

Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick Village Hall on Tuesday 17th May 2016

Present: David Alexander (Chairman), Andrew Penn, Mark Cann, Jeremy Styles and Josephine Murgatroyd (Clerk). Also present was Alison Thomas – County and District Councillor (Items 1-3 only)

Apologies: Jeremy Alexander and Clive Ling

1. Election of Chairman

The election of David Alexander as Chairman was proposed by the Clerk and seconded by Andrew Penn. The proposal was approved by the PC and the Chairman was thanked for his work as Chairman during the year.

2. Election of Clerk

The election of Josephine Murgatroyd as Clerk was proposed by Jeremy Styles and seconded by the Chairman. The proposal was approved by the PC and the Clerk was thanked for her work as Clerk during the year.

3. Report from Alison Thomas

Alison Thomas outlined the following points to the PC:-

- a) Morningthorpe Recycling Centre was now open again seven days a week. It had been only open for four days for a couple of months. During the restricted days opening, there was a significant increase in the dumping of recycled items outside the Centre.
- b) The surface dressing programme for the area had been announced, but there were nothing known about any plans to resurface any of the roads in the Parish this year.
- c) Concern had been expressed about the 10mph speed limit signs placed on the roads where repairs were being done. The speed limits were not adhered to and had been left up for far too long. Questions would be asked about their effectiveness and the cost involved.
- d) Parish partnerships were still operating in case the PC had any suitable highway projects.
- e) Broadband had been rolled out to the Parish although comments were made by the PC about parts of Shelton which were connected to a different cabinet than the one in Chapel Lane. Broadband was not yet available to these properties.
- f) 85% of Norfolk's schools had been rated at 'outstanding' or 'good'.
- g) As a District Councillor, there was £1,000 available to spend on projects in the Ward and suggestions were being sought.
- h) Constant reminders were being made in respect of the Long Stratton Bypass that parishes to the east of the bypass must have a 'safe and sensible' access to Long Stratton. No final decision had been made, but one possibility was not to have an access from the south into Long Stratton until the Hall Road junction where a roundabout could be built. Alison Thomas assured the PC that she was 'on the case'
- i) In respect of the Hempnall crossroads, the need for a junction improvement had been agreed and this was most likely to be a roundabout.
- j) South Norfolk Council had started the search for new sites for houses in sustainable locations in preparation of the next local plan.
- k) There was to be a review of Ward and Parish boundaries.

4. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th March 2016 were read, confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Highways

There was no further news to report over the digging out of the ditch adjoining Primrose Lane. Enquiries would be made. The Clerk had reported to the Highways Department the matters raised at the last meeting. The PC were informed that the 30mph sign on Port Road had been damaged and this will also be reported to the Highways department.

b) Miscellaneous

The Clerk confirmed that the donations to the 5 charities had been made and although acknowledgements were never requested to save on the charities' administration, responses had been received from Norfolk Accident Rescue Services, Macmillan Cancer and SERV Norfolk.

6. Correspondence

a) South Norfolk District Council

There was nothing to report.

b) Norfolk County Council

There was nothing to report.

c) Miscellaneous

The PC authorised the renewal of the subscription for NALC of £ 97.87. There had been no subscription request from NRCC.

The Clerk had been forwarding to the Parish Councillors the weekly Operation Randall e-mails from the police. These were aimed at rural communities and all present considered they were of interest and should continue to be forwarded.

7. Planning Cases

Morningthorpe Farm, Ansons Lane, Morningthorpe(2016/0160)

The PC considered the application for a B2 industrial use for the manufacture of bitumen based road repair products. Reports had been carried out on behalf of the applicant re odour, noise and air quality. The PC decision was to object to the application and the following points were noted:-

a) The manufacture of bitumen has a negative impact on the quality of life of parishioners. A number of Parishioners have smelt this odour which was very strong and very unpleasant.

b) The planning application refers to existing planning permission only for the storage of cardboard. There would appear to be a lack of planning permission for the business use at this location involving a number of HGVs that operate from these premises.

c) The application makes no mention of the impact on the surrounding roads of the HGVs operating from the site and the number of vehicles that use the site to enable the operation to be carried out. It is understood that HGVs operate between Morningthorpe Farm and the applicant's Topcroft site by at least weekly using Alburgh Road, Shelton in breach of the 7.5 tonne weight limit in force on that road.

d) The odour report obtained in support of the application was done with testing on one day only. The air quality report made no mention of when the testing was done, whether bitumen was being manufactured at the relevant time and what was the wind direction.

However, the PC also decided that if the manufacture of the bitumen clearly met ALL legal requirements including re emissions and pollutants, thereby removing ALL risks and odour from the surrounding countryside and residents, then the PC could be prepared to reconsider any new planning application.

Long Stratton Area Action Plan

There was nothing further to add to the report presented by Alison Thomas at item 3 above.

8. Accounts

Bank Balance	£645.87
--------------	---------

9. Meeting Suspended for Public Participation

There was none.

10. Any Other Business

There was none.

11. Date of Next Meeting

This was fixed for Tuesday 6^h September 2016 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

_____	Chairman
_____	2016

<u>Cheques:-</u>	Village Hall Hire	£15.00
	NALC Subscription	£97.87
	Zurich Insurance	£251.85