

Draft

**MINUTES OF THE HAINFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14th MAY 2014 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

In attendance: PC Greig Shepherd & colleague
Mr. P Smith (Hainford Hall)
Mr T Wright
District Cllr P Carrick

Parishioners: 22

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs H Pointer, S Howes and County Cllr D Roper.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2013 were taken as read, agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

This is my seventh Annual Report as Hainford Parish Council Chairman.

Last year I reported on a number of initiatives affecting the Village.

Following extensive parishioner consultation, which included an Open Afternoon, Saffron Housing submitted their planning application to develop the Chequer's Field for a combined market value/exception site affordable housing development. The planning application was considered by the Parish Council and the Parish Council's comments have been published on our website. Saffron Housing is currently discussing with Broadland District Council the amount of Community Infrastructure Levy that the development will attract and if the value of the land to be gifted to the Parish Council can be used to offset the Levy. The outcome of these discussions, which are designed to reduce the amount of the Levy to be paid, will determine whether or not the development proceeds. It is interesting to note that previously, in spite of opposition from the Parish Council and the majority of parishioners, BDC Planning Officers were both imaginative and innovative in finding ways to circumvent the policies that stood in the way of burying Norfolk's dead in Hainford. Move on three years and here, on the Chequer's Field, we have a scheme which currently has the support of the Parish Council but regrettably BDC's Planning Officers do not, at present, seem to be taking the same imaginative and innovative approach to the policies as previously. I hope that burying Norfolk's dead is not more important than housing Hainford's living.

The Parish Council is currently working with Hainford Community Partnership on the redevelopment of the current Children's Play Area. In order to give the security of tenure needed to apply for grants, the Parish Council is negotiating a 25 year lease on the Play Area with the Diocese. This 25 year lease will replace the current licence. Thanks to the dogged determination of the Community Partnership and our Clerk the costs to the Parish, of negotiating the lease between all parties, has been significantly reduced. The Parish Council has put aside a sum of money to fund the lease negotiation and other costs, but considerably more will be needed to fund the play equipment and the Parish Council is grateful to the Community Partnership for taking the initiative. Two Parish Councillors, Sue Fuller and Annie Southgate are the link with the Parish Council on fund raising.

The Village Hall goes from strength to strength thanks it's Management Committee. In 2012 we gave a grant of £5000 to the Village Hall towards roof repairs. This year we decided to create a fund for repairs/maintenance of the Village Hall and have put aside £2000 to be called on by the Village Hall for repair/maintenance projects. The Parish Council, as is the rest of the Village, is grateful to those who serve on the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Parish Council is also grateful to Carolyn Atherton for organising and to Parishioners, both participants and supporters, for their involvement in the 2013 Village Games. They all did Hainford and Stratton Strawless proud and the Parish Council is delighted that again both Parishes have a joint team participating in 2014 Village Games. It is thanks to the work of our Clerk and others, who secured sponsorship and support that the Games are continuing in 2014. The Parish Council were pleased to be able to fund the T-shirts worn by participants and supporters and the team/supporters photograph which hangs in the Village Hall.

Speed of traffic through the Village, particularly in Newton Road, continues to be of concern and the Parish Council is working with various agencies to address the problem. The Parish Council were unsuccessful in getting a 20mph limit outside the School but we are working with the School Governors and CC Roper on other initiatives. The Parish Council is still looking for a Parishioner to represent Hainford on the Safer

Neighbourhood Partnership which meets regularly at Aylsham and sets amongst other things the priorities for traffic policing.

One of the concerns expressed by Parishioners about the proposed development on the Chequers Field was its impact on the pumping stations and drainage. Because of the concerns expressed by Parishioners, the Parish Council wrote to Anglian Water and the correspondence was published in the April Parish News. Our response to their reply has yet to be discussed.

Anne Gillett continues to organise the Spring and Autumn Litter pick ups which do so much to keep down the amount of litter in the Village. The Parish Council is grateful to her and too all those who participate.

The Parish Council continues to fund the grass cutting at the Old Church Yard and the gas for the space heaters for the Church. On behalf of the Parish Council, I lay a wreath at the War Memorial at the Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony and the Parish Council is pleased to be associated with the Village initiatives to mark the Centenary of the commencement of World War 1.

The Millennium Car Park has been resurfaced and the Parish Council is currently considering a suggestion from the Police that we put a gate across its entrance. The Parish Council have also agreed to the clearing of the Village Pond and a contractor has been appointed. The Parish Council has agreed to clear the Pond on an "as and when needed" basis as opposed to clearing it biennially. The Parish Council also arrange for regular inspections of the trees that are its responsibility. Judith Lincoln continues as a Parish Tree Warden and Mary Sheppherd has replaced Doris Bogardis. We are grateful to them both.

The Parish Council is a member of the Norfolk Association of Local Councils and we often consult the Association on a range of problems. Sue Lake, Lead Officer of the Association and a previous Hainford Parish Clerk, recently left the Association to become Clerk to Aylsham Town Council. On behalf of the Parish, I was pleased to make from my Chairman's Allowance, a contribution to her leaving gift.

The Parish Council publishes its minutes, agendas and other important documents on its web site the address of which can be found in the Parish News. Those who have looked at the web site will have seen the details of the Hainford Hall scheme, about which we will hear later.

This, as I said at the start, is my seventh Annual Report as Chairman. In May 2015, your Parish Councillors, District Councillor and MP all come up for re-election. That will be your opportunity to express your opinions on the performance of all those who currently hold these offices. I urge you to take it.

I have taken up enough of your time and I would like to conclude by thanking all those Parishioners who do so much to make Hainford a fine place in which to live. I would also thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for all the hard work they do on behalf of the Village. Thank you for listening.

4. POLICE REPORT

For the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014, 14 crimes were recorded within the Village. For the same period last year there were 24. This decrease is in line with other Villages. During the year there have been 9 Damage Only Road Traffic Accidents and 2 Personal Injury accidents. The Police are still working with the Parish Council to try to resolve the issues regarding speeding within the Village. Speeding is always an issue and one which the Aylsham SNAP consider when setting priorities.

The Police left the meeting at 19:15

5. HAINFORD HALL ENABLING SCHEME

Mr. T Wright spoke on behalf of Mr. Smith to explain that at this early stage they are simply looking to gauge local opinion on a scheme. Mr. Smith currently has 2 options: Progress the business, which will involve considerable financial input to enable him to comply with new rules and regulations coming in and an increase in traffic and size of vehicles visiting the site or proceed with an enabling scheme, which would be Mr. Smith's preferred option. Discussions have taken place with Matthew Rook (Senior Planning Officer) at BDC who was very positive about a scheme. An enabling scheme means development of the site would provide enough new homes to enable the old Grade 2 listed Hall to be brought back into use. The numbers of properties given at this stage are just to give an idea and are not set in stone. Mr Smith does not intend to alter the frontage on Hall Road. Decontamination of the site will be a big issue and undoubtedly costly. Mr Smith confirmed that should the scheme proceed he would have to sell the site on to a developer as being a Grade 2 listed building, he would not have the means to do it himself.

Following discussions the following concerns were noted:

The site is outside of the development boundary and is a large development for a small village which is contrary to the Parish Plan.

The rural village roads will not be able to accommodate the increase in traffic.

The various utility services within the village will not be able to cope with the increased demand on them.

The School, although not currently at capacity (100), is getting close (78) and may not be able to cope.

The Village does not 'need' two substantial housing developments.

If the scheme proceeds and is granted permission then sold on, residents are concerned that developers will increase the number of properties.

The Chairman explained that all these issues would need to be considered and addressed along with the benefits to the Village, the same as the development on the Chequers field and the Woodland Burial Park. The Village Tree Warden has already drawn various trees in the site to the attention of BDC's Conservation Officer. The site will have to absorb its own surface water as it will not be allowed to drain into Anglian Waters systems.

In a vote to gauge the opinion of residents present, 3 were in favour of a scheme, 7 against and 12 abstained.

2 members of the public left the meeting at 19:50

6. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The annual accounts were presented, agreed and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. These will be published in the Parish News and on the website. The balance carried forward for the year is £19,833.45.

7. TREE WARDEN REPORT

BDC's conservation officer has been made aware of the proposal on the Hainford Hall site because on the boundary of the site bordering Hall Road and Grange Road are a considerable number of trees in a Carr consisting of oaks, sycamores and others, which individually are not particularly good specimens but as a group form a green area within the Village. Although the proposed development will keep a bank of trees I feel it would be beneficial if these trees were TPO'd to ensure they are kept. Also within the site is a single Cypress, which although has been trimmed in the past, is a nice feature which can be seen from areas of the village.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

The Parish Council Chairman was asked if Speed Watch was going to be resurrected again and it was confirmed that it already has been although getting everybody trained has been a long process and the co-ordinator has now changed again which has delayed things further. The clerk will speak to the new co-ordinator to ensure she has an up to date list of volunteers and has got the equipment ready to use. The Clerk will also find out when checks are likely to be started.

A resident asked if the Police could complete some 'Smiley Sid' checks along Waterloo Road and the Clerk will refer this to the Police.

Mrs T Watker wanted to make everyone aware that the Hainford Community Partnership has now held its inaugural meeting and 8 parishioners were present. If anyone still has a survey form which they have not sent back, please can it be passed to Teresa as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 20:00