

HALES AND HECKINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Hales Village Hall on
Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present Cllr Mrs B Herring
Cllr J Herring (Chairman)
Cllr A Mason

2 members of the public

In Attendance Anne Panella, Clerk to the Council

The Chairman asked those present if anyone intended to record the meeting – there was no indication that anyone would record the meeting.

Welcome by the Chairman of the Council.

106 Cllr Herring welcomed all to the meeting

Apologies for Absence

107 There were no apologies from Council members

Welcome by the Chairman of the Council

108 No declarations were received for items on the Agenda.

Public Forum

109 Road Works: Surveyors have been working on the field opposite the garage. Although no formal notice has been received it is understood they are conducting preliminary work in order to draw up a detailed plan of the proposed road changes in readiness for seeking funding for the next financial year.

110 Playing Field equipment: an update later in the meeting will be provided under Agenda Item 13d.

111 Speeding: an FOI request was submitted to the Safer Neighbourhoods Team seeking clarification on the number of prosecutions for speeding. A response should be provided within 20 working days.

Approval of Minutes

112 The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 25th November and Monday 21st December were presented and approval. Proposed by AM, seconded by BH. All in agreement.

Matters Arising

113 No matters arising that are not included on the Agenda.

Co-Option of Parish Councillor

114 Leaflets have been inserted into Contact but noted that with no interest being shown the Parish Council will become unviable. Merger of parish councils has been raised by SNC and may be raised at the meeting on 26th February. To be a Standing item on future Agendas.

Correspondence

115 List of correspondence is appended to these Minutes. All items are either for information, action (completed) or Planning Applications (included in Agenda Item 14)

Accounts for Payment

- 116 It was noted that there are invoices awaited for payment but until these invoices are received payment cannot be authorised.
- 117 External Auditors: following the abolishment of the Audit Commission in March 2015 – the body that had appointed external auditors for Parish Councils – a new body has been established to procure and appoint these auditors. Parish Councils are automatically 'opted-in' to the procurement process but can appoint their own external auditors. It was agreed to remain with the new body, the Smaller Authorities Appointments Ltd as this is likely to be most cost effective.

Village Hall

- 118 The Village Hall Management Committee have held a referendum on the future of the Village Hall to try and ensure it remains a community asset. Legal advice is required on how this can be achieved but noted that as the Parish Council is a custodial trustee they have no responsibility in the process. The Charity Commission should also be able to offer advice. 50 responses, from a total of 300, were received in the Referendum asking residents for their views on the future of the Village Hall. The result of the referendum is to offer the Village Hall for purchase by a group who will own the premises with a view to undertake remedial work and make the Hall available for use to the local community and the Management Committee are planning the next steps.

Tenancies

- 119 The Pit: the last tenant left on 31 March 2015. Although previously well maintained the ground is now overgrown. The tenancy will be advertised – for horses or cows – on the website, Contact, Post Office in Loddon. It was suggested that a rental valuation needs to be obtained.
- 120 Charity Marsh at Nogdam End: Tenancy Agreement is being drawn up for a rental income of £300 during 2016/17. The exact co-ordinates and land size are required to be included in the Agreement. Any future payment to Heckingham Hall residents from the charity income requires clarification. AM to seek legal advice and report to next meeting.

Risk Register

- 121 A comprehensive Risk Register has been compiled including the management of risk, review periods and linked to the Asset Register and current values. Thanks were extended to the Chairman for the compilation of this range of documents.
- 122 Agreed the Risk Register should be reviewed at least twice per annum; February and September
- 123 Confirmation is required on whether NCC will charge for the filling of salt bins; previously parish councils have not been charged for this service.

Working Parties

- 124 Composting: Little activity at this time of year. A meeting at County Hall later this week. A maintenance session will be arranged on site in the next few weeks.
- 125 Bus Stops: Nothing further to report; siting of the stops part of the proposed roundabout scheme.
- 126 Road Safety: the Parish Council will need to make a proposal with regard to the gates, not clear if planning permission is required. The scarecrow proposal will be pursued but firstly home owners along the main road will be asked for their comments. The wording for the bin stickers needs to be considered.

127 Playing Fields: a resident has offered to carry out the regular checks on the play equipment. The Section 106 monies, from the development on land adjacent The Garden House, Hales, total £21,479.59: £10K must be spent by 2nd March 2019 with the remainder to be spent by 27th March 2019 otherwise the amounts with accrued interest will be returned to the developer. The Parish Council will need to consult with local people about what they want from /on the playing field BH will seek Quotes for play equipment

128 Community Events: Coffee Morning on 13th February in the Village Hall.

Planning Applications

129 2015/2009 Hales Cricket Club: a number of objections have been received by SNC on these proposals. The Parish Council objects to the application and would note:

- i. external fabric of the building should be more in keeping with the rural location
- ii. what proposals are being put forward to ensure the out-buildings remain in a safe working condition until proposed removal in 2022
- iii. clarification required on the proposed road scheme

130 2015/2800 Orchard Farm: No comments or views

Reports

131 No reports have been received from either County or District Councillor.

Action List

132 Action List was updated

133 Agreed that BH will vote on behalf of the Parish Council, if required, at the South Norfolk Council meeting on 26th February.

Any Other Business

134 The current, temporary, Clerk is only able to continue in the role until June 2016; consideration to be given to the advertisement for a permanent Parish Clerk

Date of Next Meeting

135 The next meetings agreed as:

Wednesday 23rd March: items to the Clerk by 16th March

Wednesday 25th May: items to the Clerk by 18th May

136 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed.....

Date..... 16th March 2016