

HEMPNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at 7:00pm in the Mill Centre

Present

Chairman Mr David Hook, Mr Phil Bates, Mrs Joan Cann, Mr Richard Delf, Mr Robert Elliott, Mr Hamish Rose, Mr Peter Workman and the Clerk Mr Ian Nelson.

Members of the public present

County Councillor Alison Thomas.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Mike Turner, District Councillor Hooton.

Declaration of interests

Mr Hook declared an interest in the weeds on the path issue near the tennis courts.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 21 May 2024 be approved.

Public Participation

See County Councillor Update.

County Councillor Update

County Councillor Alison Thomas reported it was uncertain which things may change under the new government. NCC had written to the government on many issues to see how Norfolk may be affected.

The Long Stratton bypass build had started.

The weather conditions had accelerated plant growth on road verges. Please let NCC know of any dangerous areas.

Shotesham ford had been closed more effectively as people were ignoring the previous barriers. NCC are awaiting any direction from the coroner before considering further. She acknowledged there was strong local pressure to reopen the road.

Mrs Thomas said there were some difficult decisions coming up regarding budgets. One such cut led to closing recycling centres on a Wednesday. In addition, NCC has been generous about the level of funds an individual can retain before contributing towards social care, but it may be forced to drop the limit to the government's lower level.

Mr Bates thought the expense of the pavement work starting soon on Mill Road was excessive when the funds could have been spent on traffic calming measures. Mr Elliott was concerned that lorries may try to go down The Krons rather than going via the official diversion when the road is closed. Mr Thomas said that in practice the road may be open if safe to do so, for example at weekends when work is not being undertaken.

District Councillor Update

District Councillor Hooton had informed the Clerk there was nothing to report.

Planning Applications

New applications since the last meeting:

2024/1843 - Berries Direct Farming Ltd, Spring Farm, Spring Lane, Hempnall - Approval of condition 10 of 2022/1803 - biodiversity method statement – Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed not to comment.

2024/1498 - Mr J Kirk, The Long House, The Street Hempnall - Installation of solar panels to rear elevations, 4no rooflights in main roof to rear elevation and replacement windows to same style, 4 No. rooflights in main roof on rear elevation – Mr Bates proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the application be approved.

IN

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2024/2027 - Mrs Rachel Shreeve, Land to The Rear Of 10 Roland Drive Hempnall - Change of use of land from agricultural to residential garden. – Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was agreed, with one abstention, that the application be approved if the following conditions are applied:

- 1) That no buildings are to be erected on this strip of land because the re-classification could lead to an extension to the Hempnall settlement limit, which is contrary to Parish Council policy.

IN/DH

It was noted that on the application form the applicant states that: *“The site will be garden with grass and vegetation/trees with no building development of any kind”*. This commitment must be conditioned in order that the built up/built on area of Hempnall is not extended southwards.

- 2) That a native hedge is planted along the field boundary on the southern border of this land. The applicant indicates that the owner of the field will do this – this commitment must be conditioned

Applications approved since the last meeting:

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.

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.

Election impacts

Mr Hook pointed out possible impacts on the village that could result from the new government’s indicated reforms of the planning system. These include:

Rachael Reeve’s announcement that the 2 footnotes in the NPPF, which gave local communities the right to consent (or not consent) to onshore wind proposals in their area, will be removed from National Planning Policy.

Rachael Reeve’s announcement that compulsory housing targets are to be reintroduced. It is not yet known how this will be done but it may impact the recently approved local plan (the GNLP) which could have implications for Hempnall if the supply of housing required in South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich is increased beyond the current excessive housing allocation which already totals 49,492. Mr Hook explained that compulsory housing targets set by previous government’s had not worked and had merely led to the penalisation of local authorities, who had done their bit by allocating enough sites to meet the targets, rather than the developers who in fact were the blockers because they had not built out many allocated sites but just added them to their land banks.

Ed Miliband announced he had approved 3 large solar farms (one site on the Suffolk / Cambridgeshire border was 2500 acres – almost the size of the entire parish of Hempnall). He did this after only a few days in office, in spite of the fact that these projects were opposed by local people, parish councils, district councils, county councils, the Planning Inspectorate and local MPs. Mr Hook pointed out that Mr Miliband was proud of the fact that he has made a rapid decision but given the huge amount of submissions, planning documents etc connected to these applications there is no way that he has had the time to

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study all this material and make a balanced decision. Mr Hook warned that this does not bode well for local democracy and that if schemes like this are proposed locally it is likely that the Secretary of State will bulldoze them through without taking in to account the opinions of local people.

Mr Hook advised that the Parish Council takes in to account these potential threats when deciding on its budget priorities.

Broadland & South Norfolk Design Code - online workshop for South Norfolk Parish & Town Councils

Mr Delf will be attending the online workshop.

RD

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – completed

Horses using Lower & Back Lane footpaths

Information had been supplied as to the procedure for applying for change of use to Mrs Sarah Scott.

A resident had since written in to complain about the damage caused by horses describing the destruction of the 'No Horses' signs as “no more than flagrant contempt for the law”. As the signs had not been returned, Mr Bates proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should report the theft to the police as councillors indicated they would do at the last meeting. This will also be noted in the next newsletter.

IN

Mr Bates proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk ask NCC to erect a figure post at the junction of footpath 12 where it tuns into a bridleway with one figure pointing to the footpath and another the bridleway.

IN

Internal Audit

The Clerk had thanked Mrs Franks.

Statement of assurance and financial regulations review

The chairman and responsible financial officer had signed the statement of assurance.

Approval of Annual Accounts to 31/03/24

The accounts for the year to 31/03/24 had been signed by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer and Mr Hook as Chairman.

Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The Clerk had complied with the various regulations and submitted information for external audit.

Action Plan

The Clerk had published the 2024 action plan on the website and provide councillors with a copy.

CPRE Flood Management conference.

Mr Elliott represented the parish council on 22 May at the CPRE Flood Management conference.

National Grid - NISP – Consultation

Mr Hook had restated the parish council’s previous response in the current consultation with emphasis being placed on routing the cables via the seabed or underground.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting others

Please see schedule A to the minutes.

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – for discussion.

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Roadside nature reserves / rewilding verges

The clerk had circulated details of the new roadside nature reserve designations in the village which are:

- RNR 116 Busseys Loke
- RNR 140 Silver Green

A post with a plaque will be installed on the verge at each end of the RNR to identify the length that has been designated. Conventional verge management practices include mowing verges and leaving the cuttings behind. This creates a thick layer of old cuttings inhibiting growth and increasing soil nutrient levels. This encourages vigorous grasses and other nutrient loving plants to take over and we will lose the rich mix of specialist species.

Unlike conventional verge management, RNRs follow a specific plan, using precise methods to cut verges for the best protection. The verges will be cut in the autumn by specialist contractors using tractor-mounted equipment which removes the cuttings. This is to replicate the traditional methods of management that created the wildlife rich verges to ensure that we look after them for the future.

The Clerk to inform Andy Driver of the successful outcome of work he had started.

IN

Items o/s with NCC

The Clerk had arranged a site meeting on 25 June between Mr Gary Overland of NCC Highways, himself, and Messrs Hook and Elliott. Many places in the village were visited and the following issues were either resolved or scheduled for further consideration/action:

NCC re parish council undertaking highways work directly

The Clerk had asked NCC if it was possible for the parish council to contract directly for highways work to be undertaken rather than via NCC in order to save costs. Mr Overland said that this was not possible as any work had to be contracted directly via NCC.

Roberts Close / The Street footpath safety

The dropped pedestrian crossing point had been completed but we await NCC to paint the H white lines. Mr Overland undertook to chase this up for completion ASAP. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Bollard to protect pavement near Willow Drive

Mr Overland will ask his team to survey this area again with a view to erecting a bollard if at all possible to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement. The Clerk to Monitor.

IN

Traffic calming on B1527 West

Mr Overland said that NCC would not agree to traffic calming along this stretch of road even though it was requested by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council will arrange for the overhanging hedging and trees to be cut back, as necessary, to reveal the sharp bend chevron, and Hempnall Surgery signs. Mr Overland to investigate replacing the existing half chevron signs with modern brighter full chevron (double the size) signs. The Clerk to monitor. He also confirmed that there was insufficient footfall to justify the cost of a formal crossing near the doctors / Mill Centre. This would still be the case even after any further development of social housing in that area. The Clerk to ask Mr Whiting to undertake the hedge cutting.

IN

Road Calming/signage for The Krons & Fairstead Lane

The Clerk had asked NCC Highways for signage re the ford across the Krons and no pavement signs along the Krons and Fairsted lane. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Traffic calming at east end of B1527

The SAM2 results show the 85th percentile is 28mph, well above the 20mph limit. Our requests for chicanes was again turned down as it was not in line with NCC policy. The possibility of a permanent flashing 20mph sign is to be explored. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

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Traffic calming at Broaden Lane

Again, any kind of artificial road narrowing was ruled out by Mr Overland. The extension of the 30mph limit had also previously been ruled out. However, it was agreed that he would ask his team to look at placing a new 30mph reminder in sightline of incoming traffic not far past the bus stop and he would look favourable on the placing of the SAM2 unit on that post in order to catch traffic sooner.

Mr Elliott said that he thought that “Slow” or “30” painted in road and remove the white lines. Mrs Thomas thought she may be able to use some of her highway’s budget to fund small measures like that. The Clerk should ask Mr Overland to consider painting “30” on the road and requested NCC to remove the central white lines on the road after just entering the village from Saxlingham. It was also agreed that painting 30 and 20 on roads (as relevant according to the speed limits) elsewhere in the village would be a useful measure.

IN

Bus shelter on west side of Broaden Lane

A parishioner had asked if the parish council could provide a bus shelter at this location due to is high usage by young and old people. Mr Overland thought that this may be possible via the Parish Partnership and will await to hear from the parish council. The Clerk to research costings

IN

Surface on junction of Alburgh Rd/B1527

Mr Overland assured us that the resurfacing of this junction had been in the plan for some time, and he would be putting it forward for funding shortly. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Summary

Many possible safety measures were curtailed by budgetary restraints. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk action the points above and send a summary to Mr Overland for update. Longer term, further road calming measures like chicanes would be pursued. The purchase of an extra SAM2 unit would form part of the Parish Partnership bid for 2025/26, all bids to be submitted by 06 December 2024.

IN

IN

Bench on Play area

The grant application via District Councillor Hooton had been successful and £585 is due to be received towards the cost of moving the benches and supplying an extra wheelchair accessible bench. Mr Bates proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Delf make arrangements for this work with the contractor as part of the play area maintenance work being undertaken – see ROSPA report matter below. The Clerk to supply Mr Delf with the information re costs.

RD

IN

Flood risk maps

Following unsatisfactory responses from the Environment Agency on this subject, the Clerk to provide copies of correspondence to Mr Bates who will follow up further. Mr Hook pointed out that even if the data could not be updated at least it should show consistent results when searches are carried out.

IN

PB

Willow Drive southern hedge

FW Properties had planted some hedging in an attempt to comply with the planning application, however it was noted that whilst it has been planted much of it is in a perilous position and is unlikely to survive. The whole of the planted section looks to be neglected and is overgrown.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Mr Hook would investigate the original planning application documents and decision notice to check on the agreed planting position for the hedge and that SNC would be notified of any deviation in location. SNC is also to be informed about the unsatisfactory manner of the planting and subsequent nurturing which is likely to lead to the hedge not surviving and be asked to ensure that these problems are resolved.

IN/DH

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A parishioner has also written to express concerns about the poor condition of the trees planted in the area which is part of the Willow Drive site north of the village hall. SNC will be informed and asked to address this issue.

Slow Ways national walking network

Mr Bates wished to carry this matter forward.

PB

Support for The Hempnall Trust

Mr Bates reported that the business plan had completed recently, and the matter was carried forward. He will send to the Clerk for circulation and consideration at the next meeting.

PB/IN

Churchyard rewilding

Mr Hook had liaised with Mrs J Turner who wished the following matters to be attended to:

- Grass covered driveway – Mr Delf volunteered to spray this. RD
- Commonwealth war graves sign – cleared of twigs – complete last week.
- Longer grass on driveway cut – complete last week.
- A further sign needed for the war graves – Mrs Turner to be informed that funding may be available for this from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. IN
- Ensure that the eastern section of the “old” churchyard is regularly cut up to the correct place (approximately 5m further east than at present) IN/DH
- Establishment of an area for re-wilding / wildflowers at the southern end of Area B. IN/DH/HR/PB
- The circular path and the path to the war graves should be cut every 2 weeks. The Clerk to remind the contractor. IN
- Area B not cut at start of season. The Clerk noted so now payment will be made. It needs to be cut. IN
- The wall near a chestnut tree may need a buttress in future to stop the wall falling. At the moment it is safe.
- A larger scale plan is needed of churchyard to detail the work clearly to contractor. DH/IN

Potentially purchasing land for a re-wilding project

Messrs Bates Rose and Hook are to look at areas in the village to make specific requests of landowners.

DH/PB/
HR

Footpath 6 plank

Mr Delf had spoken to Mr Allen to determine if he would mind if the plank was removed however, at present, he would like to retain it in case he uses the field for livestock. Mr Bates volunteered to look into further.

PB

Willow Drive attenuation area

It had been reported that this area was overgrown. It was noted that it is part of the Willow Drive site and that any issues regarding its maintenance are presumably the responsibility of the developers.

IN

Footpath cutting Morningthorpe (FP6)

Mr Delf had spoken to the landowners who historically voluntarily cut this path. Unfortunately they had received so much abuse from the public when they cut it that they now refuse to cut it anymore. It was noted that NCC are responsible for the cutting this path and in fact do cut the first 50m from Beach farm. As the path is used so much by Hempnall residents, despite it being officially in Morningthorpe, Mr Hook proposed, Mr Bates seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk ask NCC to cut this path.

IN

Weeds on path next to the tennis courts

Mr Hook refrained from taking part in this matter due to his interest as chairman of the Tennis Club.

Mr Workman proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk and councillors will attend the site to determine how best to keep the area weed free.

DH/PB/
RD

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Big Help Out

Mr Elliott said this matter was for information only, so no further action required.

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
Correspondence from parishioners
Bypass newsletter
Statutory Consultation for Norwich to Tilbury: Consultation extended until 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024
Norwich Western Link project update
Upcoming closure off U76051 Field Lane to facilitate gigaclear fibreoptic duct works (my ref STRO11092)
Information About Works - B1527, Mill Road, Hempnall - Footway Resurfacing - From 22 July 2024
Broadland & South Norfolk Design Code - online workshop for South Norfolk Parish & Town Councils
Notification of Roadside Nature Reserve Designation
Consultation on introducing a local connection eligibility test for the South Norfolk Self and Custom Build Housing Register 8 July – 2 August 2024 (5pm)
South Norfolk VCHAP Parish Council briefing - Reg. 19 Pre-submission Addendum consultation

No further matters were raised form the above.

Items placed directly onto the Parish notice boards were:

Relevant notices/agenda
Election results

No further matters were raised form the above.

Website &/or Facebook

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 Action Plan
Added financial info for year end 31/03/24
Changed MP details

No further matters were raised from the above.

Correspondence from Parishioners

Grass verges

A parishioner had written to complain that some grass verges were too long and possibly a hazard. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that as this was a NCC Highways matter, the Clerk respond agreeing the verges should be suitably maintained and giving information on how to report such matters to NCC using their website.

IN

Morrison's delivery lorries

A parishioner had written to ask the parish council for support in their request for a loading bay to be created for Morrisons deliveries to try and solve the problem of lorries noisily unloading outside their house at unsociable times due to not being able to park outside the

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shop. Councillors were not sure that a loading bay was the best solution as it could result in more cars parking in front of resident's property.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was agreed with two abstentions that the Clerk write to Morrisons pointing out the problems experienced by local residents and to request that they organise the deliveries at a more socially acceptable time and to ask them to consider using smaller lorries and whether a loading bay would be useful. The Clerk to also ask Mr Overland of NCC to investigate the possibility of a loading bay. The Clerk to respond to the resident.

IN
IN
IN

Maintenance of public footpath 12

The Clerk had circulated a parishioner's email asking if footpath 12 could be cut.

Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that as this was a NCC Highways matter, the Clerk to respond agreeing the footpaths should be suitably maintained and to give the information on how to report such matters to NCC using their website.

IN

Maintenance of public footpaths 6, 7 & 8

It was noted that NCC will be cutting footpaths 7 & 8 in the next 2 weeks.

Maintenance of public footpath 25

A parishioner had written to ask the parish council to cut footpath 25. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Delf seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that as this was a NCC Highways matter, the Clerk to respond agreeing the footpaths should be suitably maintained and to give information on how to report such matters to NCC using their website.

IN

Given the number of concerns regarding footpaths it was agreed the Clerk should put an article in the next Newsletter explaining who is responsible for cutting footpaths and providing a link to the reporting page on NCC website. The Clerk to also enhance the footpath page on the parish council website with this information.

IN
IN

School Crossing

The headteacher had written to ask if there was anything the parish council could do to address parents and their concerns about the safety of children crossing the road outside the school. Mr Hook proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should respond to agree that the children should be entitled to a safe crossing and her concerns should be forwarded to NCC Highways stating that the parish council endorses these concerns. It should also be pointed out that many of the speeding vehicles observed by the Speedwatch team appeared to be occupied by parents taking their children to school - Mr Elliott to supply the Clerk with suitable wording.

IN
RE

Footpath map at Village Hall

Mrs Cann reported that she thought the village hall committee were trying to get a replacement footpath map for display in the board on the outside of the hall. She would follow up as councillors thought this was a helpful information point to have.

JC

Financial Statements

Movements since last meeting

The Clerk presented the financial statement attached to these minutes showing the movements from 16 May to 11 July 2024. The statement was not materially out of line with the annual budget. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Hook seconded, and it was unanimously agreed the statement be accepted.

Quarterly Budget Report

The Clerk presented the quarterly budget report showing the movements for the quarter ended 30 June 2024. Mr Elliott proposed, Mr Rose seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the statement be approved.

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Clerk's Salary Review

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk's salary be increased by 8.5% to take effect from 1st July 2024 his annual salary review date. The Clerk was grateful for the increase. IN

Speedwatch Report

There had been a Speedwatch session on the morning of 27 June between 8am and 9am. During that time 14 cars were recorded exceeding 36mph. The team are planning to write to the new Police & Crime Commissioner asking her to take action which should include a greater presence of a police motor bike they will be using these statistics as evidence.

Mr Elliott will also invite District Councillor Hooton to attend a session as Mr Hooton had indicated he would do so when he first took office. RE

The Speedwatch team had 8 members on its email group of which 3 were active, so it continued to struggle to operate regular shifts, which was a shame as it was an effective deterrent. The Clerk to place another article for volunteers in the newsletter. RE

There had been a police bike monitoring speeds on Broaden Lane on 4th July. Unfortunately, it was at 10.30am and not the peak speedy times of which they have been informed. Mr Elliott will ask them to attend during peak periods. IN

Mr Elliott was thanked for his efforts in relation to Speedwatch. RE

Dogs on playing field

Mr Hook reported that there had been comments on the Hempnall Mardle about dogs not being on leads on the playing field. It was noted that there were no legal powers available to require dog owners to comply with the Parish Council's sign so no further action can be taken. If people felt a dog was dangerous, they should report the matter directly to the SNC dog warden unit.

ROSPA report

Mr Delf had studied the report and already taken action to rectify many matters. He would continue to attend to further issues with contractors and report to the next meeting with quotes for any larger expenditure required. He was thanked for all he was doing. He would also ask the contractor for a quote to supply a shelter over the main seating area to provide protection from both the sun and rain. RD

Items for next newsletter

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

- Discarded Vapes on playingfield – make parents aware
 - Reporting to police re stolen "No horse" signs
 - Responsibly /procedure re PROW issues
 - Speedwatch volunteers
- IN

Items for next main meeting

- External Audit of accounts to 31/03/24 result
 - Dates for next year's meetings
- IN

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council planning meeting will take place on 13 August 2024 at 7.00pm in the Mill Centre and the next main meeting on 19 September 2024 at the Mill Centre at 7:00pm. IN

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:36

Signed _____ Date 13/08/2024

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Transactions to 11/07/2024

Current Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
31/05/2024	Ian Nelson Salary	(434.46)
31/05/2024	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
31/05/2024	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
01/06/2024	VFM - payroll and accounting	(42.56)
29/05/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	1,500.00
29/05/2024	Zurich insurance	(1,264.32)
31/05/2024	David Hook expenses - mileage	(5.40)
31/05/2024	David Hook expenses - ink/paper	(22.06)
05/06/2024	NSIB Interest	31.70
30/06/2024	Broadland Digital	(79.20)
27/07/2024	ICO fee	(35.00)
19/06/2024	NPower - streetlight power	(30.99)
30/06/2024	Ian Nelson Salary	(434.46)
30/06/2024	Ian Nelson use of home as office	(30.00)
30/06/2024	Ian Nelson broadband	(4.00)
30/06/2024	VFM - payroll and accounting	(42.56)
28/06/2024	SNC - Recycling	200.00
20/06/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	1,000.00
03/07/2024	PlaySafety Ltd - ROSPA Inspection	(136.80)
04/07/2024	NPower - streetlight power	(28.30)
04/07/2024	J Ellis - grass cut	(100.00)
10/07/2024	SNC - DC's Grant re Bench	585.00
05/07/2024	NSIB Interest	32.30
		<u>624.89</u>
Closing Balance		<u>2,372.96</u>

Business Premium Account

(Payments)/Receipts since last meeting:		£
29/05/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,500.00)
20/06/2024	Tr BPA to c/a	(1,000.00)
03/06/2024	BPA Interest	328.41
		<u>(2,171.59)</u>
Closing Balance		<u>88,464.49</u>

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Schedule A

Matters arising from previous Parish Council meetings – awaiting others

Nobbs Lane Spur

Further forms are required to be completed. Mr Hook will co-ordinate ASAP. Names of users are being collated. It was noted that the path is already shown on the Sustrans cycle map.

DH

Caravan encampment at Spring Wood

The SNC planning enforcement officer had visited the site and is awaiting more information from the owners.

On 06/07/23 Andy Baines said “A further joint visit will be carried for Springwood and Lundy Green. I was hoping to do those with my line manager before she left but unfortunately that didn’t happen. I will prioritise these and update list accordingly.”

The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Villa farm industries

On 30/11/23 Andy Baines, the SNC enforcement officer, said “By way of update on Villa Farm the only unauthorised use is Harvey Lane Garage. I have written to them to encourage the submission of an application but if this is not received, we will then have to consider whether it is expedient to take any further action. Should an application not be received I will update you further what action the council will take.” The Clerk to Monitor.

IN

Policy for use of chemicals

Mr Bates reported he is running a trial at home to determine the best options.

PB

Streetlight timers and heads

The Clerk had ordered the new streetlight heads, having first confirmed that they were full cut-off, 4000 Kelvin (neutral white) lights and would be pointing directly downwards. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

Once installed, the Clerk to contact UK Power Network for a reduction in electricity cost for the unmetered connection once the installation is complete.

IN

Hempnall Natural Flood Management

The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency had said that work is to be undertaken as part of the Hempnall Natural Flood Management scoping report is due to start on Allen Farms land in Summer 2024 and it is hoped as a result other landowners will follow. The Clerk to monitor.

IN

The Clerk had asked Helen George if the pond on Back Lane should be dredged. The Clerk last chased 12/03/24, to monitor.

IN

Flood management

West end of the village

The Clerk had contacted Fritton & Morningthorpe parish council three times with a view to meeting to discuss matters further, with a view to involving the EA later. Unfortunately, they had not replied, the Clerk will persist. The Clerk last chased by email 28/03/24, 03/04/24 and 10/07/24 and left messages on their clerk’s phone but received no response. The Clerk to continue to chase.

IN

Broaden Lane

Water from Saxlingham direction runs into the Allen’s ditch ending up in a small pit leading into a culvert at the corner of the field just before the houses. Recently it appeared the culvert

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was blocked as the water did not appear to be moving when the pit was full. The Clerk had raised concern with AWA to investigate on 23/03/24. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Flood Barriers

The Clerk had circulated initial details of a scheme to supply mobile flood barriers, provided by District Councillor Thomas. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Free portrait of His Majesty the King

The Village Hall committee had declined the offer to display it. Mr Bates to ask the Mill Centre committee. Mr Delf proposed, Mr Elliott seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that if the Mill Centre did not wish for the portrait, it should be offered to the school and then the church. PB
IN

Wheels 4 Less planning issues

Mr Hook had reviewed the various planning consents in detail and listed all the suspected non-compliance issues in a 7-page letter to SNC enforcement officer. The letter was acknowledged, and they intend to carry out a site visit - We await a further response. IN

Millfields Exception Site

We await the outcome of the survey. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Installation of owl sculpture on playingfield

Mr Delf has this in hand, and it will be set on a concrete plinth and will be put in when the weather permits. Mr Bates proposed, Mrs Cann seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the position of the sculpture be as recommended by Mr Delf. RD

Hempnall Primary School – Rewilding Scheme

Hempnall Primary School are to be invited to collaborate on a rewilding scheme. DH

Removal of footpath 24 kissing gate

Frances Selway the Countryside Access Officer had reported that in week commencing 21/07 the fence will be removed by the site owner, and she will carry out a site visit to ensure compliance. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Field Lane surface water flooding

The Clerk had asked AWA to investigate the area which floods near the council houses / Allen's field and awaits a response. The Clerk to monitor. IN

Football pitch cutting

The Clerk should discuss the extra cost with Mr Shurmer once known. – The Clerk was investigating alternative contractors and arranging for the field to be sprayed. IN