

## **Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick Village Hall on Tuesday 5th January 2016**

**Present:** David Alexander (Chairman), Clive Ling, Jeremy Styles, Mark Cann and Josephine Murgatroyd (Clerk).

There was one Parishioner present.

**Apologies:** Jeremy Alexander, Andrew Penn and Alison Thomas.

### **1. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October 2015 were read, confirmed and signed.

### **2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

#### **a) Highways**

The Clerk had contacted Rod Webster to thank him for the bridge over the footpath ditch and had attended the 'official' opening of the bridge with a large group from Rod Webster's walking group and a journalist from the Eastern Daily Press. The newspaper had published a very interesting article together with a photograph of the bridge and the group of walkers.

Rod Webster now wished to improve some of the other gateways/styles on the same walk and this had been discussed with him by the Clerk. One of them was a gateway through fields owned by Jeremy Styles who will carry out improvement works which should deal with the concerns raised by members of the walking group. The Clerk will contact the other landowner to seek permission for a number of small trees that were overhanging the footpath to be cleared.

Jeremy Styles confirmed he had spoken to the landowner about the fallen tree on the footpath that goes from Primrose Lane and this had now been removed.

The Clerk had notified the Highways Department about the potholes in Hall Lane, Hardwick, but they had not yet been repaired. There was also a pothole between Shelton Spot and the water run that needs repairing. She will contact the Highways department again.

The 30mph signs on Common Road that had graffiti on them, had now been replaced as had the 'Hardwick' sign at the same location.

Due to recent rainfall, there had been flooding at the junction of Primrose Lane with Room Lane. Jeremy Styles had spoken to the landowner and it appears that the culvert under the road was blocked. The Clerk on speaking to the Highways Department understood that they would be prepared to jet the culvert out, but vegetation in the immediate vicinity needed clearing first so that the culvert could be reached. A parishioner had offered to use his digger to do the necessary work.

The Clerk had reported to the Highways Department the poor condition of Primrose Lane – in places the road had given way. This would be programmed for repair, but probably not until later in the year to enable the weather conditions to improve. Attempts had been made to ensure HGVs either used alternative roads to reach local farms or only travel empty on this road when collecting sugar beet. This was proving successful in reducing the weight of vehicles using Primrose Lane.

### **b) Shelton School**

The Clerk immediately after the last meeting had spoken to the Highways Department about the costs of warning signs to assist the School in enforcing the 30mph speed limit. The flashing 20mph signs mentioned by Alison Thomas are known as 20mph wigwag signs and costs £3,000. The mph flashing signs were even more expensive at £4,000. The 50/50 partnership scheme was still available at that time, but the deadline was in December which had now passed. The Clerk had contacted the parent concerned to confirm the support of the PC in principle, to explain the costings, the Highways partnership scheme (including the deadline) and the restricted funds that the PC had available. The parent had thanked the PC and was going to report back to see what the School/FOSS intended to do. The local police had apparently been contacted on behalf of the school to see if the 30mph speed limit could be enforced. The Clerk had heard nothing further and accordingly there was nothing for the PC to do at present.

### **c) Superfast Broadband**

The Clerk had arranged for information about the availability of superfast broadband to be included in 'Outlook' and it was understood that there had been a good take up in Hardwick. It was understood that parts of Shelton were not able to benefit from this upgrade.

## **3. Correspondence**

### **a) South Norfolk District Council**

SNDC has decided to no longer provide paper copies of planning applications. Instead, notification will be sent via e-mail and the plans will have to be accessed via the Council website. The Council may still be able to provide paper copies on request in respect of larger major applications.

SNDC had notified the Clerk about a parishioner reporting a damaged nameplate sign in Hardwick. The Clerk wanted to know if she should also report other damaged/missing nameplate signs as there were quite a few. Following discussion, the PC decided not to as any replacements were also likely to be damaged due to the rural nature of the road network.

### **b) Norfolk County Council**

The Clerk had received notification about the closure of Shelton Spot later this month for work to connect a new water supply. Copies of the notices will be displayed on the two noticeboards.

Notification had been received that the Recycling Centre at Morningthorpe will now operate part time and will be closed Monday to Wednesday as from 18<sup>th</sup> January.

### **c) Miscellaneous**

An e-mail from Alison Thomas had been sent to all the Parish Councillors explaining her absence from tonight's meeting. She mentioned the County Council budget consultation with a number of issues that could affect the parish. The PC was not aware of any proposed changes that would affect the parish – the Parish has no grit bins and there was only one gritting route.

Following the Audit Commission ceasing to exist last year, a new company –Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd had been set up by a number of Associations including the National Association of Local Councils. The purpose of the company included the appointment of external auditors for smaller authorities. The PC could opt out and set up an independent Audit Panel. It was proposed by the Clerk, seconded by Jeremy Styles and agreed by the PC not to opt out but to rely upon the new company for the necessary work.

## **4. Planning Cases**

### **Shelton One Arm, Shelton**

An application for an extension to the house had been approved by SNDC.

### **Long Stratton Area Action Plan**

The enquiry into this plan had made its report. The proposed junction at Hall Road remained, but it was not clear as to what type of junction was planned. The Clerk showed the PC a plan printed off the SNDC website showing an area of 9.5 hectares of 'employment development'. Direct access to the bypass at Hall Road was proposed to avoid vehicles having to go through the town centre. The concerns of the PC would be met if a roundabout was built at this location. Alison Thomas in her e-mail had confirmed that she continued to make the point that a safe passage across the bypass was needed for the parish. The plan was that the bypass would be completed prior to the 'occupation of house number 250'.

### **5. Accounts**

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|--------------|---------|
| Bank Balance | £583.37 |
|--------------|---------|

The PC discussed the precept for the forthcoming financial year and considered the Budget prepared by the Clerk (copy attached to the Minutes). It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Clive Ling and agreed by the PC that the precept plus the Council Grant of £25 should remain at a total of £1,000 (ie no change from the previous years). The form from SNDC confirming the precept at £975 was completed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

The PC then discussed the making of donations to village organisations. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mark Cann and agreed by the PC that a donation of £100 should be paid to the 3 parish organisations ie Village Hall, FOSS and the PCC (for the 2 Churches).

### **6. Meeting Suspended for Public Participation**

There was none.

### **7. Any Other Business**

There was none.

### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

This was fixed for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

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|-------|----------|
| _____ | Chairman |
| _____ | 2016     |

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| <b><u>Cheques:-</u></b> | Village Hall Hire        | £15.00  |
|                         | Donations:- Village Hall | £100.00 |
|                         | FOSS                     | £100.00 |
|                         | PCC                      | £100.00 |