

Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick Village Hall on 4th December 2019

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

Apologies: Jeremy Alexander

No Parishioners were present.

1. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th September 2019 were read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Highways

Gary Overland had been thanked for his work in the replacement of the missing/damaged fingerpost signposts.

The damaged footpath bridge had been repaired, but the footbridge at the other end of the footpath had then also been damaged. The footpath was blocked off at both ends with a notification from Highways that the work should be completed by early November. Highways had been reminded that the work was still outstanding on the second bridge and hopefully will be completed soon.

Village Well/Defibrillator

Enquiries had been made by the Clerk and the cost to repair the woodwork on the well could exceed the £1,000 previously mentioned. No funding had yet been secured, but confirmation had been received that the CIL which amounted to £434.73 could be used towards restoration of the well. This sum of £434.73 had now be paid to the PC.

The Clerk suggested that instead of spending money on repairing the well, consideration should be given to the provision of a defibrillator for the Parish. A Parishioner last month suffered a heart attack and survived thanks to the ambulance service and emergency surgery. One of the questions asked by the emergency operator was the location of the nearest defibrillator, with the answer being several miles away. Fritton and Morningthorpe are currently fund raising to provide a defibrillator and the Clerk suggested that the PC should do the same.

The PC was all in agreement and considered that this was far more important than repairing the well. Andrew Penn said that he would be prepared as a project to do the required carpentry on the well, but this would not happen for a year or two. The PC acknowledged with grateful thanks his offer and accordingly decided that nothing further needs to be done for the time being.

The PC then considered the way forward re the provision of the defibrillator. The Clerk had made enquiries and informed the PC that the defibrillator could cost in the region of £1,000 with an additional £500 to provide the box to store the defibrillator. The box was essential if the defibrillator was to be kept in an outside location. A discussion was held as to possible suitable locations. Funding would be sought and if necessary, the PC will make no payments to local organisations/charities. The CIL payment would be utilised towards the cost.

Shelton School

The School was officially closing this month. Enquiries had been made to ascertain the location and proposals for retention of the Honours Board, Registers of pupils and other documentation that reflected the history of the school. Mark Cann informed the PC that the School Governors were meeting the same evening to consider what steps should be taken with the closure of the School. The PC agreed that it was very important for the history of the Parish that documentation should be preserved along with memorabilia from the School for the benefit of future generations.

3. Correspondence

a) South Norfolk District Council

VE Day Grants are available for community events or activities as 2020 will mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

SNDC also can assist with funding community initiatives that require larger amounts of funding from the Community Action Fund. Councillors are responsible for receiving, considering and proposing applications for funding from the fund of between £1,000 and £15,000.

Applications can be made until 10 January. The PC decided that an application should be made to assist with the funding of the defibrillator.

b) Norfolk County Council

A national consultation exercise into the boundaries of wards had commenced. The number of County Councillors was being kept at 84 with views being sought on whether the boundaries of individual wards should be altered. The PC had no views re existing boundaries.

c) Miscellaneous

The PC received regular e-mails from the Police re scams and rural crime.

d) NALC

NALC had notified the PC that due to new regulations, all public sector websites will need to meet certain accessibility standards from next year. Norfolk ALC will ensure that parish council sites they have set up meet the new regulations and they will meet the cost of the work involved. The PC website was set up by NALC.

4a. Planning Cases.

1 Ivy Cottages, Primrose Lane, Shelton

An application for a single storey rear extension had been approved by the PC and granted by South Norfolk Council.

4b. Long Stratton Bypass and Development.

There were no developments to report on the Bypass. The roundabout on the A140 at the Hempnall crossroads was completed last month and had made a definite improvement in negotiating the junction.

5. Accounts

Bank Balance	£1,343.77
--------------	-----------

The PC had previously been the victim of a scam with the Bank reimbursing the money stolen. However, a further sum had been credited back to the account from one of the organisations who had previously been paid as a result of the scam. It was not known if this was as a result of Bank action. The PC agreed that the Clerk should write to the Bank pointing out the credit that had been made.

The PC considered the precept for 2020/21. The Clerk had circulated budget information. The precept had been kept at £1,000 since 2007/08 and with the plan to buy a defibrillator there was the

running costs that are likely to average out at £100 per annum. It was proposed by Miles Moseley and seconded by Mark Cann that there should be a 3% increase to £1,030. This increase was approved by the PC.

6. Meeting Suspended for Public Participation

There was none.

- **7. Any Other Business**

a) It was reported that there was a problem on Primrose Lane at the junction with Alburgh Road with water flowing across the road. It was believed that the culvert under the road may be blocked. This had been a problem several years ago, but before Highways could be asked to investigate, it was necessary to clear the ditches either side to ensure that this was not the cause of the road being flooded. Jeremy Styles said he would contact the landowner and was confident that the necessary work could be done. If having cleared the ditches, the water was still flooding the road, then the Clerk would contact Highways.

b) Complaints had been received about Alburgh Road being used as a shortcut by HGVs breaching the 7.5 weight limit restriction on that road. Parishioners were going to take note of the vehicles involved thereby enabling the companies concerned to be notified.

8. Date of Next Meeting

This was fixed for Wednesday 19th February 2020 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Chairman
2020

Cheques: £15 – Village Hall Hire