

There were none.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Mike Turner and District Councillor Martyn Hooton.

Declaration of interests

Mr Bates declared an interest in the Hempnall Trust matter.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Workman seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 21 November 2023 be approved.

Public Participation

There was none.

County Councillor Update

There was no report.

District Councillor Update

There was no report.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2023/3589 - Mr & Mrs D. P. Scott, Ford End, Bungay Road Hempnall - First floor extension over existing extension – Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved. IN

2023/3555 - Mr Marc Nicholls, 12 Willow Drive Hempnall - Erection of 4m x 6m gazebo to the rear of existing garage – Mr Workman proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that there was no objection in principle but cannot express a definitive recommendation without knowing the dimensions of the proposal. IN

Applications approved since the last meeting:

2023/2818 - Mr R Allen, Manor Cottage, The Street Hempnall - Proposed replacement 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Applications withdrawn since the last meeting: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 – for discussion.

Proposed Woodland on Playingfield

The Clerk had contacted Mr Whiting to accept his quote and asked him to cut back encroaching hedge row either side of the footpath entrances on the east side of the playingfield instead of removing deadwood from the oak tree No 9. The Clerk also arranged for Mr Whiting to collect the trees on 25/11 and plants them asap. Unfortunately, the trees

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

were not made available by the tree warden scheme as planned. The trees will only be whips and will not be available until mid-January. As the whips are too small, larger trees could be purchased via Mr Whiting. The tree warden scheme will supply tree guards, stakes and matting. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook ask Mr Whiting to supply the trees up to a maximum cost £300 plus VAT.

DW

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the tree planting to be funded from CIL money.

IN

Dead branches on playing field trees

It had previously been assumed that Mr Beeney would have arranged for the deadwood to be removed as part of the work being undertaken under his planning permission, however this is not the case, so Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should instruct Mr Whiting to do so as originally planned.

IN

Support for The Hempnall Trust Mill Centre

The Clerk had taken advice from NALC as to whether the parish council had the power to support The Hempnall Trust if councillors wished to do so and had established that the parish council does have such a power. It should be noted that the CIL money could only be used for capital works.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously (With Mr Bates abstaining) agreed that Mr Bates report back to trustees with a view to them presenting a business case for support.

PB

Long Stratton Bypass

The Clerk had written to SNC to ask how much of the bypass is funded by the developer and how much by the taxpayer. They responded as follows:

"The proposed bypass scheme is proposed to be funded by contributions from both Central Government and local contributions. The Department for Transport has committed to funding £26.1m (subject to submission of a successful Full Business Case). Local contributions have been sought from both the developer and Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB). The developer has committed to £4.5m, alongside £10m from GNGB funded through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The remainder of the £46.23m cost estimate will be underwritten by NCC until the remaining local contributions have been confirmed. Therefore, notwithstanding the intention of the LSAAP that 'a substantive element of funding is expected to come from the developer', on the basis that public sector funding has been identified that enables the bypass to come forward with the Developer contribution identified, the developer contribution in this respect is considered acceptable."

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook and the Clerk should write to SNC, NCC and Richard Bacon MP to express extreme dissatisfaction at the low level of the developer contribution in view of the fact that the leader of South Norfolk Council, in arguing for Long Stratton to be classified as a location for significant growth in the Joint Core Strategy, gave the impression that the acceptance of a high level of new housing at Long Stratton would lead to the provision of a developer funded by-pass but this has not turned out to be the case and the by-pass is in fact being funded to a considerable extent by national government funding (i.e. by taxing the public). Councillors also agreed that the negative impacts on Hempnall that will result from the large scale of new housing proposed at Long Stratton should once again be brought to the attention of the decision makers.

DH/IN

Clearing farm ditches – Old Markert Way

Mr Elliott had visited the parishioner in Old Market Way to explain our flood prevention policy and investigate their concerns. He reported that he had met with the resident of Old Market Way, who had raised the concern of potential flooding from the field behind and the condition of the drainage ditch. He said that having viewed it from their garden, we then walked down to the Street and then up past the tied cottages where we were able to gain access to the field in question.

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

He was advised that, in the past, there has been some flooding of the gardens and said that it is noticeable that the field is higher than the gardens, which may increase the flood risk. Some residents have cleared the brambles from the ditch, and one has placed paving stones to reduce the impact of soil erosion. Other residents are elderly and unable to do this. There are quite a lot of brambles, most noticeably towards the drain that runs towards the street. In places, the ditch appears to be quite shallow.

Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Delf discuss possible solutions with Mr Allen, who farms the surrounding fields, and report back to the next meeting.

RD

Streetlight timers

The Clerk reported that an alternative was available for the control of the streetlights in Roland Drive. Currently the timers are affected by power cuts causing the lights to come on and off at inappropriate times. To overcome this the clocks which are unreliable can be replaced with part night photo electric cells which are set at manufacture to come on at dusk to midnight then off until 05.30am and then off at dawn. The cost of replacing the clocks with the cells would be £65.00 each ex-VAT, a total of £390 plus VAT including fitting.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that timers should be sought to operate the lights as now from dusk to midnight only. Mr Hook would speak to his lighting contact and it was agreed to fit new timers up to a cost of £500 + VAT.

DH/IN

Slow Ways national walking network

Mr Bates had researched this and found it to be an excellent idea for connecting communities and promoting healthy green habits. Mr Bates to provide further information at the next meeting with a view to councillors considering supporting the initiative.

PB

Items for next main meeting

- Potentially purchasing land for a re-wilding project

Items for next newsletter

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

- Flood prevention update
- Traffic management matters we have asked NCC to consider
- Footpath cutting

IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 20 February 2023 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 16 January 2024 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm.

IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20:40

Signed _____ Date 16/01/2024