

Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick on 27th September 2022

Present: Andrew Penn (Acting Chairman), Jeremy Alexander, Jeremy Styles, Mark Cann, Miles Moseley and Josephine Murgatroyd (Clerk).

Also present at the start of the Meeting was Alison Thomas (County Councillor) re highways and a report re County Council issues.

Apologies: David Alexander

One Parishioners was present.

In the absence of David Alexander, Andrew Penn took the Chair

As Alison Thomas had other Meetings to attend, her report was done first:-

Report from Alison Thomas

The PC was informed that there were financial challenges for the County Council particularly with an increase in adult social care and the cost of the pay settlements. There were issues with the provision of mental health in the county and the authority responsible for mental health being placed into special measures. Dentistry continued to be an area of concern including the sudden closure of the dental surgery in Long Stratton which had impacted on some Parishioners.

The Parish Council then commenced the Meeting as per the Agenda

A Minute's silence was held in memory of Queen Elizabeth

1 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2022 were read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Defibrillator

Training had been organised and took place on 13th September with all 12 places filled. The feedback was very positive and the PC agreed that if possible, first aid training should be organised on an annual basis. The Clerk will enquire as to the cost of training.

Andrew Penn confirmed that he checked the defibrillator at 6 weekly intervals and as the pads expired at the end of September, new pads had been purchased at a cost of £73.14 and were now installed in the cabinet.

Highways

Nothing further had been heard about the installation of the marker posts on Low Road or the accidents at the bottom of Fritton Hill. Alison Thomas had confirmed before she left the Meeting confirmed she will make enquiries with Highways.

Primrose Lane had been resurfaced and it was hoped that this would be sufficient to maintain the road surface on the bend where it have previously been badly broken. Work on the ditch had also been done at the junction with Alburgh Road where there had previously been flooding, but it was not clear if this would be sufficient.

Village Sign

Jeremy Alexander informed the PC that the sign needed some repair work and this was in hand. It was decided that the sign should be replaced on the post to tie in with the renovation of the village well.

Village Well

Gordon Wilson had provided the necessary cutting list to enable the wood for the well to be purchased. However, Gordon was no longer able to do the work within the budget available, but Miles Molesley had arranged with several parishioners to undertake the necessary renovation. £60 had been paid to Gordon Wilson for his time in providing the cutting list. £280.24 had been spent on the wood for the well and there would be further materials to be purchased and it was hoped that the work will commence in the next couple of months.

3. Correspondence

Village Hall

The first aid training had been booked for 13th September and this had been planned to take place in the village hall. However, on the day a letter was received from the village hall secretary stating that the village hall had not reopened after the covid lockdown and would not reopen until significant refurbishment had been carried out.

Whilst the Parish Council acknowledged that there had been no formal booking of the hall, this had not been done for several years when the hall was used for PC Meetings. Cheques in payment had been left at the treasurer's house but too date none had been cashed. No information had been received about the closure and no notices placed on the door of the village hall or on the noticeboard. No one on the Parish Council had been aware of the closure. Also, the village hall had been used for the County Council elections on 6th May 2021 and it was after that date that the PC resumed meeting inside the village hall as permitted by the relaxation of the covid rules.

The current situation was discussed and it was clear that further information was required re the work that had to be done, including sight of the surveys and plans referred to in the letter from the village hall secretary. Also, to enable a full picture to be obtained, it was agreed that details of the accounts and sight of the AGM Minutes should also be requested.

It was understood that the Village Hall Committee had very few members and assistance clearly needed to be sought from the wider community to ensure that the village hall was repaired and reopened as soon as possible. Voluntary work from within the community may also be forthcoming.

Miscellaneous

Regular newsletters were received from NALC, Norfolk Constabulary including Operation Randall and details of a Police visit to the Parish in August and the Office of the Police Commissioner. Also, updates re Norwich Western link Project and Norfolk Parishes Offshore OTN

4. Planning

Old Rose and Crown, Hardwick

An application for listed building consent to install a stairlift was approved by the Parish Council and granted by South Norfolk Council.

The Laurels, Hardwick

An application for planning permission to replace an existing conservatory with a new sun room and to carry out internal alterations was considered by the Parish Council and approved. The decision was that the proposed alterations were in keeping with the vernacular architecture and enabled the dwelling to be redesigned for modern living.

5. Accounts

The current balance was £1,883.40. The Audit had been completed.

6. Meeting Suspended for Public Participation

Appreciation expressed for the first aid training.

7. Any Other Business

There was none.

8. Date of Next Meeting

This was fixed for 6th December 2022 at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman
2022

Payments:- Shelton and Hardwick PCC - £20.00 and £25.00
Defibrillator pads – £73.14
Gordon Wilson -£60
Browns Timber - £280.24
Val Parish - £45.00 (Cleaning Village Hall re first aid training)