



# **Minutes of the meeting of Hoveton Parish Council Monday 5th September 2022 at 18:45. Meeting held in the Jubilee Room at Hoveton Village Hall.**

Present: Cllrs, Russell Reeve (Chair), Peter Howe (Vice Chair), Ann Rogers, Barry Edwards, Greg Eade, Chris Marshall, and Gerrard Mancini-Boyle.

In attendance: Ben Bethell (Parish Clerk) and twelve members of the public.

## **1 ATTENDANCE**

Apologies for absence were accepted for Councillor Alex Howe.

The Chair noted that Mr Everitt Barnes (present) had noted an interest in joining the Council and suggested that the co-option would likely be considered in the October meeting.

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest to note.

## **3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the full council meeting held on 8th August 2022 were AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman noted that no further information had yet been received from the Broads Authority regarding works planned for Riverside and Pocket Parks.

The Clerk will pursue the bench on Brook Park.

## **4 PUBLIC FORUM**

4.1 Several members of the public had come to the meeting to represent the Wroxham Hoveton and Belaugh Community Care group. A question was asked about the delayed payment which had been agreed in May. The Chair noted that this would be discussed and resolved in an item on the agenda and suggested that it was concluded as the first item of business after the Public Forum.

A question was asked about the energy crisis, the provision of a warm hub in Hoveton, and the role that the Parish Council might be asked to take. It was suggested that, owing to the costs, funding would be needed from NNDC. The question was asked of District Councillors as to whether there had been consideration given to this. Cllr Dixon gave an overview of the funding available and noted that the criteria for applications may be extended to include a wider range of projects.

Dave Turbfield, who carries out inspections on Granary Staithe, noted that the area is starting to suffer. Various elements will soon need remedial action.

Councillor Nigel Dixon began by commenting that the current energy crisis is a national problem and that it needed to be tackled by National Government.

Norfolk Fire Service is currently in a time of change and there would be more clarity soon. The service has learned lots from the issues over the summer, especially with field fires. A question was raised about response and triage of calls, and it was noted that this is an ongoing challenge given resource and public expectation.

The application for redevelopment of the Waterside Rooms, which it had been hoped would help to tidy the area, is no longer being pursued. A question about compulsory purchase was raised and it was noted that this is rarely an easy option or an effective option.

Councillor Mancini-Boyle showed a suggested tree planting scheme for the village hall field which will be progressed over the coming months.

It was noted that the Greenbuild show is happening in Fakenham.

There will soon be a change to bin collection days and residents will be notified.

Those present were reminded to ensure they were registered to vote and not to lose the right.

## **7 ADMINISTRATION**

7.2 This item was taken out of the normal running order to allow anyone present just for this item to leave afterwards if they wished. It was noted that there had been some confusion over the payment of the donation. The Clerk apologised as some of the issue was owing to an oversight on his part. The Clerk now has all of the detail and it was RESOLVED to make the payment as soon as possible.

## **5 PLANNING**

5.1 BA/2022/0305/HOUSEH - Proposed Single Storey rear extension to house (resubmission to vary external materials and finishes previously approved on application BA/2022/0182/HOUSEH) - 3 Station Cottages , Station Road, Hoveton, Norfolk – This was a straightforward matter and Councillors AGREED there was NO OBJECTION to this application.

5.2 Councillors AGREED that a complaint to North Norfolk District Council should be made about the handling of applications PF/22/0799 & PF/22/0800. The two applications had been delayed and handled poorly. Clerk to action.

5.3 The ongoing problems with the Waterside Rooms, which have been ongoing for many years, continue to cause concern for the Council. It was AGREED that efforts must be made to resolve the issue. Clerk and Cllr Peter Howe to work with the Broads Authority, NNDC Planning, and Cllr Nigel Dixon to explore options and resolve.

## **6 FUTURE PROJECTS**

6.1 The Clerk had prepared a matrix showing the projects already identified. It was noted that additional project ideas will be sought from the public through consultation. Each project has been evaluated based on a few simple criteria including impact on residents, timescales, and the ability to fund the project. A suggestion was made to alter 'impact on residents' to 'benefit to residents', which was agreed.

The Clerk asked that the matrix was considered by Councillors and that elements are challenged if it is felt that improvements could be made.

The Council asked a member of the public who had identified an opportunity for Pocket Park to remain and discuss this confidentially at the end of the meeting. It was AGREED to form a working party to allow further investigation.

## **7 ADMINISTRATION**

7.1 The Clerk's Report was read by the Clerk and NOTED.

7.2 The payment options for funding Wroxham and Belaugh Voluntary Community Care group had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

7.3 The Rotary had offered to plant a 10ft Christmas Tree in the bed at Granary Staithe and the Precinct Traders had agreed to fund it. All AGREED that this should happen and thanks were given to those enabling the project.

7.4 The Clerk read his suggested response to the Fire Service about the recent field fires to the meeting. It was AGREED to send the note.

7.5 A report about flowerbeds from Cllr Alex Howe was NOTED. There is concern about the need for more volunteers and the cost of maintenance. It was AGREED that a job specification should be drafted, and a plea for new help made on social media. It was suggested that a commercial sponsor could be found for the flowerbeds.

7.6 It was noted that Mae the Mammoth would soon leave Granary Staithe and that it would be nice to see her return if someone local were able to bid for, and buy, her.

There are some maintenance issues with timber work on the staithe which should be addressed by the bridge pilot.

In the longer term there is a need to consider renewal of the quay heading owing to the (gradual) movement of the timbers.

The worst section is beneath the footbridge, but this is not HPC land as it belongs to Norfolk County Council.

Fishing on the Staithe remains an area of focus. A challenge about the effectiveness of measures on the Staithe to protect wildlife had been received. The Council AGREED that an appropriate balance was being struck but that the situation would continue to be monitored.

7.7 The willow tree behind the butcher remains a talking point. The tree is on land managed by HPC and despite a significant lean, has always been surveyed as 'safe'. AGREED that the Clerk will continue dialogue with the owner of the adjacent land and try to find a solution.

## **8 FINANCE**

8.1 The Clerk ran through the budget for 2022/23 by way of introduction to the 2023/24 budget. It was noted that there would be challenges in various areas and the following points were made:

- Whilst the loan for Granary Staithe is to finish in March, there will soon be a requirement for significant expense to maintain the quay heading. It is likely that a similar sum should now be allocated each year for this, which means there is no net gain from the loan being paid off.
- The precept will be a challenge owing to inflation. With inflation running in double figures, the Council will need to balance pressures on households with the reality of its expense base increasing.
- It has previously been noted that the parks and Staithe need some tidying and renewal. Budget may be required to allow this to happen.
- The Council briefly discussed finance confidentially at the end of the meeting. It was agreed that the efficiencies need to be improved where possible.

8.2 The Schedule of Payments (below) was AGREED.

## **9 ITEMS FOR THE NEW BRIDGE AND FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

9.1 Various items for The New Bridge were noted including the flowerbeds, future projects, the new bench in Pocket Park, our prospective councillor and the ongoing vacancies, the Waterside Rooms, Granary Staithe, and the Christmas Tree.

Signed.....

Date.....

Name.....

Ben Bethell, Parish Clerk & RFO

Tel: 07572 349600

Email: [clerk@hoveton-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hoveton-pc.org.uk)

## Schedule of Payments

Date	Item	Regular?	Minute book	Value
04/08/2022	1&1 Internet	Regular	2022013	£2.39
11/08/2022	B Bethell - Stationery		2022044	£22.74
11/08/2022	P Howe - Plants		2022044	£196.91
17/08/2022	NPOWER - Electricity	Regular	2022013	£93.58
30/08/2022	Norfolk Pension Fund (JULY)	Regular	2022013	£440.34
31/08/2022	B Bethell Salary	Regular	2022013	£1,268.64
31/08/2022	J Nash Salary	Regular	2022013	£431.00
31/08/2022	HMRC PAYE and NIC	Regular	2022013	£236.64
31/08/2022	Norfolk Pension Fund (AUGUST)	Regular	2022013	£440.34
02/09/2022	Burlingham Paving - Seat slab materials	Clerk authorised		£68.00

### To Note

Garden Guardian June, July, and August	£1,625.88
B Bethell - Mobile phone costs July and August	£27.00
WROXHAM HOVETON BELAUGH COMMUNITY CARE	£100.00

### To Approve

B Bethell - Mileage	£34.20
Chris Phillipo - Grass cutting in the parks	£320.00