

HOVETON PARISH COUNCIL – Article for The Bridge

NEXT MEETING: Monday 4th October at 7pm. We would like to thank Ruth Knight at Broads Tours for kindly allowing HPC to use the meeting room above the Leopard Boutique on Church Road for our September meeting, and also for the use of the room once again on 4th October.

Hoveton Village Sign

The Leaning Sign of Hoveton has created a bit of a stir but unfortunately it has had to finally be taken down due to the risk it posed of completely toppling over. Thanks must go to Ben, our new clerk, in ensuring that the necessary work was done quickly and safely on 30th August, with the assistance of his family and 3 councillors. The reason for the precarious tilt soon became obvious as the sign was gently separated from its base and the rotting wood came into view.

It is clear from all those (and there were many) who responded to our clerk's FB posting that they would like the sign to be refurbished and replaced, and at the PC meeting on Monday 6th September this is precisely what was agreed. The sign will need professional attention, not a 'make do and mend' approach which seems to have previously been the case. Councillors will do their level best to ensure the sign is returned in its original state but it will take a bit of time to ensure that the right care and attention will be given to its renovation. We would also like to ensure that the original weather vane, which mysteriously disappeared some years ago after some road works necessitated the moving of the sign, is replaced by one which represents the design of the original.

Thank you to Nick Walmsley for attending our 6th September meeting and for the research he has done, and is still doing, on this matter. In the light of his specific interests and knowledge, HPC has asked Nick to be the Council's Historic Advisor.

Just to reiterate our request in the September Bridge that if any residents have photos of the village sign in its original condition (with the weathervane on top) please contact the clerk. (clerk@hoveton-pc.org.uk).

SAM 2 Data from 05/08/2021 till 03/09/2021

For this period the unit was mounted adjacent to the Bewilderwood turning, pointed towards traffic approaching Hoveton. It was calibrated to 40mph, as per the official Speed Limit.

85% of vehicles are within the recommended speed limit for that stretch of road but we have had 15% over the limit, 2,136 in excess of 55mph and 8 vehicles travelling in excess of **80mph!**

Average speeds are significantly higher between midnight and 7am, when they are increased to between 50 and 60mph.

Village Benches

An inventory of the benches has now been completed. Two benches on Pocket Park have recently been replaced by The Lions and are their responsibility. Five benches are now required to replace damaged or missing items. One will be paid for by a resident in memory of her late husband; and the Council agreed to purchase four new benches at a cost of around £600 plus the cost of installation. The bench at the corner of Two Saints Close was reported as broken a week or so after the inventory was completed. HPC would therefore be grateful if residents would contact the clerk immediately if they see any damaged/unsafe benches prior to the next inspection.

HPC is very grateful to those members of the Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club who kindly disposed of the damaged benches, and to our clerk who reacted immediately the damaged bench at Two Saints Close was reported to him.

Offshore Transmission Network (for wind farms)

HPC has been contacted by the convener of the Norfolk Parish Movement for an OTN (Offshore Transmission Network). This relates to the Government's ambitious target to double the current generation of green energy from windfarms off the coast of the UK, from 10GW to 20GW by 2025, and 40GW by 2030. There are 5 offshore wind projects being developed which affect Norfolk (although not

necessarily Hoveton directly) though many more are planned. The following link, https://www.wgphoto.co.uk/cable_routes/ will show the parishes currently affected in detail.

HPC agrees that offshore wind energy is important to combat climate change but the proposed multiple ad-hoc radial connections through Norfolk make no sense. HPC has agreed to join the Norfolk Parish Movement's campaign for the design and implementation of an OTN as soon as possible, and for the halting of all radial connections until the OTN is developed. HPC feels that the current idea of how the windfarms connect to the onshore electricity network and that the current system of radial connection is illogical, inefficient and unnecessary.

For sight of the information provided to HPC please contact the clerk who will be happy to forward a copy of the letter he has received on this topic.

SERCO and Improved Collections

It is hoped that Serco's additional waste collection service on Granary Staithe has improved matters. The additional collection takes place at about 8.30pm, and the 12.30 collection moved to 2.30. Please contact Cllr. Alex Howe or the clerk if you have any concerns regarding bins in and around the village. Having a direct contact at Serco and NNDC is proving very beneficial.

One of our councillors recently received a phone call from an irate visitor to the village about the state of Station Road and the cigarette butts that were discarded outside the pub and other areas. As a result HPC would like to share the following:

- Contrary to what many believe, cigarette butts are not harmless. They are made of **cellulose acetate**, a man-made plastic material, and contain hundreds of toxic chemicals which are leached into the environment and are toxic to fresh and salt-water fish;
- An estimated 5.6 trillion cigarettes are smoked each year, out of which two thirds are improperly disposed of. That's [4.5 trillion butts] each year. Since the 1980s, cigarette butts have accounted for **30% to 40%** of all litter found in coastal and urban litter clean-ups.

Hoveton History

It seems that the couple of references to Hoveton's 'history' in HPC's report last month in The Bridge, has aroused some interest and it was suggested at the last meeting that a short paragraph could be devoted to some historic references to Hoveton in the past. If this strikes you as a good idea, and if you have any amusing and interesting historical anecdotes to recall please do email Cllr. Alex Howe (ahowe@hoveton-pc.org.uk) who will be pleased to arrange their inclusion in the report.

To Project or not to Project

At the 6th September meeting, and thanks to Lingwood parish council, HPC's clerk managed to secure a loan of a projector. This allowed him to show some of the paperwork on the screen (blank wall!) so that members of the public were able to view the information currently being discussed. It was thought this was helpful for both councillors and members of the public and there will be discussion at the October meeting about HPC possibly purchasing a projector to aid a better sharing of information. (If any resident has a projector they no longer use then it would certainly assist in the decision making process!)

And to finish on a light hearted note - first mascot for HPC

One of your councillors has a regular date being walked by Muffin, a Tibetan terrier, who lives on Brook Park. Sometimes Muffin accompanies the councillor on parish council business, inspecting pot holes, overgrown vegetation, and suchlike. It was thought a nice idea to formally recognise Muffin's role and to adopt her as HPC's mascot. She is nearly 4 years old and very lively; she enters into each piece of casework with enthusiasm but it does help if the odd treat is sometimes offered. If you see her and her adopted councillor on one of their walks please do stop and say 'hello'.