

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2013 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr A Cowles (Chair)
Cllr L Rogers
Cllr H Pointer
Cllr R Crisp
K Medler (Clerk)

In attendance: District Cllr P Carrick

Parishioners: 1

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Howes, S Fuller, A Southgate and County Cllr T Williams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

There were no declarations of interest or dispensation requests.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th February 2013 were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman.

4. REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, NOT ON THE AGENDA

a. Minutes 16th January 2013

The Clerk advised of a slight error in the minutes under item 5 d. ii). The heading should read 'Financial statement for January 2013'. The minutes published on the website are correct.

b. Meals on Wheels

The Clerk was sent an article for this but it was received too late for the last Parish News so will appear in the next one.

5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

a. Finance

i) The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

Mrs. K Medler (Expenses)	£27.90
Cllr A Cowles (Printer ink)	£19.95

The Clerks standing order was paid on the 5th March 2013.

The following receipts were noted:

Bank interest	£1.72
Contribution to Grit Bin from Wherry	£44.10

ii) Financial statement for March 2013

The balance carried forward is £15,766.76.

Cllr R Crisp proposed the Council accept the statement and this was seconded by Cllr H Pointer.

b. Planning applications

i) 20130202 – 10 Wells Close.

No objections.

ii) 20130222 – Woodstock, Newton Road.

No objections.

iii) 20130223 – Woodstock, Newton Road.

All agreed this development is becoming substantially larger than the original building and in light of the decisions on this site under applications 20110310 and 20111433 it was agreed the Parish Council should object to this application and also seek BDC's agreement to remove Permitted Development Rights from this site.

iv) 20130312 – Land between Beech Hill and Burgate Hill, Newton Road

This site is outside of the development boundary and contrary to the Local Plan with no reasons for exception. Whilst the application refers to other properties which have received permission outside of the development boundary, those properties were replacement dwellings, not new. It was therefore agreed the Parish Council must object to this application.

c. Proposed development on the Chequers Field

A draft survey was circulated to those present however the Clerk advised she had not yet received full details from Saffron Housing regarding the housing so it is not complete. The draft was agreed subject to Cllr L Rogers amending the details of need and the Clerk obtaining the housing details from Saffron Housing. It was agreed that once the information was available the survey should be distributed using all available resources and responses will need to be back by 1st May 2013. A working group comprising Cllrs A Cowles, L Rogers and S Fuller will review and collate the responses and report to the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 8th May. The Parish Council will then be able to agree the way forward. Councillors did not feel a new housing needs survey was required as they are aware there is a need, it is just the location of the site which needs to be agreed. The Clerk will put an article in the next Parish News to highlight the survey.

d. Play equipment in the Village

i) The Clerk advised the Play Area was inspected on 12th March by a Company recommended by Insurers and the full report should be with her early next week. Some repairs are required, all of which will be detailed in the report. The 'Tom Thumb' unit has been classed as 'High Risk' and needs either full repair or removal. The concrete pipes which are in the area will be removed when the car park is re-surfaced. The Inspector stated he was glad the Parish Council had not re-opened the area. Following discussions it was agreed Cllr R Crisp will arrange removal and disposal of the 'Tom Thumb' unit and make good the area. Cllr S Howes will repair the Log Walk and Tram Tracks. Once the report has been received with details of the remaining repairs, the Clerk will send to Teresa Watker to see what parents would be prepared to assist with. Once all items are 'up to standard' the area will be re-opened. Parents have asked if the area could be re-opened by Easter and this is a possibility.

ii) Teresa Watker has informed the Clerk another Company will be going out on Friday at 11am to look at the site and provide a quotation and if any Parish Councillor is available, they are welcome to attend. Teresa is still working on obtaining a third quote. The Clerk has investigated available funding and there are various grants available but until a final plan and cost is agreed, nothing can actually be applied for. Proludic actually told the Clerk that mothers have a better chance of securing funding than a Parish Council so this is something to bear in mind. The Clerk will update Teresa with what information she has obtained so far. The Chairman proposed the Parish Council donate £5000.00 to the play area fund, in line with the donation given to the Village Hall, and all agreed. The Clerk will adjust the budget figures accordingly.

e. Governance – revised standing orders

The final draft was agreed with one amendment. The Chairman thanked all those who had been involved in up-dating these. The Clerk will place a copy on the website.

The 1 parishioner present left the meeting at 20:25

f. Northern Distributor Road Consultation

The Parish Council had no comments to make but agreed individual Councillors could respond if they felt it was appropriate.

g. Highway Improvements Fund

The Clerk contacted Highways as agreed at the last meeting and received the following note:

Formalising the verge into a footpath at this location would require substantial works and have to be classed as a highway improvement scheme. We can hold this on our forward programme of improvements schemes to deliver when improvement funding is available. The date of 2014 is the earliest it would be considered, but realistically, this work has to compete for funding against improvements County wide. Normally the driver for justifying safety improvements are proven accidents records in the area which enables us to prioritise our limited funding to those areas most in need. This means that the Council are unlikely to fund such an improvement for this location in its entirety in 2014. The most realistic chance of having this improvement delivered sooner would be to bid for funding under the Parish Partnership scheme. I have put together a basic estimate and the scheme will be in the region of £10,000 subject to detailed design, your initial bid would need to fund 25% of this cost.

It was agreed the Parish Council would not submit a bid under the Parish Partnership Scheme but request that the footpath be kept on Highways list for completion at the earliest possible date.

h. Millennium Car Park

Three quotations were received and Cllr R Crisp proposed acceptance of the quote from W F Builders which was seconded by Cllr H Pointer and unanimously agreed. The Clerk will ask that work is carried out at the appropriate time to co-ordinate with School holidays and suitable weather.

i. Village Games

Carolyn Atherton has issued an update on the Village Games and full details will be published in the Parish News and on the website. The next roadshow will be held on Sunday 14th April 2013 between 10:00 and 14:00 at the Village Hall. The roadshow is free and refreshments will be available. All of the planned activities are open to all ages, abilities and gender. The ladies netball squad will be participating in the netball competition on 28th April at Neatherd High School in Dereham between 10:30 and 15:30. Supporters are welcome. On Sunday 12th May between 14:00 and 16:00 there will be a rounders game at the Village Hall. Again, this is open to all ages, abilities and gender. The Chairman thanked Carolyn for her enthusiastic uptake of this venture.

6. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence sent to Clerk

NCC will be running an Events Management Training Course later in 2013 and are looking for indications of interest. No one wished to attend.

Gemma Buck from the Broadland Operational Partnership Team has requested that the Parish Council contact her if there are any specific Community Safety issues within the Parish that we feel needs support from the Operational Support Team. A report detailing their services will be circulated in the correspondence folder. NCC with NALC is running three seminars on Parish Partnerships. No-one wished to attend.

The Rangers will be in the Village week commencing 8th April. If anyone sees anything they can do, please let the Clerk know before 1st April.

BDC are running some planning training on Tuesday 26th March. The Chairman will confirm to the Clerk if he is able to attend.

NCC with Active Norfolk and NCODP are holding a 'Getting Fitter Together' event at the UEA Sportspark on 13th April. No-one wished to attend.

Ingham Pinnock Associates in conjunction with BDC are seeking the Parish Councils assistance in a pilot they are conducting regarding listed buildings in the village. The Clerk will forward the necessary information to Ingham Pinnock.

b. Report from County Councillor

The Clerk read out the following in Cllrs Williams absence:

Council Tax for 2013-4 will be frozen.

Due to an additional government grant of £1.553 million, and the use of some of projected under-spend in 2012-3 around £2.44 million of additional spending was announced at the budget meeting in NCC on Monday 18th February which will be spent as below:

£0.500 million to develop systems to improve access to community transport in rural areas.

£1.000 million to help fund building new homes on NCC owned land in the County.

£0.125 million to help bring EU funding into the County.

£0.250 million to strengthen safeguarding services for young and old.

£0.250 million to Norse apprenticeship scheme (20 + people).

£0.030 million to micro businesses for apprenticeships.

£0.025 million to support the armed forces community covenant.

£0.250 million to help fund New HQ in Norwich for Nelsons' Journey.

£0.010 million on going to improve public rights of way, particularly join Kings Lynn to Thetford.

c. Police Report

The Clerk advised there have been 2 recorded crimes in the Village during February: 1 attempted burglary from a dwelling and 1 burglary in a building other than a dwelling. The overview from the Broadland Policing Commander states: Two men, aged 28 and from Great Yarmouth, have been charged with burglary and motoring offences following an incident in Hainford on Tuesday 19th February. Police attended the area near the Village Hall in the early hours after receiving a call about suspicious activity. Officers stopped a van and found six catalytic converters, tools and fuel in the back. Both men have been charged with offences and released on conditional bail to appear before Norwich Magistrates Court on 5th March.

The Clerk contacted the new P&CC and our local PCSO following the last meeting and received the following responses:

P&CC

I am sorry to note the increase in recorded criminal activity in the Parish. I have been given an update by the constabulary as follows:-

"6th January – theft of catalytic converters – forensics have recovered the FP's of three persons who travelled in to the county from Devon and Cornwall. Two have been arrested and the third person sought. They may well have been operating within the area and have played a part in the other crimes below however there is nothing evidential to substantiate this.

6- 10th January – shed break

11th January – 2 crimes relating to the same incident – a theft from a garden shed which resulted in a neighbour of the victim being hurt when attempting to stop the offending vehicle. The "injured party" from the theft has been supported in crime prevention and police alarm

14th January theft of a sign – CCTV has captured the offence and we have assistance from the owner of the CCTV systems to get this image downloaded and circulated.

These offences occurred over a few days and as you can see from the 6th January offence, people travelling in from outside of the County impacted on this small village. Although the numbers are small the local officers/ PCSO's have been to speak to all victims and offered support, in addition enquiries are still in hand with regards to some of the crimes. Supt. Carl Edwards is fully aware and local taskings have been put in place." I believe this to be positive response by the constabulary which is proportionate to the "threat". That said, I am not responsible for any operational deployment. By law that remains, as it should be in my view, the preserve of the Chief Constable. What I have to do is provide adequate resources for him to do the job and then hold him to account for how well they perform. Regrettably, despite the former Police Authority raising council tax, and me doing the same again for the next financial year (2013/14) I can't permanently stop the slide in officer and essential support staff numbers. Successive governments, of all political colours, have deliberately moved the weight of paying for local policing services across to the local council tax payers. In 1995 the Government grant paid for 85%. This year it paid for 59%. "Capping" has suppressed our ability to offset the full impact of the central grant reductions. Thus with 20% cuts over the period 2010 – 2014 Norfolk will suffer £25M cuts. That has seen us have to reduce officer numbers by 120 and PCSOs by 35, whilst essential support staff have dropped by 200. All this has an impact on the Chief's ability to deploy staff as widely as possible. I recognise the country can't run on borrowed money all the time. My point is, if I am locally accountable, then I should have the discretion to raise tax locally to maintain a safe Norfolk, but I am constrained by Mr Pickles nationally limited what I can do. That doesn't seem like creating a powerful locally accountable role of PCC (per Theresa May) to me! That said, Norfolk remains joint top of the league (alongside North Yorkshire) for the lowest levels of crime with rate of 47 crimes per 1000 population compared to the national average of 68. This is a very creditable service given the staff losses. I have managed to stop the slide in officer numbers for 2013/14 – in fact I have funded 10 more essential frontline staff. I repeat, I am sorry that Hainford has seen an increase in crime levels. Superintendent Edwards further reports: "In February, crime levels have dropped to two offences. One attempted burglary dwelling in the early part of the month and a theft of another catalytic converter from the salvage yard. On the second offence 2 persons have been arrested and charged to court. (They were local offenders – Yarmouth and Gorleston area)." From the above, it looks to me as though the constabulary are addressing that appropriately within the resourcing constraints. I do hope your councillors and the residents of the village will recognise that.

PCSO

As I am sure you understand, our senior management do not like to see a rise in crime. As a result, PC Shepherd, with other officers has been deployed on an operation specifically to target this in locations where there has been an identified increase in crime, this includes Hainford. In addition, local police briefings have tasked that patrols ought to be increased in areas where there has been an identified increase in crime, this also includes Hainford. The SNT also make targeted patrols. Please note that patrols have been conducted both in marked and unmarked cars at all time of the day.

The Chairman reported that the Home Watch Team have also raised concerns with the Police who were present at their recent meeting.

7. MATTERS RAISED FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Play equipment in the Village and proposed development on 'the Chequers field'.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th April 2013 at 7:30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 20:55