

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HAINFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr A Cowles (Chair)  
Cllr S Fuller  
Cllr S Howes  
Cllr L Rogers  
Cllr A Southgate  
K Medler (Clerk)

**In attendance:** District Cllr P Carrick  
County Cllr T Williams

**Parishioners:** 1

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Crisp and H Pointer.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and the additional planning meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 were agreed by all and signed by the Chairman and Vice Chair accordingly.

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

**a. Village Hall grant application**

The Clerk advised Cllr S Fuller has reported that full funding will now hopefully be received from Biffa with BDC paying 10% as a third party funder and if this is the case the agreed grant will not be required for now.

**b. Residents questions – various hedges within the village**

The Clerk advised Highways agreed to carry out a Land Registry search regarding the hedge on Stratton Road and so the Parish Council did not have to make any further enquiries on this. Cllr S Howes reported that the hedge has now been cut. Highways have looked at the hedge at the junction of Stratton Road and Waterloo Road and said it is not encroaching in the highway but may cause a visibility issue if allowed to grow. Whilst the hedge is not encroaching onto the highway they cannot take any action. Highways suggested the Parish Council write to the new owners asking them to keep the hedge low and allow clear visibility at the junction. All agreed the Clerk should do this. The hedge at the junction with Newton Road and Waterloo Road has recently been cut and Highways will be looking at the Spixworth Road/Buxton Road junction and taking any necessary action.

**5. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**a. Finance**

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

Mrs. K Medler (Expenses)	£51.06
Hainford PCC (Grass cutting)	£50.00
Mazars (Audit fee)	£162.00
M Haslam Associates Ltd (Consultants fee)	£225.00
Playsafety Limited (Inspection fee)	£86.40
Hood Vores & Allwood (Lease fees)	£777.00
The Information Commissioner (Registration fee)	£35.00

The Clerks standing order was paid on the 5<sup>th</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

The following receipt was noted:

Bank interest                      £1.68

ii) Financial statement for September 2012

The balance carried forward is £18,040.66.

Cllr A Southgate proposed the Council accept the statement and this was seconded by Cllr S Fuller.

The Chairman requested that the Clerk provide a full and detailed breakdown of all the costs associated with renewing the Diocese Lease, that the Parish Council have had to pay, at the next meeting.

The External Auditors report has been received and all is in order. The Clerk will place the necessary notices on the notice boards.

## **b. Planning Applications**

i) 20121076 – Springwater Lakes, Newton Road

Plans were reviewed and although Council had no objections to the application, concern was noted regarding the potential increase in traffic and future expansion. The applicant was present at the meeting and stated that should any issues arise in the future he is happy for residents to contact him to discuss.

ii) 20121273 – Eastways, 11 Buxton Road

Plans were reviewed and no objections raised.

*Cty Cllr T Williams joined the meeting at 20:00 and the 1 member of the Public left.*

iii) 20111222 - Woodland Burial Park

The Chairman reported that the application for a burial ground in Hainford, which was supported by District Cllr P Carrick on the day, was approved by the Planning Committee by 11 votes to 4. The Parish Council is naturally disappointed that the District Council had decided to foist on Hainford a burial ground serving the whole of Norfolk and that in spite of the Parish Councils objections and those of over 270 parishioners, the District Councillor decided to support the application. As a Parish Council the Chairman stated that all we can do now is hope that the District Council are correct and that the applicants and planning officers assertions that this will be a low key, low intensity facility of four funerals per week are correct. We can also watch the development as it progresses to ensure that the conditions attached to the application are adhered to. Although the Council could request a Judicial Review this would not be advantageous because of the cost to both the Parish Council and parishioners. As a separate issue, the Chairman commented that as Chairman he is worried that the Parish Councils views on what is in the best interests of Hainford clearly differ from that of its District Councillor.

Cllr L Rogers reiterated the Chairman's comments and said several of the Parish Council attended the Planning Committee meeting along with residents and whilst the outcome was disappointing it was interesting to note that neither the Committee Chairman or Vice Chair voted in favour of the application. Cllr L Rogers also felt that the usage of the burial ground would be substantially more than indicated by the applicant and Planning Officer.

## **c. Inspection of Play Equipment**

Cllr S Fuller reported two things which need attention: exposed tree roots and the seat. Cllr S Howes agreed to check the roots to see what can be done and remove and repair the bench. Cllr L Rogers will complete her report for the October meeting. The report has now come in from ROSPA and Cllr S Howes agreed to review the report and the Parish Council would discuss at the next meeting any action necessary.

## **d. Lease Millennium Car Park**

The Clerk advised following amendment, due to the inclusion of the entrance / access to the Car Park in the Lease by the Diocese in error, she had to sign a further Statutory Declaration before the Lease could proceed to completion. Solicitors will now be carrying out a final pre-completion search so matters can be finalised. It is hoped all will be completed before the next meeting.

## **e. CETAG**

A lengthy note from the Chairman of CETAG had been previously circulated to all Councillors which seeks the views of the Council on the 'winding up' of CETAG now that a Community Liaison Reference Group has been created. All agreed with the proposals but the Council would still want to be kept informed about what is happening.

## **f. CPRE Norfolk Alliance Agreement**

The proposed agreement had been previously circulated. Cllr S Fuller proposed the Parish Council agree to support the aims and objectives of the agreement and this was seconded by Cllr L Rogers. In a vote, 4 were in a favour with 1 abstention.

## **g. Governance**

The Chairman and Clerk have finalised the Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment and these will now be circulated for agreement at the next meeting. One item which needs agreement on the Risk Assessment is who would cover the Clerk should anything untoward happen to prevent her from working. The Chairman offered to do this and this was accepted. Standing Orders are still being reviewed but will be ready for circulation at the next meeting.

## **h. Inspection of trees in the Village**

The Clerk confirmed she has checked the position of the trees near the pond and the Parish Council is responsible for all 4 of them. This means that the Parish Council are responsible for 8 trees in all. Despite

requesting 4 quotations to inspect and report on the trees, to date only one has been received with another contractor declining to quote. Whilst financial regulations do not require more than one quotation because of the cost, the Clerk felt it would be better to obtain more for comparison and to ensure value for money. Suggestions were put forward for other contractors to approach. This item will now be carried forward to the October meeting.

#### **i. Village Hall advertising banners**

The Village Hall is seeking the Parish Councils views on erecting some advertising banners along the fence between the overflow car park and football pitch. Cllr S Fuller, whose interest was noted, provided a plan for clarification. BDC planning have been approached and they have requested a detailed plan for consideration. All agreed they would have no objections in principle as long as the banners fit in with the ethos of the Village Hall and are tasteful but they would wish to see detailed plans before making a final decision.

### **6. MATTERS TO REPORT**

#### **a. Correspondence sent to Clerk**

A letter has been received from Mrs Sally Fletcher raising various issues and ideas, a copy of which had already been circulated. The letter was discussed and the Clerk will reply accordingly. The letter also included ideas from other residents regarding use of the ground at the rear of the Millennium Car Park and the play area next to the School. It was agreed Mrs Fletcher and those she had sought ideas from, should be invited to the next Council meeting to discuss the way forward. Mrs Fletcher has also met with Cllr S Fuller and NCC Highways regarding the crossroads at Stratton Road, Waterloo Road and Newton Road and as a result of this meeting the Rangers will be instructed to tidy up the area and put in an application for a pathway to the bus top (although the earliest date for this would be 2014). The Chairman thanked Cllr S Fuller for her time on this.

The Rangers will be in the Village week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> October. If anyone has anything they would like to put forward for them to do, please let the Clerk know by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

#### **b. Clerks report**

The Clerk received a query from a resident asking if it was correct that some of the sewerage from the new Stratton Strawless system is going to go through the pumping station near The Chequers Public House. Anglian Water have confirmed the flows from the eastern catchment only of the new system will be directed into the existing sewer network and consequently through the station adjacent to The Chequers. This will mean a potential maximum of 21 additional properties discharging to this station. The gentleman from Anglian Water is not aware of any proposed upgrade works to the Hainford station but confirmed that consultation was undertaken with the Anglian Water manager for the Hainford network and he was satisfied the existing network has capacity to accept the additional flow.

BDC Environmental services have reported back on the problem of dog fouling on the footpath at the Grange Road end and having assessed the footway 3 times over the last two months, have not seen any evidence of a problem. With this in mind no further action is being taken. Cllr S Fuller commented that when completing her Village inspection, she did note that the litter bin on the Village Green is being used for dog mess, when it is not intended for that purpose and there is actually a proper dog bin just up the road.

The Clerk asked if some of the bank/hedging in front of the School notice board can be removed as she has difficulty accessing the board – the hedge does not appear to belong to the school as it is outside of their fence. Cllr S Howes agreed to look and see what can be done.

#### **c. Report from Airport Consultative Committee representative**

The Chairman was unable to attend the last meeting of the NACC however he is able to confirm the Operating Framework Agreement has collectively been amended by NIA, Norwich City Council and Broadland District Council and this document will be reviewed and updated on at least an annual basis.

#### **d. Report from County Councillor**

NCC have this week announced their Community Construction Fund which totals £3.5million. Grants can be requested for up to £100,000 for use on community projects, subject to certain criteria being met. More information is available at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/communityconstructionfund](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/communityconstructionfund).

Cabinet have agreed the purchase of 'Transmere' on Shortthorn Road in Stratton Strawless for use as a children's home. The property will house up to 4 children who have been taken into care and will have high staffing levels for supervision. It is hoped that by providing this service 'in house' overall costs can be reduced.

On Monday cabinet will decide which contractor to appoint for the 'Better Broadband' project.

The Kings Lynn incinerator project will be the subject of a Public Enquiry.

**e. Report from District Councillor**

Council tax benefits are changing and those in receipt will notice a reduction of up to 20%. This will not affect pensioners, only those of working age. This has been reported in the Press and details are on BDC's website but if you know anyone who receives this benefit please make them aware of these changes. The Clerk will put a poster she has received regarding this in the Parish News.

In answer to a question from Cllr P Carrick, it was agreed that the question of affordable housing be put on the agenda for full discussion at the next meeting.

**7. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS**

The Clerk has received a letter from a resident regarding overgrown hedging on Dumbs Lane. It was agreed the Clerk should contact the necessary owners to resolve.

**8. MATTERS RAISED FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment, Village Games 2013 and Parish Councils policy on development of affordable housing within the village, particularly exception sites.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at 7:30pm in the village hall.

**The meeting closed at 21:45**