

HALES AND HECKINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Hales Village Hall on
Monday 21st March 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present Cllr Mrs B Herring **(BH)**
 Cllr J Herring (Chairman) **(JH)**
 Cllr A Mason **(AM)**

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.

Action

Welcome by the Chairman of the Council

137 Cllr Herring welcomed all to the meeting.

138 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received from Council members.

Declarations of Interest

139 AM declared an interest in Item 9 Accounts for payment, where he receives payment of expenses

Public Forum

140 Discussion on a number of proposed planning issues within the village.

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2016

141 The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2016 were presented and approved. Proposed by AM, seconded BH. All in agreement

Matters Arising

- 142 - FOI response from Safer Neighbourhoods Team: No prosecutions in the past five years; 10 Fixed Penalty Notices issued since 2011; camera safety team do not visit the area, nor plan to, as the area is not deemed a high risk accident site
- Rental valuation for The Pit: the previous Parish Council Chairman has offered to seek a tenant. Valuation has yet to be sought. It was noted the area has been left in a state of disarray.
- Charity Land at Nogdam End: agreement with the new tenant has been signed
- Quotes for Play Equipment: three quotes are being sought for consideration and approval. Update included each month under Council's Working Parties
- Bus Stop at Ranters Row: the parish council noted its disappointment that a bus stop has been placed here that will serve very few customers yet a larger number of residents within Hales & Heckingham will continue to receive a poorer service

Co-option of Parish Councillor

143 No applications have been received and noted this is linked to Item No. 11 *Future of the Parish Council*

Correspondence

- 144 This was noted, as was the high volume of comment from Parish Councils regarding SNC decision not to provide paper copies of Planning Applications.

Accounts for Payment

145	Vision ICT Ltd	Website Hosting May 2016 to April 2017	£174.00
	Roberts & Son	Flyers for Contact Magazine	£28.00
	H & H Village Hall	Rental of Village Hall from July 2014 to December 2015	£180.00
	Vision ICT Ltd	Biennial Fee for gov.uk. April 2016 to March 2018	£66.00
	The Green Reaper	Equipment for Compost Scheme	£117.26
		TOTAL AMOUNT	£565.26

Resolved: to approve the payment as above. Proposed by JH, seconded by BH. All in agreement.

Tenancies

- 146 Charity Land at Nogdam End: a tenancy has been agreed from 1st April to 31st October 2016 for £300. Payment has been received. The Parish Council extended its thanks to Mr P Cargill for his assistance in drawing up the agreement.

- 147 Legal advice is been sought from the Charity Commission regarding the proposal to dispose of this land and what can be done with funds from any sale which will likely dictate whether the land is sold. The Charity was set up in 1822 to provide a bag of coal to poorer residents of the village and noted that the payments are very small.

- 148 With regard to the new residents in Heckingham Park it was proposed to exclude any payment to residents in this area as no development was in situ in 1822. Agreed not to make payments to residents of Heckingham Park; proposed by AM, seconded by JH. All in agreement.

Future of the Parish Council

- 149 The Chairman pointed out that the current situation in Hales and Heckingham is unsustainable as it will only take the absence of one councillor for the Council to be unable to conduct any business. In addition, the current Clerk is temporary until end May.

- 150 SNC is to undergo a Boundary Review and are suggesting to the smaller Parish Councils to consider merger, which could be included within this Review. There are 119 Parish Councils in South Norfolk only 19 of which had a contested election in 2015 indicating that communities are finding it increasingly difficult to appoint people to the role of Parish Councillor. It is anticipated that the larger geographical area covered by a merger may assist in finding new Parish Councillors.

- 151 SNC have stated that conditions will have to be met for each merger, such as: each community can set and administer its own Precept; merger has to be with an adjoining Parish Council, such as Seething, Loddon, Thurlton, Stockton; Aims and Objectives and positive impact on each community have to be detailed

Resolved: that BH will seek advice from SNC on how to proceed and to obtain **BH**

recent research on obstruction to people becoming involved in Parish Councils.

Reports from the Council's Working Parties

- 152
- Composting: Recycling credits will rise to £55.23 per metric tonne with we effect from 1st April 2016. Currently work is underway to process last years' compost. The first collection for the current year will commence in 10 days.
 - Bus Stop: NCC have confirmed they are in a position to bid for funds to take this project forward in 2016/17 should funding opportunities become available
 - Road Safety: leaflets will be delivered, by hand, to properties on Yarmouth Road. It is intended to speak with residents to better understand the safety issues on this road. Lorries from a local business have again been recorded as driving at excess speeds. *No overtaking* signs have been installed but noted that motorists are likely to overtake further along the road
 - Playing Fields: the contractor has offered to carry out the regular checks on the play equipment. JH will contact and deliver the training required. Quotes for the equipment, see Minute 142, **JH**
 - Community Events: 19th May a Curry Night at Masala Gardens; 12th June Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations. Information on this will follow in due course. Noted that SNC is providing grants up to £400 to communities for these celebrations.

Planning Applications

- 153
- 2015/2241: approved
2015/2800: updated information was received between meetings and comments submitted
- 154
- BH will contact SNC to seek guidance on the criteria attached to spending S106 monies. **BH**

Reports

- 155
- Noted that no reports were available from the County or District Councillors.

Action List

- 156
- This was reviewed and updated.
- 157
- Leaflet to new residents: a template of the proposed format was presented and agreed.

Norfolk ALC

- 158
- It was noted that the level of service from NALC, following the resignations of members of the Executive group and was subject of a discussion at SNC recently to which Parish Councillors were invited. A new Constitution has been proposed but there are objections to the governance arrangements proposed.
- 159
- Clerk to contact NALC to clarify the terms and conditions of the Service Level Agreement (if one is in place) between NALC and its members (Parish and Town Councils) **AP**

Recruitment of Parish Clerk

- 160
- Agreed this is linked to Item No: 11: *Future of the Parish Council*.

Any Other Business

- 161
- Dog Fouling: there have been increasing incidents of dog fouling both on footpaths and adjoining land. AM to seek clarification from SNC on measures that can be employed to encourage dog owners to clear up. **AM**
 - Counsellors Direct: link to Parish Council website: following discussion it was agreed not to permit a link to this business on the Parish Council website which is for providing *local* information, not endorsement of national businesses.

Date of Next Meeting

- 162 Wednesday 25th May: Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting to commence at 7.00 pm in Hales Village Hall. Agenda Items to Clerk by 18th May

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....

Date..... 25th May 2016