

HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA PARISHCOUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held online Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Lynn Devereux (Chair), Martin Crown (Vice-Chair), Wendy Norman, Robert Burton, Ermine Amies, Stefan Seare

In Attendance: Dave Watkins (Parish Clerk), Councillor Andrew Jamieson (NCC), Councillor Bob Lawton (KLWNBC) and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence and approval of reasons:

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Amies declared a non-pecuniary interest as a near neighbour in item 6.4.1.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12 January 2021

3.1. Approval

These had been pre-circulated with no comments arising. It was **RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 January 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

3.2. Matters arising from the Minutes (non-agenda items)

(3.2) Defibrillator – Clerk reported that the East of England Ambulance Service had agreed the wording recently published on the Village Information Network but had not yet responded to a request to confirm the authority of the visual guide.

(3.2) Norfolk Coast Partnership (NCP) Small Grant Fund – Clerk reported that the NCP were agreeable to extending the length of the project until the end of June 2021.

(5.1) County Councillor and Borough Councillor reports – Councillor Jamieson reported that events had moved on and would update the meeting under **Item 4.1**.

(5.3) Meeting with Environment Agency to review sea defences – Councillor Devereux reported that engineers had already started work on Thornham Sea Bank. Councillor Jamieson had also visited areas that require attention.

(7.2.1) 20/01977/F – Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's comments had been sent to the Borough Council Tree Officer on 21 January 2021

(8.1) Pond on Park Piece – Councillor Burton reported that due to flooding it had not been possible to survey the area.

(9.3) 3rd Quarter Accounts – Shared Equity scheme in Brancaster – Clerk reported that he had received information from Brancaster's Clerk and followed that up with two enquiries to the Borough Council's Housing Department. No replies to date.

Signed Chair

LS Devereux

Date 9/3/21

(10.1) Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner's survey – Councillor Amies confirmed that she had completed one on behalf of the Parish Council.

(10.1) Local Plan Viability assessment – Parish Council submitted comments on 21 January aimed at getting a better understanding of how fees are calculated and used to mitigate visitor pressure on protected sites.

4. Reports: To receive the following:

4.1. County Councillor and Borough Councillor reports

Councillor Lawton gave an update on waste bin collections which have been affected by the recent weather.

Councillor Jamieson confirmed a new group (Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance) has been set up, comprising of NCC (in its role of Lead Local Flood Authority), Environment Agency, Anglia Water, IDBs and District Councils. The first meeting will take place on 11 February and be chaired by Lord Dannatt to formulate a plan. Initially all organisations will be asked to confirm their statutory responsibilities, their funding, current programmes of watercourse management and issues faced. Councillor Jamieson is optimistic that a coherent approach can be achieved.

Councillor Jamieson had inspected areas of the sea defences (dunes) that had been damaged and reported this on to the relevant organisation.

Councillor Jamieson expressed his concerns regarding the expected increase in traffic to the area from Easter onwards. He has been in contact with the Police and they and Councillor Jamieson would like to attend the next Saxon Shore Parish Forum in March to outline plans for responding to this increase in traffic. The Police's view is that villages should consider the provision of additional short-term parking.

5. Public Participation

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

Member of the public commented that they believed no authority was taking responsibility for the National Trail that passes through the parish. Councillor Jamieson replied that Norfolk County Council is responsible but Natural England are not providing funds at present as they await ministerial sign-off.

Concern was also expressed over the flooding in Beach Road which has been reported to Anglian Water and awaiting attention.

6. Planning Matters

6.1. Applications received subsequent to this agenda

6.1.1. **21/00173/F** – Extension on to retail unit (Use Class A1) for restaurant area (Use Class A3), storage and WCs at Gurneys Fish Box 1 Drove Orchards

In response to a query from the Chair Councillor Jamieson gave some detail on the new proposed access which was shown as existing on the plans. This has been requested by the owner of Holmebush to the north of the site. Councillor Amies expressed concern over the amount of glazing proposed and its effect on night skies. Councillor Crown had a concern over access if permission for the new entrance was not approved. Additionally, the location of two bus stops near the entrance should be considered.

No objections but Borough Council to be asked clarify access arrangements. Parish Council to request conditions on external lighting to minimise light pollution.

6.1.2. **21/00199/F** - Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 19/01950/F: New detached garage and alterations to existing house, converting existing attached garage into living space at Broadwater Cottage, 39A Kirkgate.

Councillors Norman and Crown expressed concern at use of non-local materials in a Conservation Area which were not in keeping with the surrounding buildings.

Application not supported – unanimous decision

6.2. Applications for comment

6.2.1. **20/00737/F** - New dwelling following change of use of builders yard at Builders Yard, Thornham Road. Expiry date: 15 February 2021

No new drawings had been made available so Parish Council was unable to consider this amended Application.

6.3. Other Applications for information

6.3.1. **20/01622/F** - 20/01622/F - Demolition of existing bungalow, construction of detached two-storey dwelling with garage and garden room at Westfield 27 Peddars Way - This Application has now been withdrawn.

6.4. Comments made on applications

6.4.1. **20/02070/F** - Construction of a two-storey dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling at The Tower, Broadwater Road, PE36 6LQ

Parish Council had **objected** on the following issues: flood risk; impact on the AONB and local environment.

6.4.2. **20/00737/F** - New dwelling following change of use of builders yard at Builders Yard, Thornham Road

Parish Council **did not comment** as a new amended Application was notified prior to the expiry date for this one – see **6.2.1.**

6.4.3. **20/02035/F** - Replacement fence and erection of new piers and gateway Wynholme, Thornham Road, PE36 6LR

Parish Council had **no objections.**

6.5. Decisions Reported

None

6.6. Appeals and Enforcement

6.6.1. 20/00301/UNAUTU - Sewage system for Inglenook / Poplars

The Clerk provided an update on the waste disposal unit that had appeared in the field to the west of the Inglenook site in September without prior planning permission or required building control regulations approved. Borough Council considered it unauthorised and asked the agent to remove it on 22 October. The unit had not been removed as promised and the Enforcement Officer made a further request on 19 November to the agent who said compliance would be made within one week. In January, the unit was still in place and following further contact from Enforcement (27 January) the agent reported that due to poor weather and the state of the ground that removal had been delayed.

7. Village matters

7.1. Beach Road drainage

Councillor Crown had received several comments about the poor state of the ditches outside the Riverside caravan park and 27 Beach Road. He suggested that a bid, through the Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (**see 7.4.**) funding should be made to address the problem. He also suggested that the sluice at Thornham Bank should be opened to release water from the River Hun where water levels have become high.

Councillor Jamieson recommended that the Parish Council contact Hannah Borrett (Environment Agency) in regard to opening the sluice on the seaward side.

The Parish Council has also been waiting since October for Highways to jet drains in Beach Road.

A visit by the Water Management Alliance (WMA) in December concluded in their engineer wanting to be present when the drains were being jetted to understand the network. There is also a possibility that if the ditches were cleared the WMA would consider adopting them.

Councillor Jamieson and Councillor Crown to inspect drainage issues in Beach Road

7.2. Traffic issues

Councillor Devereux presented statistics from the traffic counter in Main Road (A149) for 2020. Total vehicles counted were c573 000 (one way flow) with 31 July being the busiest day (3886 one way). The impact of coronavirus lockdowns/lockdown easing on suppressing/boosting traffic was also noted. Most vehicles travel within the speed limit of 30mph but approximately a third exceed it.

Figures for Beach Road were also presented which were adjusted for the time the traffic counter was unavailable (part of March and all of April). c65,000 vehicles were counted with a predicted total of 75,378. Based on a 2.7-person occupancy per car, which make up 70% of visitor journeys the predicted total of visitors by all modes for 2020 was estimated to be c264,000 on Beach Road access.

Councillor Devereux had pre-circulated a discussion document (*Environmental Awareness and Traffic Calming Scheme*) to all councillors. It detailed proposals for calming traffic and reducing speeds within the village whilst also raising awareness amongst visitors of its sensitive environment within an AONB through the use of Gateway signage at the entrances to the village. Signage supplemented by publicity and social media were suggested as ways of reinforcing the message. Cost of implementation (without external funding support) is estimated at £10-£13k and would be subject to approval from NCC Highways. This should also be assessed in regard to the strategic transport plan for the north Norfolk coast being developed by Councillor Jamieson.

Councillor Norman supported the 20mph speed limit on safety grounds and the fact that Holme doesn't have pavements apart from on the A149. Councillor Burton opposed the proposals and questioned what impact additional signage would have on the appearance of the village given it was in an AONB and did not feel the estimated expenditure was justified. Councillor Crown said that as there were already Gateway Signs in place as defined by NCC Highways he was not in favour of additional signage, but did support the idea of a 20mph limit along the smaller roads of the village. Confirmed that any proposal would have to receive the support of parishioners.

Councillor Jamieson suggested that a survey to gauge parishioners' opinions would be of benefit before commissioning a Speed Survey. Experience had shown they had been welcomed by both parishioners and Highways in considering options.

Councillor Jamieson to send a sample survey

7.3. Eastgate / Marsh Lane signage

Following a number of complaints and reports last summer about inappropriate use of this road/bridleway the Clerk presented a sample of a sign ("No Pedestrian or Vehicular Access to Beach or Coastal Footpath") to place at the entrance. There has been a delay in getting a quote but the cost is estimated not to exceed £150.

Agreed unanimously. Clerk to also contact NWT to enquire whether they would like a similar sign for the entrance to the Reserve

7.4. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Funding applications

Parish Council considered three suggestions – clearing two ditches in Beach Road; provision of an open-air gym on Park Piece; improved walkway across Redwell Marsh (land not owned by Parish Council). Clearing of the ditches was considered the most needed plus potential for adoption by Water Management Alliance after work completed.

Councillor Crown and the Clerk to obtain quotes for clearing of ditches prior to making an application to the CIL fund

8. Monthly Report from RFO

8.1. Report

Section 137 sum for 2021/2022 has been set by the government. The appropriate sum for

the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for parish and town councils in England for 2021-22 is £8.41 per elector. This is the amount calculated as a result of increasing the amount of £8.32 for 2020-2021 by the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2019 and September 2020, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act. For Holme-next-the-Sea Parish Council this equates to- **£1858.61** based on 221 electors as of December 2020.

8.2. Draft Budget for 2021/2022

This had been pre-circulated to councillors. Following the 12 January meeting, subsequent comments from councillors, confirmation of Section 137 payments and the need to set aside money to meet regulations regarding technology, the Draft Budget has been amended.

Agreed unanimously

8.3. Payments for authorisation

PAYEE	REASON	AMOUNT	PAYMENT METHOD
British Gas* October/November	VH electricity	£38.15	Direct Debit – paid 11/12/20
Eon	Street lighting 1/10- 31/12	£90.92	Direct Debit – paid 12/1/20
NALC	AGAR training	£30.00	Bank Transfer
Cardiac Science	Ready kit	£40.74	Bank Transfer
D. Watkins	Clerk's salary	£499.32	Bank Transfer
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary	£124.80	Bank Transfer
BT plc	Telephone/broadband - January	£52.85	Direct Debit

Agreed unanimously

9. Correspondence

9.1 Any correspondence not otherwise on the Agenda

- **Pre-application consultation for proposed telecoms installation** – details received to erect a 57ft high mast at junction of A149/Peddars Way by O2/Vodafone.
Clerk to set up meeting with agent (Clarke Telecom)
- **Yellow lines in Beach Road** - request for seasonal restriction to become permanent.
- **A personal note of thanks** to the Parish Council had been received from Lady Dannatt, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk for its work in supporting the local community during the pandemic.
- **Norfolk Citizens Advice** - request for a donation.
Agreed to donate £200 and highlight concern expressed by Councillor Amies regarding their interpretation of Equality Act on their website relating to gender
- **Virtual Zoom / Annual meetings** – letter from Russell Reeve – current legislation only allows virtual meetings until 7 May 2021. Parish Council will await further information.
- **Norfolk Police - Online Rural Crime Event - 8 March 2021** – Councillor Amies has volunteered to represent the Parish Council.

Meeting finished at 9.10pm