

HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Kirkgate, on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at 7pm.**

Present: Lynn Devereux (Chair) Gillian Morley Margaret Easton Martin Crown
 Geoff Needham Robbie Burton Kevin Felgate

In Attendance: Mike Longley (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer) and seven members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence and approval of reasons

There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Devereux declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.3 on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2019

3.1 Approval

The Minutes had been pre-circulated and there were no further amendments required. It was **RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th January 2019 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

3.2 Matters arising from the minutes (non-agenda items)

6.2.2 The Chair referred to the letter she had written to the Arboricultural Officer pointing out that the PC would like to be consulted on applications relating to Protected Trees in the village. We still have not received a reply, so she will follow it up

4.2 The Chair referred to the "Sounding Coastal Change" project who had suggested doing interviews with the NDP Team. This has now been postponed until the spring but, they are hoping for a new project and want to include us in that.

4. Reports

4.1 County Councillor and District Councillor reports

There are no County Councillor or District Councillor reports.

4.2 Neighbourhood Development Plan update

The Chair gave the NDP Report for February 2019

- Natural England issued their (major report on the State of the North Norfolk Coast last week. This provided a baseline for checking our own NDP Report on Environment, Landscape and Biodiversity.
- With the exception of visitor numbers, there is generally good agreement between the two and both highlight the pressures on the environment – although the NE report is focused on the Protected Sites. We do need to get to the bottom of differences in visitor numbers because they are significant.
- The NDP report has now been issued in draft and circulated to the Parish Council. This represents a major piece of work which as well as informing policy also provides the basis for the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Signed..... *LS Devereux*.....Chairman

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- During the month we had a very useful meeting with Old Hunstanton NDP Team. There was also a very helpful suggestion from their Chair, David McCleod, that the two parishes should take a more active approach to collaborating in order to protect our mutual interests.
- Some people are getting frustrated about the length of time it is taking to get the Plan finished. It is however a major undertaking – not least because we have had very limited consultancy support and - although Holme is a small parish, it is very complex. Furthermore, there is little point in producing a plan that will be ineffective or needs updating very quickly. We have therefore been very thorough in our approach to producing the Evidence Base.
- The Environment Report is the last of the major evidence reports that we have had to produce and we are continuing to finalise the writing up with a view to getting a revised draft out as quickly as possible.
- Meanwhile the Local Plan Consultations are expected to start imminently. The NDP has to be consistent with upper tier planning policy so it will be advantageous to see this document – and to respond to the consultation before we finalise our own Plan.

4.3 Realignment of the River Hun Community Meeting

The Chair reported on a meeting held in Thornham recently:-

- £1 million + project proposal
- Third of 3 bids for HLF funding – 2 earlier bids failed
- Led by the NCP – other partners include EA, UEA, AW and local landowners / organisations

- Aims include:

- o Restoration of the River Hun / recreation of meandering course
- o Increase in the area of freshwater marsh
- o Improvements in access
- o Training for young people

- HNTS PC did not support the last bid for several reasons: in particular concerns about:

- o The likely impacts of existing river pollution on the Protected Sites
- o Possible risks of re-wetting the marshes on the northern margins of the village
- o Interactions with climate change / sea-level rise and tidal inundation risk

- New project proposing to take on board pollution issues originally identified by the NDP Team

- An EA-funded 3 months feasibility study has commenced – this is considering the options for returning the river to a natural state

- Not clear yet if the options are to be decided at this stage or during the project - meeting tomorrow

A Cllr commented that it was a complicated issue. Another Cllr, supported by all Cllrs, stated that the sea defence is the most important issue that takes priority over the proposed project for realigning the river Hun. The sea defences were breached most recently in 2013 and the erosion at the eastern end is signified by the trees falling onto the beach by The Firs. There was unanimous agreement that it is a waste of resources messing around with the marsh area until the issue of the sea defence has been resolved.

5. Public participation

It was **RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the meeting be adjourned for up to fifteen minutes for Public Participation.

5.1 A member of the public raised the issue of unauthorised development in an agricultural field on Beach Road. There is resurfacing work going on in a big way with tons of hardcore being

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tipped onto the site by lorries to presumably be covered by a huge area of concrete. This has been reported by the PC to the BC Enforcement Officer who attended the site and allegedly told the developer to cease development, as it was unauthorised. Work stopped for 48 hours but has now restarted. The concern is that as the work continues, it will become more and more expensive to restore the site to its agricultural state. The developer appears to be ignoring the advice of the Enforcement Officer and putting the BC powers to the test. A Cllr pointed out that given the location, close to Peddars Way, this is a potential archaeological site. The developer is making no secret of his plans for the site including semi-permanent residences and a village shop.

Another Cllr pointed out that the BC have limited resources and have to pick which battles to fight. Perhaps on the overall scale of things, this is a relatively minor battle.

The member of the public said it appears that nobody can do anything about it. A Cllr stated that it is difficult to do anything whilst a planning application hasn't been submitted. Maybe it is time for the villagers to make a stand against the unlawful developers. There are two known enforcement actions currently taking place at Brook House and The Poplars Campsite. Comments made by various Cllrs included; with this latest development the PC should write a strong letter to the BC, Villagers should write to their MP, perhaps an Action Group should be set up. The Chair confirmed she had already written to and spoken to the BC Enforcement Officer who is usually very helpful in these situations. Another member of the public pointed out that the BC have all the tools at their disposal to deal with unlawful development, but for some unknown reason they are choosing not to use them. Holme is a very attractive location for (very big) developers and is becoming more so, due to the lack of challenge to unlawful behaviour by the BC. The Chair agreed to write a strong letter and to raise some of the wider issues.

5.2 A Cllr highlighted a meeting of the EMS on 19 March 2019 at the Maltings in Wells where they will be discussing the NE Report.

6. Planning Matters

6.1 Applications received subsequent to this agenda

6.1.1 17/00246/NMA_1: Little Meadow 11 Kirkgate, PE36 6LH. Non-material amendment.

6.2 Applications for comment

6.2.1 19/00054/F: Witherington, 18 Eastgate, PE36 6LL. Proposed extension, renovation and cart shed. The PC submitted its comments on 5th February, not objecting, asking for the hedges to be protected, but disappointed to note that they had started works before the decision had been taken.

6.2.2 19/00009/TREECA: Little Meadow, 11 Kirkgate, PE36 6LH. Sycamore Crown raise to 5m, other trimming and removal of tree stump, in a Conservation Area. TPO work approved 7th February 2019.

6.3 Decisions Reported

6.3.1 17/02194/F: The Poplars, 42 Main Road. A Cllr went to the Planning Committee and spoke on behalf of the PC against the application. The decision was deferred, mainly due to last minute changes to the application by the developer, submission of new drawings, which left the Planning Officer in a position of not being able to satisfactorily answer queries raised by members of the Committee. The area of the site had been increased from 630 sq. mtrs. to 980 sq. mtrs., an increase of 50 per cent and the road had been taken out of the red line into the countryside. The Cllr

explained how most of the Cllrs on the Committee felt very strongly about what is happening in Holme and other similar villagers. The feedback was that our PC representative did an excellent job in getting across all the relevant reasons for our objection in the space of three minutes and one by one these points were raised by members of the Committee and put to the Planning Officer to justify. So the decision was deferred, which is not what we wanted and we will keep an eye out for when it reappears before the Planning Committee.

7. Village Matters

7.1 Village Hall Charity Annual Return

The Clerk confirmed he had updated the information on the Charity Commission website for the Village Hall Charity and successfully filed the Annual Return on 21st January 2019.

7.2 Holleys Charity – Ratification of appointment of new Trustee

Following details that a vacancy had arisen the Parish Council recently administered the procedure for the selection of a Trustee. There were four very good applicants all offering quite different skills and experience making it a very difficult choice. The candidates have been notified of the decision and the preferred applicant has confirmed that she is willing to accept the appointment.

Proposed Resolution

In accordance with the constitutional framework of the Holleys Charity: To ratify the appointment of Miss Ann Rossington as a Trustee for a Term of 4 years commencing with immediate effect. It was proposed by Cllr Devereux, seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED unanimously.

8. Elections 2nd May 2019

8.1 Notice of Election date is 18th March 2019

The Clerk confirmed that all Cllrs stand down and have to complete Nomination Forms to stand, if they wish to. Completed Nomination Forms must be returned to the Borough Council by 3rd April 2019. The Clerk confirmed he has a stock of Nomination Forms for completion. Existing Cllrs and potential new candidates should contact him to obtain the form for completion.

9. Monthly Report from RFO

9.1 Discounted General Legal Advice Offer by Ward Gethin Archer for 2019/20

The RFO contacted Andrew Carrier at WGA to raise queries on how the scheme works in specific circumstances. Unfortunately, it was clear from the answers given that the details of the scheme had not been thought through properly and Andrew thanked us, saying that the questions we had raised would help him to refine the scheme before the beginning of April. He will get back to us in due course.

9.2 Qtr 3 Accounts and Budget Monitoring

These documents have been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions arising. The RFO commented:-

1. No particular surprises. After the third quarter the accounts are showing a surplus for the period of around £9,000.

Signed..... *LS Devereux*.....Chairman

Dated..... *12/03/2019*

9.3 Draft 2019/2020 Budget

This document has been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions arising. The RFO commented:-

1. 27 Beach Road rental income and expenditure will need to be completed following the outcome of discussions due to take place later.
2. Cost of Elections in May cautiously estimated at the upper figure reported at the recent training course attended by the Clerk, at £2,000 for a contested election.
3. Currently, subject to 1 above, budgeting for a deficit for the next financial year of around £15,000.

9.4 Payments for February meeting

PAYEE	REASON	AMOUNT	CHEQUE NO.
Norfolk Nat. Trust	Annual payment to secure Common Rights Holders' shooting rights.	£5.00	STO
British Gas Business	Village Hall electricity 25/09/18 to 17/12/18	£236.42	Direct Debit
E-on	Street Lighting 01/10/18 to 31/12/18	£73.64	Direct Debit
BT Group PLC	525819 Dec/Jan Bill for £278.74, but £238.30 disputed due to double broadband charge	£40.44	Direct Debit
Roland Rudd	Laying new oak floor in Village Hall, as quoted	£ 1,200.00	101402
Norfolk ALC	Training Course for Clerk, Elections 2019	£36.00	101403
M Longley	Clerk's Salary January 2019 Reimbursed expenses, Council Tax 27 Beach Rd. Total	£587.34 <u>£440.08</u> £1,027.42	101404

It was **RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the above payments be made.

A Cllr made reference to the proposed defibrillator to be installed in the disused payphone on Main Road and suggested an emergency telephone be installed there.

10. Correspondence:

10.1 Email complaint re hedges on east side of Beach Road from the Bridge past the pony field.

The Clerk to make contact with Sue Bird who lives on Downs Road in Hunstanton.

10.2 Email complaint re parking during Holme Village Endurance Event

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Cllr Burton to pass contact details of the organiser to the Clerk.

10.3 Email re new dog fouling notices

The Clerk to contact the BC to obtain a stock of the new notices.

10.4 Email query re Parish Councillors Register of interests

The Clerk confirmed that the PC did hold the required register and was obliged to publish the register on its website, if it has one. As it doesn't have its own website, there is no obligation, however it should publish the register on the Borough Council website. The Clerk has checked and this isn't currently in place. It was agreed that the Clerk corrects the situation after the upcoming elections.

11. Date of the next meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th March 2019.

12. A RESOLUTION was passed unanimously to exclude the Press and public for the remaining agenda items under the Public Bodies and Administration of Meetings Act 1960 due to the nature of the business being discussed.

The Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed..... *L S Devereux*.....Chairman

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