

HOVETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2017 at the Jubilee Room, Hoveton Village Hall

Present: Councillor Martin Richmond (Chair of the Meeting)
Councillor Peter Howe
Councillor Alex Howe
Councillor Jilly Gourlay
Councillor Ann Rogers

Officer: Lisa Weller – Clerk

Visitors in Attendance: Councillor Nigel Dixon (District and County Councillor)
One member of the public

1. Introduction

Cllr Richmond welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Christopher Marshall. Cllr Richmond noted that HPC would reconsider the format of the Annual Parish Meeting in the future, as these meetings had not been well attended in recent years.

2. Approval Of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2016 were **AGREED and APPROVED**. The minutes were signed by Cllr Richmond.

3. Chair's Report

Cllr Richmond reported on a busy year for HPC. The Clerk was thanked for all of her work during her first full year in post. This year, HPC welcomed Cllr Ann Rogers to the Council, and welcomed back Cllr Alex Howe after a short absence. HPC became the sole trustee of Hoveton Village Hall in November and Cllr Gourlay was thanked for all of her hard work in overseeing this extra workload. HPC took over Hoveton's grass cutting services from NCC this year and almost tripled the service provided in recent years but at a much lower cost. Unfortunately, the Parish Surgeries held this year were not quite as successful so HPC will need to rethink its approach to these.

HPC's two main priorities moving forward will be to improve communications with the local community, and to recruit new parish councillors to fill the empty seats on the Council. Cllr Richmond and Cllr Marshall recently met up with Wroxham Parish Council's Cllr Barry Fiske and Cllr Malcolm Allsop. It has been agreed these meetings will now take place monthly to

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enable the two councils to discuss local projects, share information, and pick up tips from each other. Wroxham Parish Council would like to learn more about the grass cutting and litter picking arrangements in Hoveton, while HPC will hopefully be able to pick up tips on community engagement and publicity from WPC, as WPC is strong in these areas, and its Parish Surgeries are going well.

Cllr Richmond thanked all members of HPC for their contributions to the community. HPC would also like to thank Mrs Carolyn Williams for her continued hard work in the Granary Staithe garden, and HPC's litter picker James Nash, for his hard work in keeping Hoveton tidy. Thanks were also given to Diane and Robert Harbour, for litter picking near Hoveton and Wroxham station.

4. Hoveton Village Hall Report

Cllr Jilly Gourlay began her report by thanking Mrs Margaret Cannon for all of her help in keeping Hoveton Village Hall up and running. Mrs Cannon takes on a number of tasks for HVH, overseeing room bookings, invoices and caretaking, amongst other things, so huge thanks are due to her. Unfortunately HVH lost its volunteer treasurer and grant applicator this year, but a professional accountant is now looking after the books. There is just over £11,000 in the 'kitty' at the moment. Various repairs and maintenance have been carried out this year, and some new flooring will cost approximately £1,000. The asbestos found under the stage will be removed in June, the first date this could be done.

A small art display is now up in the main hall, with five local artists exhibiting their work. The football club is doing well in their league and are applying for grants to improve their facilities. They hope to turn several small rooms at HVH (including the Jubilee Room) into changing rooms, and they will draw up plans for this and find out the cost involved. Henry Meiklejohn has advised there should be no problem with changing the use of the rooms as the facilities can be used by the community too, when not being used by the football club. The football club will pay for the work but will need HVH's permission. Cllr Gourlay is busy applying for grants for HVH itself, and is due to meet with NCC soon to discuss connecting a business hub to the hall. The management committee would also like to turn the playing field into a park (with benches, flowerbeds, shrubs etc) but will need grant money for this.

The playground area has been smartened up and the Lions Club are planning to bring back the Village Fete on 11th August. Hoveton Bowls Club are running some 'learn to play bowls' sessions. A survey was included in The Bridge recently, asking local people for feedback on what they'd like to see at HVH, but no responses were received. The survey was circulated at Broadland High School however, and over 550 pupils replied, with requests including an all-weather pitch, a skateboard park, and tennis courts. A HVH Facebook page is being set up by the HVH management committee. Hoveton Football Club has sent representatives to the HVH management committee meetings but more committee members are still needed.

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5. Three Rivers Way Report

The first phase of the Three Rivers Way opened in July 2016, and it has proved to be a wonderful facility for the area. NCC placed 'counters' at each end of the cycle path and figures obtained from the counters show that approximately 40 cyclists a day are using the path. The path is being used in the mornings, perhaps for the morning commute to work. There are no figures available from the counters for walkers using the path, but if pedestrians are included in the figures, the number of path users should be around 100 people a day.

Most problems from construction have now been resolved and new rest stops have been installed. The 'dismount' section of the path in Hoveton St John means the path is not as attractive as it could be, but nothing could be done to fix this. The vision for Three Rivers Way is that this path will run all the way to Potter Heigham, and talks are ongoing about extending the path. The enthusiasm to extend the path is there, and an outline design is on the table, but funding must be found first, and it is unclear when/if this will be found.

6. Questions

Cllr Dixon asked if HPC was taking a 'business planning approach' to the year ahead. Cllr Richmond advised there was an outstanding action for the chairman to refresh HPC's five-year business plan, which shows HPC's aims for the next 3 to 5 years.

7. Close

Councillor Richmond thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6.30pm.

Signed 

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Name Martin Richmond