

Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick Village Hall on 9th January 2019

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

Also present was Alison Thomas (County and District Councillor)

Apologies:, Jeremy Alexander

No Parishioners were present.

1. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

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

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Highways

The Clerk as requested at the last Meeting had raised with the Highways Department the outstanding issues, namely the request by Alison Thomas that her highways budget should be spent on repairing the fingerpost signs and the protruding concrete in the water run.

Nothing further had been heard. Alison Thomas requested that a further e-mail should be sent and that she is copied in.

There was also still no response from the Rights of Way section of the Norfolk County Council on the damaged bridge previously reported. A further reminder had been sent pointing out the deteriorating condition of the bridge. It was understood that other Parish Councils directed their requests to Fiona Pratt with success. The Clerk will try again.

Miscellaneous

A letter of thanks had been received from FOSS for the £100 donation. This had been spent on a successful day trip to Norwich Cathedral for the whole school.

Miles Moseley had taken over the Parish Council website, updating it and also including the Help Hub emails from South Norfolk District Council and the monthly reports from PC Jim Squires. He was thanked by the PC.

3. Correspondence

a) South Norfolk District Council

Notification had been received from South Norfolk Council that with the District and Parish Council elections taking place on the 2 May 2019, an introductory event had been organised. Details of this had been circulated to all councillors.

Alison Thomas informed the PC that South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils were sharing senior management starting with a joint Chief Executive.

The Clerk had attended a Meeting for Town and Parish Clerks at South Norfolk last November. The discussion subjects included the following:-

1. community connectors – employees of SNDC were based in the 18 GP surgeries across the district providing assistance as to services/help available in the community eg new mothers seeking advice, advice re housing. This meant that people in need who had turned to the local health practice were able to obtain the necessary advice and assistance straightaway without having to be referred to different agencies.

2. Faster broadband – Steve Temple from In Touch Systems explained how his company working with South Norfolk District Council were planning by early 2019 to ensure that every property in

SNDC has access to faster broadband – ie upto 30mbps using church towers/masts. The Clerk spoke to him about Shelton Spot. Information about this possibility had been passed onto some of the parishioners in that location for them to follow up if required.

3. A poster had been supplied with details of the police contacts for the Long Stratton area. PC Andy Barkwell is the beat manager for Long Stratton. Jim Squires has responsibility for the whole of SNDC. He requested that the monthly newsletters are made available to everyone – eg PC website.

b) Norfolk County Council

Alison Thomas confirmed that the construction of the roundabout at the Hempnall crossroads had commenced. There will be road closures (for possibly up to a week) to enable work to be done by the utility companies. Completion of the roundabout was expected to be this autumn.

c) Miscellaneous

Nothing to report

4a. Planning Cases.

There were no planning cases.

4b. Long Stratton Bypass and Development.

Alison Thomas updated the PC on the latest developments. The District Council were waiting to hear from the developers about a number of issues including on the construction of the bypass, archaeology concerns and on the drains.

Once a response had been received, the District Council will organise a further Meeting for the Parish Councils. However, with District Council elections in May, if a response was not received soon, there could be insufficient time to consult and then reach a decision before the District Council goes into ‘election purdah’.

One decision that had been made was to remove the roundabout at the junction of the bypass with Hall Lane and replace it with a bridge. This was what the Parish Council had previously argued for. There would however, still be a roundabout planned for Parker’s Lane which would have an impact on Wood Green.

5. Accounts

Bank Balance £555.80

The Clerk had circulated the budget (copy attached to these Minutes) and next year’s precept was discussed. There was no longer a Council Tax Grant. It was proposed by the Clerk and seconded by the Chairman that the precept for 2019/20 should be £1,000. All Councillors were in agreement.

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 Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman
2019

Cheques:

£15 – Village Hall Hire