

# HALES AND HECKINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held in Hales Village Hall on  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 at 7 pm

**Present** Cllr S Beckett (SB)  
Cllr P. Grimes (PG)  
Cllr J. Herring (JH) - Chair  
Cllr A. Mason (AM) - Vice Chair  
Cllr A. Woodman (AW)

**Other attendees** County Councillor M Stone, Mr S. Matthews, Mr J. Fiennes,  
Mr I. Green, Mrs V. Green, Ms B. Jenkins

The meeting agenda included a request that any attendees who wished to record the meeting should make this known to the Council; there was no such notification.

Ref	Detail	Action
1	<b>Welcome</b> Cllr J Herring welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the meeting.	
2	<b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies from parish councillors.	
3	<b>Approve minutes</b> The previous Annual Parish Meeting was held on 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2017. The minutes of that meeting were proposed as being a true record by Cllr Grimes, seconded by Cllr Mason. They were duly signed by the Chair.	
4	<b>Chairman's annual report</b> Cllr J Herring summarised the year's activities:-  The Parish Council has been heavily involved in two main activities throughout this year and I think we have achieved more in the last twelve months than any previous council. When both projects have finished facilities in the parish will be much improved. Of course, I'm referring to the new roundabout and the installation of new play equipment. The new roundabout will not only improve access to and from the village, help address speeding but also provide access to a better bus service. I have been impressed with the way Norfolk County Council have worked and communicated with us and also with our County Councillor and I thank Cllr. Margaret Stone for her help. The playground project will complete in the next few weeks when the equipment is installed and will serve a range of residents from adults to toddlers. The whole area will be revamped and I hope will be well used, although I do worry about vandalism which seems to be creeping into the village. We have spent in the region of £40k with the majority of the money coming from our Section 106 and CIL funds. We are seeing this as phase one of developing the area.	

	<p>Future phases will need external funding but will only go ahead if public demand can be demonstrated.</p> <p>We have installed a defibrillator at the Masala Gardens and training for that has taken place. The composting scheme goes from strength to strength mainly due to the dedication and work put in by our Master Composter, Alan. Seems to be making loads of money despite the recent break-in.</p> <p>As usual all planning applications have been reviewed by the council and relevant comments passed on to the District Council. There are no shortages of things for the council to take-on. One for the future may be support for our two historic churches. This year the carol service couldn't be held at St Gregory's for safety reasons and St Margaret's is in a similar state of disrepair. Although the parish council pays to keep the surroundings of the churches neat and tidy it doesn't have the resources to do more and indeed the responsibility sits with the Church Conservation Trust. I suspect they don't have enough money to go round so perhaps a little pressure is required.</p> <p>We have been running without a paid Clerk for a while now and although it saves us money (which we can spend on the parish) we have only been able to function by sharing the load. Whilst I front the role, thanks should go to Cllr. Mason as RFO, Cllr Woodman for minutes and actions and Cllrs. Grimes and Beckett for fronting various issues.</p> <p>I would also like to thank our County Councillor, Margaret Stone and also our District Councillor, Kay Mason-Billig for their support over this last year.</p> <p>I've moved away from Hales so no longer eligible to stand for the parish council next year, and although I would have liked to stand as chair for my last year, the external auditor has advised that the roles of chair and clerk should not be shared – so this is my last report.</p>	
5	<p><b>Responsible Finance Officer's annual report</b></p> <p>Cllr Mason summarised the Council's end of year finances as follows:-</p> <p>HHPC Responsible Financial Officer's report to Annual Parish Meeting 2nd May 2018</p> <p>The Council's finances remain in good shape following a year of activity.</p> <p>Continuing to operate without a Clerk has allowed us to add to our funds in the year in anticipation that there would be a substantial expense with the playing field refurbishment. In fact this will be settled in the 2018/19 year.</p> <p>A review of our budget shows underspends amounting to £4585 whereas budgeted expenditure was exceeded only in audit fee</p>	

	<p>costs £45.00, Stationery, £24.00 and Bank charges, £12.00, a total of £81.00</p> <p>Unanticipated expenditure was the defibrillator for the Village and this has been installed. Unanticipated funds received were £1305.00 being a refund of our contribution to the Village gates now being paid for in full by NCC and also £1000 from District Cllr K Billig's allowances towards the defibrillator.</p> <p>Balances on the bank account as at 31/03/2018 were Current account £7985.81, Deposit account £27072.61</p> <p>We continue to hold CIL funds of £2896.63 and these are earmarked for the playing field expenditure along with the S106 funds held by SNDC amounting to £21837.19</p> <p>Council was able to indent for a precept at the same level as 2017/18.</p>	
6	<p><b>County and District Councillors' annual report</b></p> <p><u>County Council update</u></p> <p><b>Broadband</b> –Broadband speeds have been transformed for many people in the county, including in some of our most rural areas. We're on course to increase superfast broadband access in Norfolk to 95 per cent by March 2020 but we need to do more to reach the final five per cent. So we're looking to invest an additional £13m into the programme to extend superfast broadband coverage and get us much closer to our goal of eliminating broadband inequality in the county.</p> <p><b>Mobile coverage</b> – our new Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee is leaving no stone unturned in the drive to improve the county's mobile coverage (with a target of 98%) – working with the big four mobile providers and identifying opportunities to work together to improve the quality and reach of mobile data and voice coverage in Norfolk. In February we kicked off a campaign to improve coverage, with our survey van scouring the county to identify areas of greatest need. We are also using our county council-owned buildings to help overcome 'not spots', by putting mast on top of them to improve phone signals.</p> <p><b>A47</b> – we continue to actively work with the A47 Alliance, bringing together key stakeholders from Lowestoft to Peterborough to lobby for improvements to this important trunk road. Throughout 2017 we worked with Highways England (HE) to develop proposals for sections of dualling and junction improvements to deliver the already funded projects (over £300m) as soon as possible. In Norfolk, this has seen the preferred scheme solutions announced by HE for dual carriageways between Easton and North Tuddenham, and from Blofield to Burlingham. It has also resulted</p>	

in proposed junction improvement details being published for the A47/A11 Thickthorn junction, as well as the Vauxhall junction in Great Yarmouth. The County Council is currently delivering improvements to the rail station junction in Great Yarmouth, using funding provided by HE, which has also confirmed its commitment to complete the construction of all these projects between 2020 and 2023.

We are also actively engaging – with the A47 Alliance – in securing the next round of funding for further trunk road improvements due to be delivered between 2020 and 2025. Our two priorities in Norfolk remain unchanged: to see dualling of the Acle Straight and the Tilney to East Winch sections. This all builds towards the ultimate aim of seeing the A47 being a dual carriageway from Great Yarmouth through to Peterborough and the A1.

**The NDR** – construction of the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR – the A1270) made good progress over the summer of 2017, allowing the opening of the first 6 km, from the A1270 Fakenham Road to the A140 Cromer Road, to open in November, more than three months ahead of schedule. This was followed by the next 7.75km to the A1151 Wroxham Road before Christmas. The final phase, 5.25km from the A1151 Wroxham Road to the connecting roundabout on the Postwick Hub, is on course to open to traffic on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**Norwich Western Link** – we have continued to develop the initial business case appraisal for a Norwich Western Link – to join the NDR to the Norwich southern bypass. The work undertaken during 2017 (and reported to Committee in October) included modelling to provide an indicative assessment of a possible dual or single carriageway solution. This work was based on an assumed alignment (which should not be taken to be a preferred solution). The economic appraisal provided a high value for money (vfm) rating (using Department for Transport guidance). The next steps include further scheme development, technical and environmental work and consultation to be completed throughout 2018.

**Long Stratton bypass** – getting a bypass built around Long Stratton is one of the County Council's top infrastructure priorities for Norfolk, and something we have long been pressing for. There was good news in February, as developers submitted a planning application to South Norfolk Council which included plans for a bypass. There's a long way to go before any decisions are reached but this is an important step in the right direction, and the planning consultation is a great opportunity for people to have their say in this important matter.

**Hales roundabout** – in January, work started on £1.63m roundabout to replace Norfolk's most dangerous main road junction on the A146 at Hales junction, which currently has the worst accident record for a main road in Norfolk.

**And more roundabouts** – we've also had £3m from the Government for a new Hempnall roundabout which at the time of publication is out for public consultation.

**Market towns** – our Environment, Development and Transport Committee agreed in September 2017 to carry out a series of

	<p>studies looking at short-, medium- and long-term transport impacts of growth in market towns – to help us identify and plan interventions ahead of growth. The first year’s studies, in Dereham, Thetford, North Walsham, Swaffham and Diss, are already under way, in close cooperation with local stakeholders, including town and district councils.</p> <p><b>LEADER project reaches funding milestone</b> – funding allocated to rural businesses in Norfolk and north Suffolk through the LEADER programme, an initiative managed by the county council, passed the £3m mark in December. Since Norfolk and north Suffolk’s LEADER programme started, the five Local Action Groups (LAGs) have awarded millions to 69 rural projects, including:</p> <p><b>Repton Property Developments</b> – Norfolk is growing and we need enough houses for people to live in. Gathering information about the types of housing required will help us support economic regeneration and has the potential for us to make money from our own properties. With this in mind, we have set up our own company, Repton Property Developments Ltd, to do this work. We’re scrutinising our own property estate as, if we offer several services from fewer buildings, we can sell surplus property and reduce running costs. And having several services in one place also offers a better service to the public.</p> <p><b>Fire and Rescue</b> – councillors from our Communities Committee voted unanimously in January that the Fire and Rescue Service should continue to be governed by the county council. In 2016/17 (latest stats available), our Fire and Rescue Service attended 7,340 incidents and rescued over 700 people.</p> <p><b>And finally... recycling Norfolk’s disused railways</b> As part of our vision for a cycling and walking network for the county, a feasibility study is looking at bringing disused railways and other underused parts of the transport network back into use as cycling and walking routes which would help make the county a top walking</p>	
7	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>There was none.</p> <p>There being no other matters to raise or discuss the meeting closed at 7:20pm</p>	

Signed : .....

(Chair / Vice Chair)

Date : 2019