

Parish Council Meeting held at Hardwick Village Hall on 7th March 2023

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

Apologies: Jeremy Styles and Alison Thomas (County Councillor)

Two Parishioners were present.

1 Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th December 2022 were read, confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Defibrillator

First aid training by East of England Ambulance Service was available for 12 people at a cost of £440. The PC decided that a session should be booked for June. This should give sufficient time to fill the places available.

Andrew Penn confirmed that he continued to check the defibrillator. The defibrillator sign was not yet placed in the kiosk as better weather was required.

Highways

The Clerk reported that the damaged foot bridge in the water run had been cleared away by Highways and the hazard warning posts had been installed along Low Road.

The Clerk had sent an email thanking Gary Overland who had replied confirming that the chevron signs were being ordered.

A number of potholes has started to emerge at various locations. These had already been reported by one of the parishioners present. He offered to also report other potholes.

Village Sign and Well

Outstanding work would be completed in time for the Coronation weekend in May.

Village Hall

A search of the internet showed that the Hall was still 'temporarily closed'. However, Andrew Penn had been able to book the Hall for the PC Meeting. This was done in person as an attempt by a Parishioner to book the Hall via the Village Hall email address had been unsuccessful. It was noted that there was no evidence of any work having been done to the Hall. This was despite the letter sent last September from the secretary for the Village Hall Committee saying that the Hall was closed as extensive renovation was required. The insurance certificate displayed in the Village Hall was out of date as it went back to 2016-17. One of the Parish Councillors had made a formal complaint to the Charity Commission and he would continue to communicate with them as required. There had still been no AGM arranged by the Village Hall committee and the Chairman had still not received any response to his letters.

3. Correspondence

South Norfolk Council had adopted the LGA's model Code of Conduct.

The PC were informed about a deal agreed by Norfolk County Council with the Government that would result in £600 million in funding for Norfolk. The County Council were consulting on the deal.

Grants were available to assist with events during the weekend of the King's Coronation. The PC were informed of plans for events in the Parish on 8th May.

Regular newsletters were received from NALC, Norfolk Constabulary including Operation Randall. District and Parish Council elections will take place on 4th May 2023.

4. Planning

The Laurels, Hardwick

An application to replace the windows, resize one window and replace a damaged beam had been approved by the Parish Council and the decision of the District Council was awaited.

Barn at the rear of Street Farm Barn, Hardwick

An application to alter some of the materials and garage design as well as relocation of the garage had been approved by the Parish Council. The decision of the District Council was awaited.

South Norfolk Village Clusters

The Parish had been included in a group with adjoining local Parishes. Only a site in Hempnall had been put forward for consideration for planning approval. There were no suggested sites in the Parish.

5. Accounts

The current balance was £2,103.40.

The PC considered whether any donations should be made. It was proposed by Jeremy Alexander, seconded by the Chairman and agreed by the PC that £50 should each be paid to the following organisations:

Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Norfolk Blood Bikes, Macmillan Cancer and Diss CAB.

6. Meeting Suspended for Public Participation

The PC was informed that a catalytic converter had been removed overnight from a car parked in the driveway of a property in Hardwick.

A number of signs had been placed on various verges in the Parish. It was understood that this was to do with County Broadband.

7. Any Other Business

Parish Councillors were reminded of the District and Parish Council elections on 4th May.

8. Date of Next Meeting

This was fixed for 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman
2023

Payments:- Shelton and Hardwick Village Hall- £15
NARS - £50
East Anglian Air Ambulance - £50
Norfolk Blood Bikes - £50
Macmillan Cancer - £50
Diss CAB - £50