

Hemsby Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held 16th July 2018

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Monday 16th July 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Office, Hemsby.

Present: Adam Nicholls, Head of Planning at GYBC. Chairman Terry Barnes, Vice Chairman Mike Peake

Clerk: Elaine Galer

Borough Councillor / Parish Councillor: Noel Galer

Parish Councillors: Tony Bowgen, Scott Bensly, Keith Kyriacou, Ian Brennan, Caz Eden, Pam Richmond

Public: 10 members of the public were in attendance

Meeting Declared open at 7.00 pm

THE MEETING WAS RECORDED

Adam Nicholls had been invited by Borough Councillor Galer to attend the meeting in order to advise the Council re the recently received planning Application for the old Pontins site.

Adam explained that the Committee report produced by GYBC in March 2016, section 5 was applicable to the previous application. It identifies the policies in the saved local plan and the local core policies which are relevant today.

Adam explained how Planning Decisions are made: - 1. Do they conform to the saved local plan? If yes, what are the material considerations? The emerging Local Plan is still in an early stage, it will then go before the Policy resources committee and then go out to consultation in August for a period of 6-8 weeks. As it is at an early stage, not much weight can be accorded to it, some can but it has not been legally adopted.

The main documents that need to be considered are: -

- 24 July 2018 Policy & Resources papers for Local Plan Part 2
- National Planning Policy Framework – this is due for revision 24th July 2018
- The Current Planning Application

Anyone who wants to comment on a planning application should reference these documents.

As the site is marked as prime holiday land (TR4) how does this affect the application? This is the current adopted policy, but it is not uncommon for these to change. Adam explained that there is not a full 5-year housing land supply across the Borough, so it would look to other areas in order to meet housing requirements – this is decided on a case for case basis.

Public Comments.: -

The emerging plan states that targets for Hemsby have been met so why was GYBC looking for a change of use? Adam explained that this policy is only at a very early stage and that the site had been derelict for 10 years.

It was expressed that GYBC had invested in tourism in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston so there was frustration that this was not happening in Hemsby.

GYBC have had plenty of time to force the owners to clean up the site – it appears that this was a business decision by the owners, as they had done this on other sites.

The owners had not entered into dialogue with prospective buyers of the land.

Q. As the emerging local plan, was not taken into account would the recent announcement re the closure of Winterton school to be taken into account? A. GYBC relied on reports from NCC Education Authority re school capacities. If there was not capacity to accommodate projected school children from a development, a standard formula would be applied, and the developer would be asked to contribute. This negotiation occurred between the developer and NCC. A running total of new properties is kept and reported back to NCC. This is averaged on the type of development. Councillor Keith Kyriacou stated that Hemsby school has raised the class numbers to 32, there is no room for expansion on the school site and as children are being moved from Winterton ahead of the proposed closure from September 2018, it will effectively, be full.

Adam added that a financial settlement was paid to all Borough and District Councils for 0.4% increase over target on new builds. Councillor Ian Brennan pointed out that this was easier to do by putting estates in villages outside of Great Yarmouth.

Q regarding the cost of appeals – A. this hasn't happened to this application yet, but the normal process is that both parties pay their own legal costs.

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Q. Councillor Pam Richmond pointed out that the application as it stands has an area assigned for 50 caravans. If this was passed, what reassurance would there be that these will remain, or would they also be houses? A. Any such amendments to the application would require an additional planning request to be submitted.

Q. Councillor Ian Brennan mentioned that the MP, along with the Hemsby Action Group, had completed a survey of local residents and there was an overwhelming case against turning the site to housing. Would this be taken into consideration? A. It was explained that the number of objections was irrelevant, the number of valid objections was more important. It is not a numbers game!

Q. It was asked as to why the previous application, although turned down, the decision notice confirming this had never been issued. A. It was unclear why this had not happened. The owners had a right to insist on this, but this hadn't been done. The owners were at the meeting when this decision was made, so are aware of the decision.

Public comment. Complaints were made as to the handling of the previous application. It was felt that members of the committee at that time did not know Hemsby and the feeling amongst villagers re the Pontins site. A. This was refuted.

Q. What recourse was available if parishioners were not happy with the legality surrounding the decision. A. This would require a judicial review of the decision. The benefits of the scheme would need to be examined. Financial considerations would not be a factor. It was stressed that the Local Plan was of importance in considering the application.

Q. Are the plans for other local sites considered alongside this application? A. Again, reference was made to the local Plan.

Public comment. Complaints were made as there appeared to be little support for tourism in Hemsby, support seemed to be Gt Yarmouth / Gorleston centric. Planning applications, however, for additional housing in Hemsby are passed, even though the target build for Hemsby had been reached. Confidence in the Planning Department was low. A. Assessments were made as to all planning applications – any impact on highways etc was referred to the appropriate department within County Council. It was explained that during the consultation of the emerging Local Plan, this was an opportunity to raise such issues.

Public Comment. It was stated that although complaints had been made to NCC re the encroaching vegetation etc on the site, no satisfactory result had been obtained. Hence confidence in NCC was low.

Public Comment. Frustration was expressed that the Parish Council, although having objected to planning applications, these were still passed by GYBC. A. This was probably due to the planning process itself, where the applicant has the right to appeal a decision. This appeal is often heard at another location, away from the area. This area is decided by the Planning Inspectorate. All documents are sent, including any objections. GYBC are bound by the decision of such an appeal. Historically, this was dealt with at Great Yarmouth.

Adam explained that he was Head of Planning, his presence here pointed out the importance GYBC were putting on the Planning Application.

BCllr Noel Galer asked if the emerging local plan would be available to the Parish Council and parishioners for review, with the potential to make amendments to the proposals.

It was explained that this would go out for consultation for a period of 6 weeks, probably starting during August.

Public Comment. Frustration was expressed with the Emerging Local Plan and the comments in it regarding the Pontins site. Was this not a personal opinion? This was explained as a judgement made by councillors – based on recommendations made by officers of the council.

Public Comment. It was explained that potential investors had been found, but the owners of the site had not entered into a meaningful dialogue with them.

Adam was thanked by the Parish Council for his attendance – he explained that the Parish Council could apply for a further extension to formulate their response to the planning application and left the meeting.

1. *Public Participation*

a. *Reports from Borough Councillors, County Councillor and Police*

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Borough Councillor Noel Galer explained that he had attended the recent meeting re the closure of Winterton school. Views have been proposed to try and keep the school open, this was ongoing.

An e-mail from Borough Councillor James Bensly was read out –

Please accept my apologies for this evenings parish council meeting for Hemsby. Just a quick update on the beach, last night we were victims of some mindless vandalism, who thought it might be funny to overturn our bench's and empty Marks & Jill's bins. We are now getting that all sorted, also as you can see some debris that has also been washed up and we are in communication with GYBC to get it cleared. Please remember to mention our event at the village hall this Thursday and I'm pleased to say that the walkway on the beach has been repaired. Please also see my next email regarding an advertising vehicle which is causing issues when negotiating the crossroads at the Newport road junction. I'm getting residents raising concerns regarding field of vision and safety concerns. Can the parish council please pursue this further with the Norfolk Constabulary and finally can I please have on record my thanks and gratitude to Tony and the team down at the village hall for the amazing fund raising event for our great coxswain of the lifeboat and his family. This village never ceases to amaze me and I'm so pleased and proud to call it my home. If I can be of any further assistance please don't hesitate to contact me.

Vice Chairman Mike Peake commented that 15 bags of rubbish had been cleared from the beach and gave thanks to Gill for collecting these.

2. *Receive Apologies for Absence*

County Councillor: Ron Hanton, Borough Councillor James Bensly, PC Gary May (other commitments)
Councillor Leslie Mogford (family commitments) *The apologies were accepted by the council*

3. *Receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and requests for dispensations*

Councillor Keith Kyriacou declared an interest in Playing Field

4. *Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 18th June 2018*

It was proposed that the Minutes of meeting held 18th June 2018 are a true and accurate record. Proposed Councillor Ian Brennan Seconded Councillor Scott Bensly, All in Favour.

5. *Approval of Minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held 19th June 2018*

It was proposed that the Minutes of meeting held 19th June 2018 are a true and accurate record. Proposed Councillor Ian Brennan Seconded Councillor Scott Bensly, All in Favour.

6. *To review and determine the Parish Council's response to the proposed Pontins site development – see opening item*

7. *To consider the casual vacancy - 2 interviews had been held earlier that evening, these are being considered*

8. *Chairman's Report*

The clerk had arranged a meeting with the highways engineer from NCC. The Chairman and Borough Councillor Noel Galer attended. The clerk explained that it was difficult to change anything, but the offer was made to repaint all the road markings around the Kingsway, and to check the signs. Once this had occurred, the parking enforcement officer would be contacted to come out to Hemsby – it was difficult at the moment as the double yellow lines were worn and faded.

The 2 bins that had been moved by the owner of an amusement arcade at Beach Road had been relocated by GYBS to outside the Blue Dolphin Fish bar with the approval of the owners.

9. *Vice Chairman's Report*

Reports of speeding were still coming in. Police had visited Winterton Road but only 2 speeding vehicles had been noted by them. There was already a SAM sign in Winterton road. There are 2 SAM signs in the village, but they will be moved. The Information event had been held – attendance was lower than expected, but those attending were very complimentary. Another event should be held in the autumn – next time in the Village Hall.

Re the burial ground – the gardener had tended to the Rose Memorial Garden.

The over hanging tree in Pit Road had been trimmed.

Complaints had been received re the amount of rubbish near the bus shelters on Yarmouth Road.

At the surgery, a complaint was received re the bus shelters and the overgrown hedges near them. Gill was tasked to cut this back. Councillor Pam Richmond reported that a disabled person had complained re the number of drop kerbs as it was difficult to cross the road near the bus stops. Clerk to contact NCC. Dog fouling was again becoming an issue in the village.

A disabled access slope was required to the Parish Office. Councillor Scott Bensly offered to make one.

A request was received for a baby changing facility in the toilets. Councillors agreed that this was not practical.

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A request for double yellow lines in Common Road had been received as the parking was dangerous. It was noted that the Taylors Loke double yellow lines had moved the problem down Common Road. Surprise was expressed that there was a problem here because this road was much wider, with ample parking for residents. However, the problem is parking near the junction, making it difficult to enter the road. It was wondered if the holiday lets in Taylors Loke was causing the problem. Photographs would be sent in to the clerk. The petition was also handed to the clerk. Vice Chairman Mike Peake would liaise with PC Gary May re the situation.

10. Items reported to Parish Councillors during the month

Councillor Tony Bowgen had received reports that parking is happening near the kebab shop in the village, causing an obstruction to those walking on the path. Photographic evidence was required to be sent to the police. Councillor Tony Bowgen will obtain these.

Borough Councillor Noel Galer had received a call re speeding on North Road. One of the SAM signs would be moved there. The clerk suggested that a quote was required for additional cameras – this could be incorporated into NCC proposed scheme for highways improvements. A parishioner offered to help set up a speed watch scheme. Vice Chairman Mike Peake will deal with this. It was proposed that this will be set up – proposed Councillor Caz Eden, seconded Councillor Tony Bowgen. All in favour.

Councillor Noel Galer had received a comment from a member of staff in the Co-op, that following an accident outside the shop, she was trying to complete an accident report form but was stopped by Vice Chairman Mike Peake who was in attendance. Mike responded that the patient was distressed, and he didn't feel it appropriate to complete the form at that time. The elderly lady had tripped coming down the steps. Councillor Keith Kyriacou suggested that the Council's risk assessment officer had a look at the area and informed the Co-op of his findings.

11. Committee Reports

- a) *Bloomin' Hemsby* – nothing to report as Councillor Leslie Mogford was away
- b) *Neighbourhood Plan* – as above. Councillor Caz Eden stated that she had been in contact with Councillor Mogford and work on both a) and b) would commence on his return.
- c) *Village Hall* - Councillor Tony Bowgen reported that things were going well. Work would commence on revamping the toilets shortly.
- d) *Playing Field Committee* – Councillor Keith Kyriacou reported that the AGM had been held. Mick Tingley will liaise with the clerk re outstanding items from the meeting 19th July. The minutes from the AGM were requested by Hemsby Parish Council.
- e) *Patient Participation Group* - Councillor Pam Richmond reported that a pilot scheme would be introduced in August, 2 evenings a week 6.30 -8 pm. 4-hour clinics on Saturday and Sunday would be introduced in November. The venues are to be decided. A doctor/nurse/healthcare professional will be available at these. The trial is to last 1 year. Vaccines have not been received at the surgery, but they are available at pharmacies, Tesco's etc. It was asked if the staff could use the Bell Car Park, leaving the car park at the surgery available to patients. This was not deemed viable but suggested that patients parked at the Bell. It was pointed out that patients often had difficulty in walking etc. It was asked if the surgery could cope if extra 350 houses in their catchment area – potentially 2800 extra patients. It was felt that the buildings could cope with this, but they did not have the staff. There are 11 rooms available at the Hemsby surgery. 2 part time lady doctors are now available. Additional doctors could be taken on if necessary. They were asked re moving the surgery and they had looked at this issue, but no suitable land was available within 500 m of the dispensary which is a major part of their income.
- f) *Save Hemsby Coastline* - Councillor Ian Brennan reported that he had attended a presentation prior to the coastal review meeting. The report from the consultants (Jacobs) was very thorough. 19 different options were looked at, each from 3 aspects: - 1. Is it technically possible? 2. How did it affect the environment? and 3. What would it cost and how could the money be raised? 10 options have been eliminated. An interim solution plus a longer-term solution would be preferred. SHC would look for sources of finance to move this forward. 1 and 2 would be addressed by external bodies. SHC had received an email from Bernard Harris (Coastal engineer GYBC) supporting SHC. It was agreed that, after the meeting (19th July) the focus would be to narrow this down to 2 solutions. The solutions proposed ranged in cost from £3million to £20 million. Most monies would come from match funding, but there was a variety of contributors to consider. The report was seen as a big step forward.

12. Councillors' Reports

- a. *Risk Assessments* - Chairman Terry Barnes stated that the assessments had been carried out and he had nothing to report.
- b. *Access to the Broads* – Councillor Noel Galer reported no progress had been made.
- c. *Review of Footpaths in the village* - Councillor Noel Galer reported no progress had been made

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13. *Acceptance of Burial Ground Policy*

This had previously been copied to councillors. Although this had previously been discussed, Vice Chairman Mike Peake had some further comments he wished to make but would do this later. A further discussion was required. It was agreed that this should be reviewed again at the next meeting.

14. *Review of NCC invitation to bid for highway improvements*

Vice Chairman Mike Peake and Councillor Noel Galer agreed to set up a working party to see what was required. Various options were discussed.

15. *Review of councillors' email addresses – do we need to standardise these?* – It was suggested that everyone should be issued with an @hemsbyparishcouncil.org.uk email address. It would be invisible to the user as it could be redirected to their standard email addresses – Councillor Noel Galer explained how this would work. No costs would be involved. Proposed Councillor Ian Brennan, Seconded Councillor Caz Eden, All in Favour. Councillor Noel Galer to action.

16. *Photos and bio for councillors to appear on website* – This was rejected as it was felt that this was not necessary.

17. *Training for councillors.* The clerk explained that 2 – 2.5 hours of personalised training was being organised for councillors to be held at the Parish Office. Various dates were discussed, and it was agreed that this should be held on the Monday evening the last week in November. (26th)

18. *Elect Parish Council representative on Hemsby Playing Field Management Committee* - Councillor Keith Kyriacou explained that, after their previous AGM, it was agreed that a further non-voting representative from the Parish Council was to be elected to The Playing Field Management Committee in order that the 2 councillors already members of the HPFMC could fully participate. A discussion was held, and it was proposed that Councillor Scott Bensly be appointed. Proposed Councillor Ian Brennan, Seconded Councillor Caz Eden, All in Favour.

19. *Relocation of bin near Norfolk Homes Development* – The Clerk explained that various complaints had been received re the bin near the Norfolk Homes development. It had been moved across the road and parishioners felt it was dangerous to cross the road at the junction, simply to use the bin. Investigations revealed that Norfolk Homes had moved the bin (they had also repainted it). It was proposed that this was unsatisfactory, and it should be moved back. Proposed Councillor Caz Eden, Seconded Councillor Tony Bowgen, All in Favour. Clerk to visit the site and liaise with Norfolk Homes to re site the bin.

20. *Renewal of NP Law subscription* – this was discussed, and it was felt important to renew this subscription. (£400 + VAT). They had been useful in the past. Proposed Councillor Ian Brennan, Seconded Councillor Tony Bowgen, All in Favour

21. *Finance*

a. *Bills to be paid*

b. *Financial Statement for June 2018*

These had previously been distributed. The clerk pointed out that the NEST pension had been calculated incorrectly (using annual salary rather than monthly) and refunds of amounts previously deducted had been requested.

22. *Planning Applications received*

- i. *06/18/0370/F The Old Vicarage* – Councillors were unhappy that this was a development in a conservation area. Councillor Tony Bowgen also commented on the access to the drive. Councillor Noel Galer proposed that an objection be raised - 'Ensure that any developments should be under taken in a way that is sympathetic with the conservation area'. Proposed Councillor Ian Brennan, Seconded Councillor Noel Galer, All in Favour

Chairman Terry Barnes requested that a printer/copier be purchased for the Parish Office so that documents can be copied. All in agreement.

Chairman Terry Barnes suggested that, with the current heavy work load, the long-standing practise of not holding a meeting in August be suspended. This was not required with the new Standing Orders, so a motion was not passed. All in agreement.

Vice Chairman Mike Peake discussed some problems that had occurred in the Burial Ground. Also, it was agreed that an overhanging tree near the burial ground needs to be trimmed. A quote from GYBS had been received. This will be actioned.

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Councillor Tony Bowgen asked about the Youth Club monies that had been paid into HPC bank account when the youth club closed in 2015. The clerk had managed to find the minutes documenting this and the corresponding amount on the bank statement. The amount was £2856.97. This had not been ring fenced by the previous clerk but will be in future and appear on the annual audit. This may then be available to help anyone setting up a suitable Youth Club in the Village.

A general discussion was held as to how the minutes could be made available to parishioners. Various options were discussed, and it will be an agenda item for next month.

2. *Further comments from Members of the Public* – none received.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm