

Hemsby Parish Council



Parish Office, Kingsway
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Norfolk
NR29 4JT

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 18th January 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Office, Kingsway, Hemsby NR29 4JT.

Present:

Chairman: Terry Barnes

Clerk: Elaine Galer

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

County Councillor: Ron Hanton

Public: 2 members of the public were in attendance

Meeting Declared open at 7.00 pm

Apologies received from: Councillor Lesley Mogford, Borough Councillor James Bensly

1. *Public Participation*

A member of the public complained about the parking problems on North Road. She had complained to the enforcement officer at GYBC and had been promised a visit. This is an ongoing problem and the police are unable to do anything about it. There was a discussion about this and general frustration as to what can be done. County Councillor Ron Hanton explained that there is not an offence to park on the pavement. However, if the parking causes an obstruction, this was a matter for the police. Civil enforcement can only act to enforce the local parking restrictions (i.e. double yellow lines). Advice notices can be put on these cars. The Parish Council could produce these posters and hand them to residents.

Another member of the public arrived.

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

County Councillor Ron Hanton reported that things had been quiet over the Christmas break. He reported that the Police Commissioner had decided to pause his consideration of making a business case to the Govt to take over the Fire Authority. He explained that Norfolk councils are working together to help low income families stay warm and well and discussed the Warm Homes Fund. There was also a range of new services available to people affected by loneliness and social isolation in Norfolk.

Borough Councillor Noel Galer explained that various meetings had been cancelled at the Borough. He mentioned that he had attended the Coastal Adaptation Group meeting, held at GYBC. This is looking at ways Hemsby can cope with coastal erosion – not simply looking at sea defences. Areas are to be considered that may be used as rollback areas. He had received a complaint from a parishioner re netting on the beach and Councillor Noel Galer had passed this on to all the relevant bodies. He also had received notification that a small part of the land on the Parish island was owned by NCC and they are looking to sell this. Some of this area is where the public toilets are situated. He explained how this could have come about. He suggested that the Parish Council could apply for ‘adverse possession’ on this piece of land. There was a discussion about this. Councillor Keith Kyriacou proposed that further investigations continue. This was seconded by Councillor Pam Richmond. Motion was carried that further investigations are to continue but NO [further] action to be taken. This was to also include the land the Parish Office sits on as the clerk had been unable to prove ownership of the site. It was mentioned that there are 2 BT boxes situated on this plot.

b. Questions/Comments from The Public – see above

2. *Consider Apologies for Absence*- these had been received from Councillor Leslie Mogford and Borough Councillor James Bensly. These were accepted by the council.
3. *Receive Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and requests for dispensations* – none received

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4. *Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 13th December 2018*

It was proposed that the Minutes of meeting held 13th December 2018 are a true and accurate record. Councillor Charlotte Hill asked if the photocopier had been discussed at the previous meeting that she did not attend. Discussion took place as to who the photocopier was bought for. Councillor Noel Galer explained that the photocopier was rented for the Parish Office and was available to groups of the village at a nominal cost. Groups would need to be supervised whilst using the photocopier as it was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Councillors asked for training on how to use the photocopier. The contract is for 5 years. Councillor Keith Kyriacou explained again that the photocopier was bought primarily for Parish Council use, and for users within the village under supervision. Councillor Charlotte Hill also asked about the wifi connection as she felt that this should be available to villagers. It was explained that this was not a viable option as the Parish Council would be responsible for any misuse. This had been acquired some months ago as a phone was needed in the office, and to add wifi was a minimal extra cost. It is available for all councillors whilst at the Parish office, the police use the office on occasions, and in the event of a village emergency, the Parish Office would become a control room as required and would then need the internet. Councillor Caz Eden suggested that as the Parish Office was not in continual use, it should be rented out, and the Pavilion be used as a meeting place. Chairman Terry Barnes reminded the council that the ownership of the land at the Parish Office has not been clarified as yet. See above. Other uses of the land were discussed. The minutes were proposed by Councillor Ian Brennan Seconded Councillor Keith Kyriacou, All in Favour.

5. *Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 17th December 2018*

It was proposed that the Minutes of meeting held 17th December 2018 are a true and accurate record. Proposed Councillor Noel Galer, seconded Councillor Keith Kyriacou. All those present in favour.

6. *Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held 8th January 2019*

It was proposed that the Minutes of meeting held 8th January 2019 are a true and accurate record. Councillor Charlotte Hill asked for an explanation re the precept that had been requested from GYBC as she had heard that the PC would only get a percentage of the requested precept. Councillor Noel Galer explained the difference between the concurrent grant and the precept request. He had calculated the photocopier, the costs of which will come out of this year's budget, will cost each parishioner 38p. Minutes proposed by Councillor Keith Kyriacou, seconded Councillor Pam Richmond. Councillor Caz Eden objected. Everyone else in favour, Motion carried.

7. *Chairman's Report* - nothing to report.

8. *Items reported to Parish Councillors during the month*

Councillor Keith Kyriacou stated that the electricity board had completed their works on the playing field. Councillor Tony Bowgen to complete an inspection. Councillor Charlotte Hill asked why the Parish Office was not open and used. Someone had visited several times requiring information but had found the office closed. She then said that it was her who had wanted to find the clerk's contract of employment. The clerk explained that this was not public domain information. She was employed by the Council as a whole, not individual councillors. The only time the contract was available was to the whole council, with the clerk's agreement, if the terms were to be renegotiated. The clerk also stated that her terms of employment could not be discussed in a public meeting. Councillor Noel Galer explained the mechanism for confidential items. Charlotte Hill then stated that she wanted to review the clerk's terms and asked for this to be included at the end of the meeting. This was not on the agenda. Councillor Keith Kyriacou explained that the clerk was due for an operation shortly. The clerk explained that her health could not be discussed in a public meeting and this was out of order.

Councillor Pam Richmond had received complaints re dog fouling around the village. Councillor Noel Galer suggested he contact Environmental Health at GYBC and get a supply of posters for distribution. Councillor Tony Bowgen explained that special bins for dog fouling are deemed as hazardous waste and cost more to empty. Councillor Noel Galer explained that a reason people hang dog poo bags from trees was that theirs are bio degradable (This has recently been seen on social media). Councillor Keith Kyriacou suggested stickers might be available for parishioners to stick on their bins.

1. *To consider accepting financial responsibility to provide a lollipop person at the school crossing*

The clerk explained that this was not precepted at previous meetings but money could be made available in that category. There was general agreement that this would be an excellent idea for the village. This could not happen until the new financial year. Proposed Councillor Pam Richmond, seconded Councillor Noel Galer. Councillor Keith Kyriacou declared an interest as he is a school governor. All in favour – Motion carried.

9. *Event to celebrate February 14th for the villagers* - This had been placed on the agenda at the request of Councillor Charlotte Hill. She stated that she did not want to do it now. Councillor Keith Kyriacou wondered if the PC should contact the events co-ordinator for the village, but it was felt this could not be done in sufficient time before February 14th.

10. *Roles within the Parish Council* - This had been requested by Councillor Leslie Mogford who was absent. To be considered at the next meeting.

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11. *Outdoor gym project* – Councillor Caz Eden had been doing some costings and grants are available. A figure of £6,200 would provide 8 pieces. Further information would be forthcoming. Councillor Ian Brennan suggested that they should be placed on a path around the village – not simply put them all on the playing field. There was general agreement re this. The clerk explained that for an expenditure of over £5,000, 3 quotes are required. The clerk also stated that funding should be available.
12. *Change to Election Cycle* – The clerk explained that GYBC had decided that the next elections will be held in May 2019. Chairman Terry Barnes suggested that surgeries be held to discuss the role with potential interested candidates.
13. *To consider filling the current vacancy* - The clerk explained that as it less than 6 months before the election, the PC can co-opt a member if they wished. After discussion, Councillor Tony Bowgen proposed that the vacancy should be left unfilled as the elections are so close. Seconded Councillor Keith Kyriacou. All in favour. Motion carried
14. *Committee/Councillors Reports*

- a. *Bloomin' Hemsby* – the community payback was due to attend over the Christmas break. The clerk had waited to meet them for 2 mornings as they had promised to attend. They did not turn up (it was subsequently found out that the supervisor had been off sick) Further work was re arranged for the following week.

Councillor Charlotte Hill asked re the position of Vice Chairman. Councillor Keith Kyriacou explained that he felt that a Vice Chairman should be present if the chairman was not available or not known to them. He felt that the Vice Chairman was a deputy Chairman. It was explained that this is not the case. The date of the meeting was then discussed. The clerk explained that meetings have to be advertised in advance as a legal requirement and dates cannot be changed at short notice. The roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman were discussed at length. There appeared to be some misunderstanding re the roles of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

County Councillor Ron Hanton left.

Councillor Caz Eden proposed that a vote on whether the council should appoint a Vice Chairman should be included on the next agenda. Seconded Councillor Pam Richmond. Councillor Keith Kyriacou abstained. The rest were in favour. Motion carried.

- b. *Neighbourhood Plan* - nothing to report as Councillor Leslie Mogford was absent.
- c. *Village Hall* – Councillor Tony Bowgen reported that work would be starting on the refurbishment in the next 3 weeks.
- d. *Playing Field / Pavilion* – Councillor Scott Bensly had nothing to report. The clerk mentioned that she had secured a booking for 'Community Kitchen's event – a regular Monday meeting for 15 weeks. The clerk explained that she had had several calls to say that the heating at the Pavilion was not working. Investigations revealed that the heating oil had run out. The heating oil has now been re filled, and emergency repairs undertaken so the heating was now working again.
- e. *Patient Participation Group* – Councillor Pam Richmond will supply an email reporting the new opening hours.
- f. *Save Hemsby Coastline* - Councillor Ian Brennan reported that the blocks had been repositioned as an interim measure. The total cost was £7,300 to be split 50:50 with GYBC. He had written to Watling's asking if they would like to contribute. Other local groups had not contributed. He explained re the adaptation schemes that were being looked at, as previously discussed. This is not something SHC feels it will get involved in as it is primarily looking at sea defences.
- g. *School Governor's report* - Councillor Keith Kyriacou reported that the new headmaster will now start at the end of February.
- h. *Risk Assessments – identified works at Parish Office – next steps* – Chair Terry Barnes stated that a tile was displaced on the roof and the privacy wall near the ladies toilet was broken. Councillor Keith Kyriacou would contact the builders to get this repaired.

15. Clerks Report

- a. *Registering Assets of Community value – next steps* - The clerk explained this process and again asked that councillors report back to her details of assets they would like to be included on this register. She had asked previously but no information had been forthcoming.
- b. *Faults report* – this is ongoing. The clerk asked that, if reporting problems with lamps, efforts should be made to get the numbers that are painted on the lamppost. Councillor Noel Galer explained that the Sam sign had been taken to Dereham as it was faulty. The repair would cost several hundred pounds, but a replacement unit would cost several thousand, it was agreed that the repair had to be done. Westcotech are to send a quote to the clerk*.
- c. *Bills to be paid* – these had previously been distributed and were signed off at the meeting.
 - i. *Mandate for copier/ printer to be completed* – this was presented for signature and approved.

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- ii. A bill had appeared in the letter box for a repair on the disabled toilet. It was agreed that this should be included in this month's bills as it was an emergency repair.
- d. *Financial Statement for December 2018* - these had previously been distributed and were signed off

16. Planning

- a. Applications received – none outstanding as of 14/1/2019
- b. Planning apps received late 06/19/009/F and 06/19/0007/F– no objections

17. Further comments from Members of the Public

A member of public complained that various drains are getting blocked. She had reported them to GYBC. It was suggested that such faults also be reported to the clerk, so that the council are made aware.

The clerk offered information regarding the election cycle with key dates etc. Interest was low.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

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