

HOVETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2016 at the Jubilee Room, Hoveton Village Hall

Present: Councillor Martin Richmond (Chair of the Meeting)
Councillor Jilly Gourlay
Councillor Alex Howe
Councillor Peter Howe
Councillor Christopher Marshall
Councillor Kerry Walker

Officer: Lisa Weller – Clerk

Visitors in Attendance: Mr Stewart Bethell, Mouchel (AtoBetter Initiative)
Six members of the public

1. Introduction

Councillor Richmond welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. It was noted that 2015's Annual Parish Meeting had been organised and taken place alongside an event for the community, but due to low attendance figures last year, HPC had decided to hold this year's Annual Parish Meeting alongside the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2015 were **AGREED and APPROVED**. The minutes were signed by Councillor Richmond.

3. Chair's Report

Councillor Richmond reported it had been a very busy year for HPC, with a big turnover of councillors and council staff, yet HPC had made significant progress. The trod on Tunstead Road was completed (with former Councillor Colin Robb's work proving instrumental in this project), is now being well used, and is a welcome addition. Any concerns raised about the quality of the trod's finish have now been addressed.

Parish Council elections were held last year but the election for HPC was uncontested. HPC has co-opted several new councillors since then (Kerry Walker, Paul Keeble, and Karen Lincoln), but there are still vacancies and HPC is actively seeking new parish councillors. Improvements have been made regarding litter and dog waste, with several new bins installed and other bins moved. Stencilling has been added to pathways to try to deter dog fouling. There was also a transition period this year due to the resignation of HPC's long-

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standing clerk/RFO, Mr Clive Gardner, and the later appointment of the new clerk/RFO, Lisa Weller.

Councillor Richmond thanked everyone involved for their contributions over the course of the year. There are many challenges ahead, but HPC's aims for the coming year include a refresh of the five-year business plan, and an improvement in HPC's level of engagement with the community.

4. Three Rivers Way Report

Councillor Peter Howe reported that the Three Rivers Way project is currently on schedule and should be finished by early July 2016, when a launch event will be held. The project is a vision for the future, which aims to encourage a change in thinking over how to get from A to B, and to encourage people to travel using bicycles and scooters, whereas before this might not have been possible. Norfolk County Council is working hard to obtain funding to extend the Three Rivers Way route. In the future, there will hopefully be a nine-mile route from Hoveton to Potter Heigham.

5. AtoBetter Initiative Presentation

Mr Stewart Bethell, Travel Plan Coordinator, was invited to give a presentation about the AtoBetter initiative. Mr Bethell reported that this initiative is currently linked to the Brook Park development, as Persimmon was required to put in place a sustainable travel plan as part of the development, to encourage Brook Park residents to use methods of transport other than cars.

AtoBetter is a developer-funded project, with a team that includes a cycling expert and an office-based team. AtoBetter will be holding more community engagement activities in the future, including led cycle rides and social walks. Their job is to encourage people to think about the way they travel.

The travel plan for Brook Park is five years in duration. AtoBetter's funding can be used for "hard measures" (for example, the construction of a cycle path), but there are not enough funds for this in the Brook Park travel plan. AtoBetter will encourage bus operators to offer residents cheaper travel, however, and they can provide cycle training. They run car clubs (or car shares) on other sites and they are working with Broadland High School to identify the need for a link from the start of the Three Rivers Way path to the back entrance to the school, with a possibility of extending it to Brook Park.

The AtoBetter team can attend events, talk to residents, and provide displays. They offer a Sustainable Travel Information Pack (STIP) for places too small for a full travel plan. They are working with Active Norfolk and the UEA and will soon be in touch with walking groups in the local area.

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6. Questions

A member of the public mentioned the Riverside Park pathway by the Kings Head and said this pathway is difficult to walk on due to its surface, and it seems to be especially difficult for wheelchair users or those with pushchairs. The concerns raised were noted by HPC for future discussion.

A member of the public raised concerns over trees and rubbish, such as tree branches and grass cuttings, littering the footpath between Stalham Road and Church Road (near to the village sign). This has been reported to North Norfolk District Council, but the footpath has not yet been cleared. It was **AGREED and RESOLVED** that HPC would report this problem to Norfolk County Council's Highways team as part of a discussion due to take place at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

A member of the public reported problems with flooding on the new pedestrian crossing by Waveney Drive, but was advised HPC is aware of this problem, and Norfolk County Council is due to take remedial action.

7. Close

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

Signed



Date

21 May 2017

Name

M. Richmond