

**MINUTES OF THE HOGSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1st MARCH 2017**

Present: Councillors E Graham (Chairman) M Banks, P Smith, H Newcombe, A Newcombe, and L Wildman

Also Present: County Cllr Colin Davie, District Cllr Paul Hibbert –Greaves and two members of the public

PUBLIC FORUM

Comments and questions were as follows:-

- A member of the public complained that she had visited the playpark with her grandchildren and found it full of rubbish and dog fouling. She knew that this was not the responsibility of the Parish Council but asked if anything could be done. The council were aware of this and the Chairman and his wife had cleaned up the area. The council would be making enquiries as to who were the current trustees of the playpark charity and who, if anyone, was part of the committee. They could then be contacted with a view to what organisation was in place for the upkeep.

1. APOLOGIES – Cllr Mick Culley

- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr E Graham and Cllr L Wildman declared an interest in item 10. Cllr Graham, who is also the Chairman of the Allotment Group would explain what is required and would then leave the room.**

3. APPROVAL OF NOTES OF MEETING

It was unanimously resolved that the notes of the Meeting of 1st February 2017 be accepted as a true record of the proceedings and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. CLERK'S REPORT

- There has still not yet been a response from the Diocese regarding the faculty for the churchyard wall even though reminders have been sent.
- No further communication yet from Planning Enforcement about the untidy property on Thames St.
- Andy Ratcliffe had been emailed re the yellow lines and signs on Langham Lane.
- Cllr Richard Davies has been emailed re attending the Parish Meeting. Cllr Davie would ask him about this. He also suggested that Andy Ratcliffe be invited to the Parish Meeting.
- Property at 41 Mill Lane had not been reported to Planning Enforcement as it could not be classed as 'untidy'. However, Cllr Wildman was concerned that welding and car repairs were being carried out only 1 meter from the back door where children lived and was very concerned about the fire hazard. Cllr Davie will check this out with the Fire Safety Officer and Cllr Hibbert-Greaves will take it up as an issue of private property being used for business purposes.
- Pothole outside Saracens Head repaired.
- All other items on agenda.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES & OTHER MEETINGS

County Councillor Colin Davie reported that:-

- 94% of broadband connections were completed with 97% expected by the end of the year.
- An increase of 3.9% increase in council tax had been agreed by the County Council (2% of which was earmarked for social care). This was not enough to cover the costs of the increase in the living wage and further savings would still need to be made.
- There was concern by the general public that cutting off the street lighting at midnight would see an increase in crime. This subject will be brought up at the Police Forum on the 8th March. Cllr Richard Davies will be undertaking a review of the lights which were being turned off.
- Andy Ratcliffe was now responsible for Highways in the area.
- Chapel Point business venture will be commencing next year.

- Lots of work on the highways and paths is being carried out on the coastal areas with funding from the Government Local Growth Deal. He confirmed that the bridge to Chapel would be closed for 6-8 weeks. Cllr Banks reported that
- The village hall committee had met and discussed further the ramifications of installing shutters. Concerns were with regard to who would open and close the shutters and also shutters over the patio fire doors.
- Charity Farm had tenants moving in in mid-March but there had been no takers for the barn conversation as yet.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from LCC regarding the re-organisation of the Highways Department.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) Payment was authorised for £2154.88 for annual salary to K Hayes.

8. PLANNING APPLICATION

Planning Application No N/084/00100/17 giving detailed particulars relating to the layout of roads, boundaries of the plots, drainage and infrastructure, proposed site levels and dwelling floor levels for the erection of 10 dwellings at Manor Farm, Skegness Road. It was noted that the only alteration to the previous planning permission given under N084/0876/15 was that the condition for affordable housing be removed. All other conditions were still in place. It was thought that this development would be completed in stages. After discussion it was agreed to support the application and the clerk would reply accordingly.

9. HIGHWAYS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Village maintenance / litter picking. The Chairman and clerk had met with personnel from ELDC Waste Management with the following outcome:-
- ELDC are not responsible for litter on private land and could not help with litter in the playpark
 - A street clean had been agreed and this would be scheduled in.
 - Dog bins – there is no requirement for separate dog bins as normal waste bins can be used for dog fouling. It was agreed that a further waste bin would be purchased at a cost of £199 + VAT so that a waste bin could be placed at the end of Langham Lane. ELDC would empty the extra bin in their normal round.
 - Litter picking – They would now add periodic litter picking to their schedule.
 - Volunteer litter picking day – ELDC will deliver grabber and bags to an address to be agreed with them. Signs would be put around the village publicising the event.
 - Cemetery bins – ELDC could not empty as it was classed as commercial waste. New rota has been issued for councillors to continue emptying. A litter grabber would be made available.
 - Dog signs were no longer available and there was no longer an enforcement agency. It was agreed that the clerk would have a meeting with the dog warden and get stencils put on the pavements where there is a problem with dog fouling.
- b) Untidy properties – already reported in Public forum
- c) Speeding through village – to be brought up at meeting at Police Forum on the 8th March at Ingoldmells.
- d) Playpark complaint – dealt with under public forum.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Graham, as Chairman of the Allotment Committee, reported that the allotments were running well – most of the holders being Chapel residents. He had evaluated the rent in line with others in the area which were in the region of £25 and asked the council to consider reducing the rents to this amount. He assured the council that there would be nothing to purchase in the coming year and any expenditure would be met from the Allotment committee including grass cutting. **The Chairman and Cllr Wildman, having declared an interest, then left the room.** The council considered the request and it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to reduce the fee for an allotment to £25 per annum. This was relayed to the Chairman on his return.

11. CEMETERY

(a) Cemetery repair work – The clerk reported that most of the reserve for the cemetery had now been spent and suggested that the money received in fees for the cemetery be ring-fenced for repairs and upkeep. It was agreed that this was a sensible way forward.

12. COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE EVENT – A date of 5th April at 6.15 p.m. prior to the Council meeting was agreed. Clerk to contact Mrs Enderby to check on her availability and email confirmation to councillors.

13. HOGSTHORPE HERITAGE PROJECT

Cllr Hazel Newcombe reported that she and the clerk had had a meeting with a local carpenter to discuss the requirements of (1) the village sign – this may be more complicated than at first thought as without removal of the lead covering to the plinth, it was not known what the fixings would be (2) finger post signs (3) bench and side planters for the area by the village sign (4) bench in the churchyard by dyke (5) historic display board. Suggested designs to be sent to him. It is also mooted that the area around the village sign be made into a garden area. The clerk has received a quote from S Betteridge for filling in the dyke of £2500.

14. PARISH MEETING

The same format with refreshments to be organised this year as in previous years. Suggested speakers of Richard Davies and/or Andy Ratcliffe or someone from the Police. Clerk to contact.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held at Hogsthorpe Village Hall on Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 6.45 p.m. Commemorative plaque event at 6.15 at the church.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – no other business**CLOSED SESSION**

Three applications had been received for the councillor vacancy. It was agreed that they would be invited to the next meeting in April to give a 3 minute talk each on their background and what they might be able to bring to the council.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm