

Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick Village Hall on 18th September 2019

Present: Jeremy Alexander (Chairman for the Meeting), Jeremy Styles, Mark Cann, Miles Moseley and Josephine Murgatroyd (Clerk).

Apologies: David Alexander, Andrew Penn

No Parishioners were present.

1. Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2019 were read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Highways

The replacement of the missing/damaged fingerpost signposts had been done and thanks had been sent to Alison Thomas. The PC confirmed that thanks should also be sent to Gary Overland.

The damaged footpath bridge had not yet been repaired, although it was understood that a Highways visit had recently taken place. The Clerk will contact Fiona Pratt at Norfolk County Council again.

Village Well

The condition of the wood structure was worse than originally thought and the cost could be in the order of £1,000. The PC discussed the merits of repair versus renovation. It was agreed that whatever was done should ideally last in view of the costs involved. The Clerk will make enquiries re possible funding, particularly as no information had yet been received concerning the Parish share of a CIL payment of several thousand pounds that had been made following the erection of a grain store. Enquiries will be made to try and get some better costings re the work needing to be done.

Shelton School

Following the Annual Parish Meeting when the PC was informed of a possible closure of the School, the Clerk had contacted Alison Thomas. She was not aware of any immediate plans to close the school but was aware of the problems re falling numbers. The school had not reopened in September, with pupils and staff moving to Hempnall School. It was understood that the School will officially close in December. The PC discussed the various items that should be preserved including the Honours Board and the Registers of pupils that had attended the School. The BT kiosk also needed to be retained as part of the history of the Parish. It was understood that there was still the possibility of school children using the playing field as a forest school.

3. Correspondence

a) South Norfolk District Council

Information had been received about a change in the consultation reply details on planning applications enabling comments to be in a format convenient to the consultee.

A review of Polling Stations had been carried out. There were minor issues mentioned re access at the village hall which would remain the polling station for the Parish.

b) Norfolk County Council

The County Council had published a guide to care and support for adults 2019/20 giving crucial information on how to find and access care and support services throughout the county. This had been placed on the website.

c) Miscellaneous

The PC received regular e-mails from the Police re scams and rural crime together with details of a Meeting at Diss and a visit to the Parish.

d) NALC

Volunteers were being sought from Parish Councils to participate in a new venture aiming to improve the well being of residents. No one at present was interested in being a volunteer.

4a. Planning Cases.

There were none for consideration.

4b. Long Stratton Bypass and Development.

There were no developments to report. The roundabout at Hempnall was nearing completion and should be fully functioning as planned by November

5. Accounts

Bank Balance £424.04

The Clerk informed the PC that an e-mail had been received from the Auditors confirming receipt of the exemption. The required forms had been placed on the website.

The PC were also informed that the PC had been the victim of a scam and direct debits had been set up using the account details. These had been cancelled by the Bank and the sums paid had been credited back to the account.

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 4th December 2019 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman

2019

Cheques:

£15 – Village Hall Hire