



Minutes of the meeting of Hoveton Parish Council Monday 6th February 2023 at 18:45. Meeting held in the Jubilee Room at Hoveton Village Hall.

Present: Clls Peter Howe (Vice Chair – acting Chair), Ann Rogers, Barry Edwards, Greg Eade, Rob Henson, Gerard Mancini-Boyle, and Alex Howe

In attendance: Ben Bethell (Parish Clerk), Cllr Nigel Dixon, and four members of the public.

1 ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from Chris Marshall and Russell Reeve.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the full council meeting held on 9th January 2023 were AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

4.1 Cllr Dixon talked through the basics of the potential County Deal which Norfolk County Council has been discussing. This involves payment to NCC for devolved powers in areas such as education, transport, and highways, totalling £600m over 30 years. The County has signed a 'deal in principle' which, whilst agreeing with the notion, Cllr Dixon does not feel is appropriate. The next steps will be a public consultation, updated Government legislation and full approval from NCC. Cllr Dixon suggested that further exploration of options is needed before agreement on such a deal can be reached.

A question was raised about whether the devolved powers payment would increase in line with inflation and Cllr Dixon said it would not. Also, would any of the devolved powers money filter down to District level – it was suggested it was unlikely. Lastly, a question about the payment being in exchange for increased County responsibilities was answered with confirmation that it would.

Cllr Dixon also noted that there has been an increase in reported rat issues in the village, particularly on Waveney Drive and Stalham Road. The issue may stem from residents leaving excess food for birds which is attracting the wrong audience and asked that consideration was given to bird feeding routines.

A member of the public noted that the rat issue is also prevalent in the village centre, partly owing to bird feeding activities there. It was requested that the sign asking people not to feed the birds should be put back up, particularly as Avian Flu is still an ongoing problem.

4.2 Cllr Mancini-Boyle noted that the planning applications for the village hall have now been approved.

A new Early Intervention Team has been set up to help those threatened with homelessness. This could be through rent arrears, debt, relationship issues, changes of circumstance, or breakdown. The team can be reached on 01263 513811 or via email at early.intervention@north-norfolk.gov.uk

A new battery collection scheme has been started by NNDC. Cllr Mancini-Boyle hoped that it will be extended in time to include other items.

It was noted that new plants have been put in around the village hall grounds.

Lastly, Cllr Mancini-Boyle reminded the meeting that there are new rules at the upcoming elections regarding identification. Photo ID is now required before a vote can be cast.

4.3 No Police Report had been received.

4.4 No additional points were raised by the public.

5 BROOK PARK

5.1 The ongoing issues with the adoption of Brook Park were discussed by the Council. Persimmon has disengaged and NNDC appear not to be chasing them. Cllr Dixon noted that he has written to the planning team asked for clarity and suggesting involvement from the local MP.

The issues centre around drainage and open space. Other issues appear to be reaching conclusion. It was noted that Persimmon has lost its option on Brook Park Phase Two because of the problems.

The Council AGREED that it would support the formation of a residents group. The Council AGREED that it would support an approach to the local MP and would write themselves at the appropriate time. The Council AGREED that it would be firm with NNDC and make their position clear during any discussions on this subject.

Cllr Dixon will refer the outcome of his current enquiries to the Council before any further action is taken.

6 CORONATION

6.1 Cllr Peter Howe updated the meeting on plans for the Coronation. Whilst nothing formal has been agreed, Taverham Band has been approached, as has the Broads Beat Choir. The mini donkeys have also been paid for by the Village Hall.

Wroxham Parish Council has suggested that there is no enthusiasm for involvement with the event. A meeting with all stakeholders including the Rotary and the Lions will take place on Thursday. An update to Councillors will follow.

The event will have costs including the use of the Village Hall (£250), the Band (£500) and a few other things, so may require funding of around £1000 from the Council.

The Council AGREED that this seemed sensible given the need for a positive and cheerful event for the local community.

7 PLANNING

7.1 PF/23/0075 – No objection, but should be noted that this is a retrospective application and needs dealing with as such. The trees already removed should be replaced.

7.2 PF/22/3031 – This application caused some concern owing to the potential loss of garaging/parking space. There were no objections to the rear extension, but the conversion of garage space was not welcomed and it should be noted with the planning team.

7.3 As noted by Cllr Mancini-Boyle, both applications for the Village Hall have now been passed.

8 ADMINISTRATION

8.1 The Clerk's report was NOTED.

8.2 No questions about the Clerk's report were received.

8.3 A Wroxham and Hoveton Alliance meeting was held last week and (as always) provided a useful information exchange. The main topics covered were Hoveton's parks, the Station Road street scene and the issues with traffic.

Wroxham has also had frustration with traffic issues and it was felt that a joint approach to the appropriate authorities may be beneficial. However, such work should be left until after the May elections owing to time pressures on those who need to be involved.

8.4 The gate post on the Staithe has now been fixed and consideration is being given to the long-term use of the land to the north of the fence.

Work in Riverside Park continues with some significant tree works which are opening the area up, but may create flooding/water-logging issues in time.

Pocket Park is progressing but will be a long process. Wroxham Parish Council has noted that a similar exercise with Land Registry has taken them around two years.

9 FINANCE

9.1 The Schedule of Payments (attached) was displayed and AGREED.

9.2 The Council discussed options for the 2022/23 internal audit. It was AGREED that Sonya Blythe should be used this year to give a different perspective on feedback to the Clerk and Council.

9.3 NNDC has made an error in their calculation of the tax base for the 2023/24 precept. The tax base is reducing slightly which means that every household's share of the precept will increase to meet the required amount. In addition to the agreed increase, this error will mean an additional 21p per household for the year. The Council AGREED that the budget needs to be maintained and is aware that this means the increase will be passed on.

10 ITEMS FOR THE NEW BRIDGE AND FOR THE NEXT MEETING

10.1 Items for the New Bridge are to include the issues on Brook Park, the Coronation, and the works at Riverside Park.

Signed.....

Date.....

Name.....

Ben Bethell, Parish Clerk & RFO

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Schedule of Payments

Schedule of Payments

Date	Item	Regular?	Minute Book	Value
05/01/2023	1&1 Internet	Regular	2022013	£5.39
09/01/2023	Millenium Pest Control	Regular	2022013	£144.00
13/01/2023	Hoveton Village Hall - Room Hire		2022069	£25.00
13/12/2022	Apex Signs		2022054	£68.40
19/01/2023	NPower	Regular	2022013	£53.73
31/01/2023	Wages, HMRC and Pension (inc. Redundancy)	Regular	2022013	£4,998.39

To Note Changes to employers pension contributions (reducing)

To Approve

Zoom 2023 - Correction to include VAT £143.88