



DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Hoveton Parish Council

Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 6:30pm

Chairman: Cllr Peter Howe

Clerk: Miss Lolly Dawson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: 8 plus County & District Councillor Dixon & District Councillor Mancini-Boyle

1. The Chairman welcomed all present at the meeting and there were no apologies for absence.
2. The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 20th May 2019 were APPROVED as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman in due course.
3. Chairman's Report – Peter Howe
A year like no other year. The global pandemic has over-ridden most 'normal' activities throughout the last year but the Parish Council has been able to continue its usual functions thanks to the opportunity to meet using virtual conferencing facilities and to the dedication of our small band of councillors. At the start of the first lockdown in March last year we joined with Wroxham Parish Council on the Operation Good Neighbour scheme to provide support for vulnerable residents and appropriate financial support was also received through North Norfolk District Council to support the Council's responsibilities.

There had been 5 vacancies for councillors at the start of the year and as a result of the resignation of our chairman, Martin Richmond, in December this increased to 6. I would like to take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to Martin for all the dedication and hard work he devoted to his role as Chairman of the Parish Council over the last 10 years. His knowledge and experience was very valuable. He prepared the Council's draft Village Plan, guided us through the purchase of Granary Staithe from NCC and spent a lot of time dealing with the many administrative matters that arose during his term. I will miss his wise council.

We were also faced with the challenge of recruiting a new Clerk because of the resignation in December 2020 of Lisa Weller, our clerk for the last 5 years. Lisa had made a very significant impact on the running of the Council and also to all the vital policies and procedures that are essential for the smooth running of business. She will be missed but we were extremely fortunate to be able to quickly recruit a replacement clerk to ensure that business could continue without interruption. Lolly Dawson joined us in February and soon got to grips with her new role. Fortunately, since the start of 2021 we have been able to co-opt 3 new councillors so that we are now only 3 councillors short of the 12 we should have.

Turning to specific responsibilities, throughout the year we have commented on all planning applications that affect Hoveton from North Norfolk District Council and the Broads Authority. The volume of applications has diminished during the pandemic but a total of around 23 have been dealt with. We have also continued to work with Nigel Dixon, our local County and District Council member, to engage with appropriate personnel at Persimmon Homes in order to seek rectification for the many outstanding items that continue to prevent the estate from being adopted by NNDC. Determination by NNDC of the outstanding planning application for the Brook Park Phase 2 development was seriously delayed because of the pandemic but the application was finally refused in March 2021, much to the relief of all.

The issues of rainwater and river flooding have continued to present serious problems to residents both in the Grange Close estate and around Brimbelow Road and Meadow Drive, where surface water flooding from the new Churchfield development became an issue. The Council has supported Nigel Dixon in his negotiations with Anglian Water to resolve these serious problems. We are optimistic that progress is being made.

The condition of the main public park along the riverside has continued to deteriorate, especially as a result of the high river levels and consequential flooding. We have been working with the Broads Authority to plan a major project to completely refresh the Riverside Park by raising the levels and providing enhanced facilities for visitors. A new maintenance regime has also been designed to manage the area of Pocket Park by dealing with all the weed and shrub growth.

In 2019, the Council took over responsibility for maintenance of all the flower beds around the parish from NNDC and a small, dedicated band of volunteers has replanted all the beds to enhance the general appearance. Another area where we have maintained our responsibilities is for the grass cutting around the village.

Traffic monitoring. The SAM2 flashing speed control sign has been put to good use thanks to the work of two dedicated volunteers. The unit is moved around to various locations, particularly along Stalham Road, and continues to record high numbers of vehicles exceeding the speed limits in all locations. The figures are made available to our local police community liaison officer.

Allotments. There are no allotments within Hoveton parish and, in recent years, there have been a few requests from residents asking for allotments. Horning Parish Council contacted us in 2020 offering the opportunity of Hoveton residents to rent allotment space in the Horning plots. Following negotiations, 18 residents have signed up to rent allotments in Horning.

Hoveton Village Hall. Management of the Hall is entrusted to a sub-committee of the Hoveton Village Hall and Recreation Ground charity. This report does not cover in detail any report of the activities of the sub-committee and the Charity but it is appropriate to mention the time and effort that a number of our councillors have put in as members of the sub-committee. At the start of the pandemic the old Bowls Club buildings were set up as a community pantry and fridge and when all hiring of the Hall had to stop at the first lock-down, as a result of careful negotiation, the Hall has been let to the NHS as a vaccine centre, ensuring continued income for the Hall. New play equipment has been introduced and a Community Café established. With the recommencement of car boot sales in 2021 a lively future for the Hall is ensured.

Overall and for a number of reasons, 2020 has been a very challenging year but, with our small and dedicated band of councillors things have been in good hands. I would like to express my sincere thanks to them all. Being a parish councillor demands a lot of time and energy but this is all worthwhile when we see the results of our work around the village.

- 4. The County and District Councillors addressed those present with regard to their on-going contribution to planning, highways & flooding within the village.
- 5. Police Representative – Not present.
- 6. One member of the public addressed the meeting and thanked the Council for its hard work over the last year.

The meeting closed at 18:40.

Signed.....

Date.....

Name.....

Lolly Dawson, Parish Clerk & RFO
Tel: 07572 349600
Email: clerk@hoveton-pc.org.uk

