

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAPPISBURGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WENN EVANS CENTRE ON 11th NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM**

Present:

Cllr Glenn Berry (Chairman), Cllr David Mole, Cllr George Siely, Cllr Thomas Love, Cllr Kirsty Ritchie, Cllr Robert Fleming, Cllr Cubitt Siely, Cllr Clive Stockton

**Jo Beardshaw (Clerk)
16 members of the public**

- 1. To consider apologies for absence.** None were received
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items.** None were received
- 3. To agree the minutes of the meeting of Happisburgh Parish Council held on 9th September and matters arising** (for information only). The minutes were agreed.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, members of the public, PCSOs Esther Dack and Laura Bennett, Nick Baker, Corporate Director of North Norfolk District Council, and Angie Fitch-Tillett, NNDC Portfolio Holder for Coastal issues. In particular, he wished to thank District Councillor Lee Walker and the new County Councillor Eric Seward for attending. He explained that due to work pressures the PCSOs needed to make their report and leave as soon as possible, and so he would take the agenda out of order in order to help the PCSOs

4. Reports

4.1 The Chairman's report.

The Chairman informed the Council that Mary Trett had passed away, and asked that an item be added to the January agenda so that something could be placed in her name within the village. He stated that the ramp was currently passable but that NNDC intended to re-cut it shortly. He noted that there was a road closure in the village from 2nd to 5th December due to overhead power lines and encouraged those present to view the details of the road closure. He also noted that at the previous meeting there had been concern that duvets had been fly-tipped into the bins at the car park. The Chairman had discovered that Jason Langford had found these at the Wenn Evans centre, where they had been fly-tipped, and had placed them in the bins at the car park.

4.2 District and County Councillor reports:

County Councillor Eric Seward had recently been elected and was present at the meeting. He said that he was focusing on three things: 1) the flood issues in the centre of the village, 2) the budget consultation, and 3) the incinerator in Kings Lynn

The Chairman explained that he had spoken to Graeme Taylor again about the meeting in the village. He had said that it was currently in the hands of the legal department. The Chairman had urged Mr Taylor to push this through. Mr C Siely asked if the Council had been informed who NCC felt was responsible for what within the village drainage system. The Chairman said they had not. Mr Fleming explained that if the homeowner hadn't taken out a license 109 then they are responsible for the drain, Anglian Water is responsible for the main drain and the culverts are the responsibility of the land owner. NCC are responsible for the culverts within their land with exceptions where 109 licenses were in place.

District Councillor Lee Walker explained that she had taken out a freedom of information request and discovered that the drains under the roads had been inspected every year for at least five years. Mr C Siely stated that the work on the drains should start immediately to prevent further risk of flooding. Cllr Walker also noted that she was disgusted by the lack of

communication from NCC to NNDC and that many people in the village were being penalised by the 'bedroom tax'. She had come across people who had asked to be moved into smaller houses, had been refused, but had then been charged bedroom tax.

4.3 Police report.

Since the September meeting there had been 3 crime reports from the Happisburgh area: 5th October – a public order offence which is still under investigation. 11th October – common assault with one person arrested. 22nd October – arson (not endangering life) at the allotments. Esther noted that in July the Clerk had contacted her regarding speeding along the North Walsham Road in Happisburgh. This was adopted as one of the policing priorities for 8 weeks up until the 28th October. Speed monitoring was carried out in the area and only one person was found to be speeding excessively and was prosecuted. No other tickets were issued. Esther informed the Council that she holds a police surgery on the 1st Monday of each month at the Beach Road car park at 1pm. Councillors suggested that the PCSO look into some misuse of drugs taking place on the playingfield and some trespassing on the school playingfield. The Chairman thanked Esther and Laura for attending the meeting and taking time out of their busy schedules

4.4 Car Park report.

The Chairman said that he would like to have a discussion at the next meeting regarding donations / fund ideas for any car park profit. Mr Love stated that he would prefer to see a reduced or zero precept. The Chairman said that he felt that the car park profits should be used towards special projects and charities within the village rather than to reduce each household's precept by £20 to £40. The Chairman also noted that he would be investigating boarding the fence from the car park to the beach to prevent weeds growing through and preventing people walking down the pathway.

4.5 Pavilion and Playingfield report.

The Chairman reported that he had met with Mike Trivett prior to the meeting. Mike had asked the Chairman to thank Jan Newall and team for raising £425 towards the Pavilion and Playingfield from two fundraising events.

4.6 Allotments report

Mr G Siely noted that there were two vacant allotments, one of which he had managed to re-let immediately. One tenant had been asked to leave, and had also left the village. He had unfortunately left his allotment with some rubbish on it, and a skip was required to remove the rubbish. Mr Love kindly agreed to supply a trailer rather than the Parish Council have to pay for a skip. A cheque had been raised though, and could be used if Mr Love could not take the rubbish himself

4.7 Wenn Evans Centre report

Mr Mole informed the Council that the window had been fixed, but that there were still some tiles missing from the roof where the cricket ball had hit the Wenn Evans Centre. The Council agreed that they should ask the Cricket Club to refund the money

4.8 Playspace and beach cleaning report (by Rosemary Munday)

- Cllr Love has very kindly prepared and seeded the Play Space area and we would like to express our thanks for his help and support.
- Land Registry confirmation – if this has not been received by the Parish Council Rosemary will chase.
- The order for the fencing has been placed and a deposit paid. The fencing will be delivered at the end of November / beginning of December. Cllr Cubitt Siely has kindly agreed to allow the fencing to be stored in one of his barns so that the contractors can remove what they need daily, which avoids the fencing being left exposed on site.

- Cllr Love has offered to help dismantle a section of the post and rail fencing once we know when the new fence will be erected. Cllr Love has also offered to store the dismantled materials for re-use when repairs are required to the remaining fencing.
 - The 'Licence of Alteration' from NNDC has been signed and returned. Once signed by NNDC a copy will be returned to the Parish Council to be kept with the car park lease agreement.
 - Funds have been further increased with a donation of £100 from the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society, although a new cheque is currently being raised as the original one was payable to the Play Space instead of the Parish Council.
 - The next round of applications for grant funding towards the play equipment itself will begin shortly. If anyone has any ideas for sources of funding please let us know.
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- Russell Tanner from NNDC will give Rosemary as much notice as possible of when they are coming to recut the bottom of the ramp, which will mean that an organised beach clean can be arranged again to coincide with the dumper truck being available for clearance of the heavier metal items.
 - Rosemary reported to NNDC on 1st November that one of the galvanised barriers and a piece of Heras fencing, at the end of the road where the old lifeboat station was, are now partially suspended over the edge of the cliff and that it would probably be easier to remove these in situ before they disappear onto the beach endangering anyone below.
 - Rob Goodliffe advised that this is the responsibility of County Highways and that NNDC had reported it previously. Rob confirmed he would send another reminder.
 - A request for the newly elected County Councillor to follow this one up as we have already had to remove 5 Hera fencing panels from the beach and it becomes a difficult task when they are partially covered in sand!

4.9 Link Governor report (Happisburgh Primary School)

Mr Fleming noted that the Acting Head was in place, as were new staff members and that the school was running smoothly. There had been some issues with clubs, which was being resolved and the application for the new classroom would soon be registered

5. Adjourn the meeting for public session / comments on planning applications and any other matters

Denise Burke said that she agreed with the Chairman's philosophy regarding the precept and the use of car park funds. She agreed that she would like to see car park funds used for good within the community rather than reduce or cancel the precept, which is only a matter of £20 to £40 per household per year.

6. Agenda items

- 6.1. Precept confirmation. The Parish Council voted to keep the precept the same, at £7,00
- 6.2. Oil Syndicate. David Shicluna agreed that his details should be published in the Newsletter so that if people within the village wished to join the existing syndicate they could do so
- 6.3. NNDC Director, Nick Baker, and District Councillor Angie Fitch-Tillett (Portfolio Holder for Coastal Issues, Health and Wellbeing) attended the meeting. Mrs Fitch-Tillett thanked the Council for their invitation to the meeting and informed them of her own background. She explained her current priorities as 1) jobs and the economy, 2) housing, 3) the coast. She detailed the joint responsibilities of the Environment Agency and NNDC and explained that her focus with regard to the coast is a 'whole coast approach'. Mrs Fitch-Tillett went on to inform the Council that the purpose of their visit was to try to engage with the Parish Council and with villagers in the name of Localism. She outlined the purpose of the 'Big Society' fund, noting that there was around £1.5million per year from council tax on second homes which is set aside for the fund. She urged the village to apply for funding if they had any suitable projects. Mr Baker then explained that his role was as an officer within the Council and that he had no

political role. He noted that NNDC has a net budget of around £12.5million per year and because of government cuts the discretionary services are under immense pressure. In particular those services such as leisure centres. He noted that North Norfolk has one of the oldest populations in England, with the most amount of people over 75 in the country. Mrs Fitch-Tillett noted that she felt that the coast was the most important thing in North Norfolk. She said that she also believed that renewable energy is very important. She explained that she sits on the Bacton Gas liaison committee. Last year the country was down to 20 days of gas. She said that she felt that renewable energy must be the way forward and that wind farms stimulate jobs, career prospects, income etc. Mrs Fitch-Tillett and Mr Baker encouraged members of the Council and the public to ask questions. Mr Love stated that he believed that people within the village and throughout the area were experiencing difficulty in expanding their businesses because of planning problems. He said that he felt that many people believed that too much consideration is sometimes given to retired people rather than business and enterprise, without enough focus on giving young people something to do. He suggested to Mr Baker and Mrs Fitch-Tillett that they re-evaluate the planning philosophies at North Norfolk. Mrs Fitch-Tillett said that if anyone ever felt that a planning decision was impacting on business expansion they should speak to the Councillor responsible for economy: Cllr Russell Wright. With regard to the Shoreline Management Plan, Mrs Fitch-Tillett agreed that it was incorrect. She explained that it was pushed through before a general election and that it couldn't be revisited for another 2 to 5 years. But she also explained that the SMP did give permission to undertake a sediment study. Therefore a study on Cromer to Winterton had been undertaken. Whilst the study has not yet been completed, Mrs Fitch-Tillett did anticipate that the study would show that the conclusions from the SMP were incorrect. There was a discussion regarding housing, development and affordable housing. The Chairman noted that David Williams would be attending the January meeting to discuss this further. Mr Burke spoke to Mrs Fitch-Tillett and stated that he felt that the removal of the revetments had made the erosion worse. He said that a dog had recently fallen over the cliff and questioned if and when this could be a more serious incident. He felt that it is critical to have an access to the western part of the beach and asked Mrs Fitch-Tillett when she felt this could be achieved. Mrs Fitch-Tillett explained that because of the dramatic erosion she felt that this might not happen until the erosion slows or stops. Mr Kirby explained that it was not legal to make changes to the foot of the cliffs in front of the caravan park because it falls under the auspices of Natural England. Mr Kirby urged Mrs Fitch-Tillett to please ensure that the rocks can be moved as soon as possible to defend the cliff. Mrs Fitch-Tillett explained that NNDC were trying to find the finance to do that and were also trying to co-ordinate with Mrs Munday regarding undertaking another beach clean at the same time. Mrs Nierop-Reading stated that the ramp should be at right angles to the sea to prevent it constantly needing to be re-cut. It was agreed that something permanent was required at the end of Beach Road to prevent people endangering themselves. The Chairman asked Eric Seward, the new County Councillor to work on this. Mr Lomax stated that he felt that sea defence would never happen and that the SMP should be looked at as the means to manage and plan for the retreat rather than worrying that the sea defences were not in place. Mrs Fitch-Tillett explained that funding for sea defences was simply not viable. She herself was extremely keen that peacemeal defences are avoided as 'water always finds a way'. Mr Stockton said that the SMP had meant that NNDC must carry out a technical study, which is currently underway. He said that he felt that the bay at Beach Road would stabilise, and that he agreed with Mr Lomax that the village and NNDC must plan for the future. Mrs Fitch-Tillett emphasised the importance of a 'whole coast approach'. Mr Love stated that he felt strongly that if the village flooding and the pond at Pond Cottage could be sorted out then the erosion would slow. There was general agreement to this statement.

- 6.4. PCSO Esther Dack. To discuss policing within the village. This had been covered in 4.3 Police report
- 6.5. School Planning application: eco-classroom. Although the Council had expected this planning application to be with them, it was not, and so the item was not discussed

7. Financial Matters

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

- 7.1. PC Account. Chq no 554. NGF. Play space fencing. £5,579.09
- 7.2. PC Account. Chq no 555. Rosemary Munday. Reimbursement for grass seed. £93.50
- 7.3. PC Account. Chq no 556. Clerk salary and expenses. £445.75
- 7.4. PC Account. Chq no 557. Carl Bird. £204 inc £34 VAT. This cheque was authorised if required, but Mr Love hoped that he would be able to supply a trailer (see 4.6 above)
- 7.5. CP Account. Chq no 29. Jason Langford November salary. £450
- 7.6. CP Account. Chq no 30. Jason Langford December salary. £465

8. Planning applications

- 8.1. PF/13/1191. NNDC. Boundary Stables, Grub Street. Removal of conditions to permit permanent residential occupation. No objections

9. Planning decisions noted

- 9.1. PF/13/0806. NNDC. Landa, Short Lane. Conversion of detached garage to habitable accommodation. Permitted. Noted

10. Items for the Parish News

- 10.1. Oil Club. Organised by David Shicluna
- 10.2. Donation bid requests

11. Correspondence and Circulars for information and action

- 11.1.NCC. 'Norfolk Putting People First' consultation open. Noted
- 11.2.NNDC response to the Marine Management Plan. Available for Councillors to read. Mr Stockton noted that this was an extremely important document, and urged Councillors to read it, although it is written in relatively complex and technical language

12. Any other business

None

13. Date of next meeting – Thursday 14th November, Extraordinary meeting to discuss planning application PF/13/1220 (caravan park). January 13th January 2014

The meeting closed at 9.55pm