

Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick Village Hall on Tuesday 13th February 2018

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

Apologies: There were none

Alison Thomas (County and District Councillor) attended the Meeting. Two Parishioners were present.

1. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2018 were read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Highways

Alison Thomas informed the PC that she had a small highways budget and she suggested that a request should be made for this to be spent on repairing the fingerpost signs. The PC thanked her for the offer and requested the Clerk to speak to Highways to see if this could be arranged.

The County Council had announced that a roundabout would be constructed at the Hempnall crossroads and a consultation period had started on the planning aspect.

The Clerk had reported the damaged post and also a damaged bridge to the appropriate department looking after public rights of way. A further report needed to be made concerning a footpath post at the junction of Mill Road and Mill Lane that had rotted at the bottom and needed relacing.

Following the recent spell of snow and particularly the problems caused by drifting snow, the Clerk requested that it should be noted that a number of residents, particularly the farmers, should be thanked for their hard work in clearing roads and rescuing vehicles that had got stuck in the snow drifts. An e-mail had been sent to Highways acknowledging the work they did in clearing the roads despite the adverse weather conditions.

3. Correspondence

a) South Norfolk District Council

There was nothing to report.

b) Norfolk County Council

Alison Thomas reported the improvements to Children Services which had previously been placed in special measures. Some of the areas had now been rated 'good' and the adoption service rated 'outstanding'.

c) Miscellaneous

The requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer was considered. The Chairman offered to carry out this role. This was seconded by the Clerk and agreed by the PC.

4a. Planning Cases.

There was nothing to report.

4b. Long Stratton Bypass and Development.

The planning application for the Long Stratton bypass and building development was considered. Alison Thomas said that she did not consider that this would be the final application. She left the Meeting before the PC considered the application.

The application was considered and discussed concentrating predominately on the bypass.

The conclusion was that the PC objected to the application for the following reasons:-

- there were too many roundabouts which would cause the traffic to travel slower and make the bypass ineffective. This could then result in even more traffic using 'rat runs' in the Parish including Ansons Lane and Port Road.
- there was no bridge for pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross the bypass. This would impact not only on those wanting to access the facilities in Long Stratton, but also those residents in Long Stratton who wanted to access the country side to the east. A footbridge should also be considered at Edges Lane.
- the access route from Hall Lane should be via a bridge and not a roundabout. This would be a far safer route for residents from the parishes to the east of the bypass accessing Long Stratton and could also be used by walkers and cyclists.
- there should be only two roundabouts – one at the northern end and one at the southern end. This would enable the bypass to be effective thereby encouraging through traffic to use this route. Traffic needing to access the village of Long Stratton would then be able to enter the village from either end. The proposal to have a roundabout and employment area at Wood Green would have a negative impact on this quiet and rural location. Consideration should be given to having one employment area at the current location of Tharston Industrial Estate..

5. Accounts

Bank Balance £740.65

The PC decided not to make any donations to local parish organisations until the next Meeting to enable more information to be obtained from Shelton School concerning a project they were planning. The PC decided to make donations of £25 to Air Ambulance, Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, Diss CAB, Mcmillan Cancer, SERV Norfolk and Borderhoppa. This made a total of £150.

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 8th May 2018 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Chairman

2018

Cheques:- £25 to each of the following:- Air Ambulance, Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, Diss CAB, Mcmillan Cancer, SERV Norfolk and Borderhoppa
 £15 – Village Hall Hire