

HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING

Four members of the public were present as well as County and Borough Councillor Richard Bird who were all welcomed by the acting Chairman. Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

Information was provided regarding the following items:

- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) January Agenda included a motion being tabled by Councillors Bird, Moriarty and Tilbury that:
'The Council resolves to initiate, with appropriate other bodies, a comprehensive study of Hunstanton and the adjacent area. This should lead to the formation of a plan for the economic and social development of the area, focussed upon local needs and potential'.
- The report from the group meeting to discuss the problems of current bus timetables and the work being done to try to improve the situation.

In the Public Participation session a parishioner confirmed the new email address for the proposed Village Information Network (VIN) had now been set up.

Councillor Bird reported on the following:

- the re-organisation of BCKLWN giving detailed information regarding funding reductions and future funding through commercial rates, the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and development led grants with the current government proposing 180,000 new houses nationwide within its elected term.
- the proposal to look at Hunstanton and the surrounding area which has some specific problems including the percentage of older residents, the number of second homes, and the amount of jobs being linked to the tourist industry with all these factors impacting on the infrastructure.
- the problems with the bus timetabling and two companies competing for trade.
- the current move to devolution and the bid by Norfolk / Suffolk which would lead to one County Council and seven Borough Councils.
- the increase in domestic rates by BCKLWN and by Norfolk County Council (NCC) for adult social services which will lead to a total addition of 4% approximating to £5. per week for Band D. The Fire Service will not be reduced and Heacham Fire Station will not be closed. The Recycling has yet to be resolved but the Docking Centre may re-open.

Councillor Bird was questioned about coastal defences as he serves on the Regional Flooding Coastal Committee (RFCC). He said priority is given to life and buildings which does not include caravans. It used to be funded centrally but is now funded through Grant in Aid (GIA) and a case has to be made for any funding although this area will always be at a disadvantage and has to make a really good argument.

Planning Applications were discussed including a two storey extension at Hope Cottage in Busseys Lane (objections to be submitted), conversion and change of use at Tractor Barn, Main Road (no objections to be submitted but a request for a consultation with Highways), two storey extension at Brook House, 32 Beach Road (no objections to be submitted), and a single storey extension at 17 Beach Road (an objection to be submitted regarding the use of zinc as a building material). The Clerk clarified the situation regarding responses by individual Councillors to Planning Applications which can always be made in a personal capacity. It was confirmed a tree application had been permitted on the corner of Westgagte / Beach Road, as had the extension

and alteration at The Pepperpot in Broadwater Road. A request had been made by Drove Orchards for the removal of objections previously submitted and despite considerable concerns raised, a majority agreed with that request. There had been a response from Highways regarding the application for six mobile homes on the corner of Eastgate Street which had recommended the Application be refused.

There was discussion following the open meeting held the previous week regarding the possibility of proceeding with a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) when it was agreed that this should go forward. An additional meeting for the next Monday 15th February was called to specifically deal with the way forward.

The Community Representatives for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) were elected.

The Village Hall refurbishment work was reported as progressing, repairs to the adjoining wall with Peddars End were discussed and it was agreed to obtain quotations for the levelling of the outside area. The possibility of a kitchen island was suggested.

With regard to village matters, the Clerk reported on-going work being organised by Highways in the village, a quotation for work to be done to the willows at the end of Beach Road was accepted, and a quotation for grass cutting at the Village Hall was agreed. Arrangements had been made for the hedge to be trimmed back alongside Park Piece in Peddars Way.

Under Finance, payments agreed included the Clerk's January PAYE, salary and reimbursements, accountants' charges for payroll, two charity donations as agreed in January, hedge cutting and bench installation at Park Piece, and payments relating to the refurbishment of the toilet area at the Village Hall. The Clerk confirmed that the Bank Mandate had finally been changed to any two of the four named Councillors. Notice was given that funds would soon need to be transferred from the savings to the current account to meet payments for the Village Hall refurbishment.

An extra meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 15th February 2016 at 7pm in the Village Hall to discuss the proposed NDP. The next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7 pm in the Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to attend and put their comments and questions to Councillors during 'Public Participation'.

Christina Jones

Clerk to Holme-next-the-Sea Parish Council