

The minutes of the meeting of Hales and Heckingham Parish Council held on Wednesday, 12th January, 2015 at 7.30pm in Hales Village Hall.

Present

Cllr. M. Epps
Cllr. Mrs. H. Hellendoorn
Cllr. Mrs. B. Herring
Cllr. J. Herring (Chairman)
Cllr. A Mason
Cllr. A. McDonald

4 members of the public

In Attendance Mrs Jane Hale, Clerk to the Council

91. Welcome by the Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Herring welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

92. To receive apologies for absence from Council members unable to attend.

No apologies were received.

93. To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday, 12th November, 2014.

Having been circulated, the minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 12th November, 2014 they were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

94. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Cllr Mason declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the request for a grant from Norwich South Rotary Club.

95. To receive the resignation of Russell Wilkins and agree a course of action.

The Clerk confirmed to members that she and the Chairman had received Cllr Wilkins resignation as he has now moved from Hales.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to Russell thanking him both for his time as a Councillor and also as Chairman of the Council.

96. To receive and comment if appropriate on planning applications and correspondence and received and note comments registered.

Hales Cricket Club – notification of withdrawal of their current application.

NCC – an application has just been received relating to the excavation of gravel from the Hales site. It was agreed the link to the application would be circulated and a look at the site and its impact on Hales would try and be arranged.

97. To adjourn the meeting to receive for information any issues raised by members of the public.

It was agreed that the meeting would be adjourned to hear from members of the public.

Andy Baker from Hales Cricket Club advised the Council that a new application would be submitted but that close liaison with the Council will take place. A resident expressed concern about traffic and the junction with Green Road and the A146. The application will come before Council for comment in the usual manner.

A small representation had attended the meeting to express their concern about the proposed wind turbines in Gillingham. 2 turbines are proposed which will be 34m high, have a blade span of 24m. They will each produce up to 60kw. David Mascaraneous (? Spelling) spoke on behalf of the residents and outlined his 6 legal objections to the scheme 1) impact on the environment, 2) Materials design, 3) Affect on Listed buildings, 4) Safety, 5) Setting a precedent for more of the same 6) Affect on residential amenity.

There are many other reasons for objection but these will form the basis of some of the objections. An Environmental Impact Statement has been requested and is awaited.

There has been strong concern that the application was put in over the Christmas period, nearby residents received letters on the 19th December, dated 11th December, advising them they had until the 1st January to comment and site notices were put up on the 24th December advising public there was a 3 week consultation period.

Another member of the public advised that there was fly tipping taking place on the Old Beccles Road, quite a lot of metal work had been dumped. Clerk will advised SNC.

98. To reconvene the meeting and discuss any issues raised during the public session – for information only.

It was agreed the Council meeting would reconvene.

The Council felt that until it had had sight of the application (2014/2435) relating to the proposed wind turbines the Council could not object but that deep concern was expressed at the consultation. It was agreed a letter would be sent to South Norfolk Council raising concerns about the lack of transparency and the poor consultation on the wind turbines which would always be contentious. The Council also agreed to discuss this application when it met in the next two weeks or so to look at the NCC application.

99. To discuss the future of the Village Hall and the possible role the Parish Council may take in this

The Charity Commission have spoken with Cllr Hellendoorn and suggested she speak with ACRE (Norfolk RCC) regarding the possible handing over of the village hall to the Parish Council. Prior to the Council discussing this, further information on the condition of the village hall, how much it might cost to make good etc will all have to be established prior to the Council making its decision. It was agreed, the Village Hall WP will take this forward and gather information and quotations to assist the Council in its decision making.

100. To discuss and consider the relocation of the War Memorial in Hales

Cllr B Herring has contacted the War Memorials Trust who would be willing to help if moving the war memorial meets their criteria, there is a need, namely if the war memorial is at risk or if there is an issue with allowing those who wish to attend at the war memorial for a remembrance service. There are other criteria including community consultation and it was agreed that Cllr B Herring would take this forward; she would contact the War Memorial Trust and ascertain what would need to be done and, if necessary undertake community consultation as required.

101. To discuss and consider the request for a grant from Norwich South Rotary Club regarding support for installation of fire alarms for vulnerable and elderly people

South Norwich Rotary is looking to take up where NCC has left off. An £80,000 fund from NCC to purchase and install fire alarms is to end at the end of March 2015 and South Norwich Rotary would like to see this initiative continue.

There was some concern that the fund being created by Rotary was a Norfolk wide fund and that there may not be anyone in Hales or Heckingham that would require an alarm as an initiative like this had been undertaken in Hales and Heckingham a few years ago and there was little take up.

Following discussion it was proposed and agreed that the Council would not contribute at this time.

102. To review, discuss and set the annual precept for Hales & Heckingham PC for the Council year 2015-2016

The Budget Working Party reported to the Council and full budget papers had been circulated to all members. The Council approved the recommendation of the Budget Working Party that the precept request to South Norfolk Council would be £7,693.00, the same figure as for 2014-15. This would bring about a reduction in the Band D charge level due to an increase in the number of council tax paying properties in Hales & Heckingham.

103. To receive reports from the Council's Working Parties and confirm any actions:

Village Hall and Community Working Party

Cllr Helendoorn has been in contact with the Charity Commission, they cannot give advice as to how to proceed. Following general discussion it was agreed that costs for the necessary works on the village hall needed to be obtained so that a report to Council showing the amount of money required to be spent on the village hall to bring it up to a decent useable standard could be written. Until the Council have that information nothing further could proceed. It was agreed that the Village Hall & Community Working Party put such a report together.

Fund raising activities to be undertaken by the Working Party include a Coffee Morning on the 14th February and a Lent Lunch on the 6th March – the insurers would be advised.

Hales Playing Field

Nothing to report at this time.

Bus Service & Transport

Cllr Mason has been trying to speak with Helen Martin. Some emails have been exchanged but there is deep frustration at the time NCC personnel are taking to deal with anything. Cllr Mason will again contact County Council Somerville to see if she can add some weight to the pressure to try and get something done.

Composting Scheme

250 saplings have been planted. A shredder & tools are to be bought and volunteers are being sought. A newsletter will be going round in Contact advertising the scheme and inviting parishioners who might be interested in utilising/volunteering for the scheme to attend a publicity meeting on the 21st February, 2015 in the village hall.

104. To review the Action List and update as appropriate

- 39 – awaiting a response
- 41 – awaiting a response from EA
- 51 – JH
- 53 –
- 54 – Chase for information on NCC funding
- 57 – Complete
- 61 – Complete
- 64 – add 'wild' goose
- 69 – remove
- 70 – Complete
- 71 – complete
- 73 – Chase Rospa
- 82 – Complete
- 83 – Complete
- 84 – do
- 85 – do
- 88 – Complete
- 89 – Complete

105. To receive and comment on correspondence received as listed

Thank you letter from Christina Jones for her payment from Heckingham Charity.

NCC – NHS Health checks campaign – poster for parish noticeboard.

Notification of the withdrawal of the cricket club planning application.

An offer of free face-to-face business support from New Anglia Growth Hub for Norfolk and Suffolk – passed to Cllr Mrs Herring.

NCC – Public Health campaign re 'Dry January' – poster for noticeboard.

Rural Housing Alliance – re affordable Rural Housing/New Guide for Parish Council and Current Concerns.

Better Broadband for Norfolk – response both by phone (John Fuller) and letter from SNC
Copies of Barclays statements received.

A request for support for continued funding for the ACRE network from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs not to withdraw funding for the ACRE Network of rural community councils (RCCs). Norfolk RCC is the local member of the ACRE network and it is the only nationwide organisation with a dedicated rural focus; building community resilience, strengthening local enterprise and supporting the most vulnerable in our society.

106. To approve expenditure on accounts received and sign off the bank statement (to follow) and to review the new bank account and authorisation systems in place

The following payments were approved by the Council and the Chairman signed the Unity Trust bank statements.

Retrospective

Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (agreed November 2014)	£ 25.00
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Due

Composting Site Expenses incurred	£156.54
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107. To receive a report from the Clerk and confirm the award of an increase in line with the national award

The Clerk advised members of the salary award covering 2014-15 & 2015-16, a figure of 2.2% plus a one off payment of £100 pro rata. The Council confirmed agreement to the award under the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

108. To receive an update/statistics from the Police and comment on differences relating to published statistics.

The monthly statistics had been circulated and noted by the Council. There was no parish specific report from the Police.

109. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

No reports received.

110. To receive reports from Councillors

There appears to be a large increase in the amount of dog poo around the village and it was agreed signage would be obtained from SNC to be placed around the village at the appropriate locations.

Parking outside Motobility appears to have got worse. A white van parks on the pavement (Cllr McDonald advised the Council that in fact the footway outside Motobility stops before the dropped kerb and restarts the other side of the property. The piece of tarmaced dropped kerb is in fact a Right of Way. It was agreed that the van should really park in a better fashion to allow those with prams etc to pass on the inside of the vehicle rather than have to go into the road to get round. The Motobility site is a real mess but is private land. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Motobility regarding both the parking and the mess on the site which is visible from the road and which spills out on to the Playing Field at the rear.

From Yarmouth Road there is a narrow footpath between two houses, at the end of the alley way there is lots of dog mess and garden waste – this is part of Wherryman's way. It was agreed that Cllr Herring would do the spring newsletter and include information about both the increase in dog poo and the fly tipping which is occurring.

- 111. To confirm the date for the next Parish Council meetings as Wednesday, 25th March, 2015 at 7.30pm in Hales Village Hall which will also be the date for the Annual Parish Meeting.**

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Wednesday, 25th March, 2015 at 7.30pm in Hales Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 10.06pm.

Signed.....

Chairman

25th March, 2015

Date.....