

Hemsby Parish Council



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Minutes of Meeting 19th March 2018

Present:

Chairman Keith Kyriacou, Vice Chairman Mike Peake

Clerk Elaine Galer

Parish Councillors, Noel Galer, Scott Bensly, Tony Bowgen, Terry Barnes, Maria Ellis, Leslie Mogford, Caz Eden.

Graham Plant - GYBC Council Leader, Shelia Oxtoby - Chief Exec GYBC, James Bensly - Borough Councillor, Bill Parker – Coastal Partnership East, Bernard Harris - GYBC coastal manager, approx. 50 members of the public.

Apologies: Ian Brennan (family commitments), Pam Richmond (holiday), Ron Hanton and PC Gary May (prior commitments)

The apologies were accepted by the Council.

The meeting time and location had been moved due to anticipated attendance following the damage to the beach at the weekend.

Meeting Declared open at 7.45 pm

THE MEETING WAS RECORDED

Chairman Kyriacou suggested that Item 6 'Status of Hemsby Beach' be moved to Item 1. Proposed - Vice Chairman Mike Peake, Seconded - Councillor Terry Barnes. All in agreement.

Questions were taken from the public.

1. Paul Lines, representing local fishermen, asked what would happen to the chestnut fencing that had been displaced. He was also concerned re debris left by the falling bungalows and whether it would end up in the sea. He asked whose responsibility it was to clear it up. Bernard Harris replied that it was the property owners' responsibility but GYBC was working in conjunction with these to ensure insurance claims would be successful. GYBC plan to demolish those properties at risk before they fall onto the beach once the legal work was in order. He assured everyone that all attempts would be made to clean the beach very quickly as GYBC was aware that the holiday season was due to start shortly. Shelia Oxtoby gave a

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commitment that GYBC would do their utmost to ensure that no debris went into the sea, working in conjunction with the owners.

2. Ann Wilkinson, resident Fakes Road, expressed frustration that nothing much had happened since the surge of 2013. She was concerned that new buildings were being built at the expense of protecting existing homes. Graham Plant said that new developments were undertaken by private developers. He explained the planning appeals process and the cost to the council (>£100,000). S106 monies and how they work was explained. Chairman Kyriacou expressed frustration re foreign aid. Ann expressed concern that previous funding requests applied for by Save Hemsby Coastline had been turned down. Shelia Oxtoby stated that a further study would be undertaken to give short, medium and long-term solutions. This would be completed by May. Discussion around the Save Hemsby Coastline trial blocks and frustration that this had not been signed off.
3. Ivan Muir expressed concern that St Mary's Road was collapsing and GYBC had not acted. Bernard Harris stated that this was a private road and hence outside the control of the Local Authority. Adoption of the road by Norfolk County Council was a suggestion but there is a process to go through.
4. Sue Oliver, resident The Marrams, was concerned that, despite several attempts, no contact had been forthcoming from the owners of the dunes and the road was not maintained. There was general frustration that Watlings had given money to local charities but did not answer phone calls from residents. Watlings own land from the Mean High Water Mark going inland. Graham/Shelia would contact the owners and find out what their maintenance policy was and if they would contribute to Coastal Defences. Councillor Noel Galer suggested that the assets are owned by a holding company – Geoffrey Watling Ltd, and the charity. GYBC would look at The Watling Trust legal incorporation documents and whether it could spend money locally.
5. Ian Norman, resident The Marrams, discussed other local defences but could not understand why Hemsby has none. It was explained that Hemsby has a 'Managed Retreat' status. This was defined in the Shoreline Management Plan of 2012. Bill Parker explained the sources of funding that might be available for sea defences at Hemsby. The calculations are complicated with many inputs. He didn't think a high proportion of the cost would be forthcoming. We need to look at partner funding and not solely government funding. Ann stated that the Hemsby economy is worth £80 million pa and why couldn't some of this be used? This is the turnover within the village economy and represents expenditure as well as income and is not simply net profit.

It was stated that a public consultation, that had previously been planned, has been brought forward to 11/12th April. Local input would be required to this. The consultation will look at each proposed solution and ask:- What is it going to do? Is the proposed solution deliverable? Is it affordable? What is the impact of each proposal? It was stated that gabions are not a long-term solution, as they are not able to stand up to a lot of storms. Questions were asked re offshore dredging. Bill Parker stated that this would be included in

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the consultation. A general discussion re dredging and there was local opposition to this as it was felt this didn't help erosion. Any money obtained goes to the Crown Estates.

6. Kenny Chaney stated, that although Scratby has gabions, Scratby was not seeing damage as at Hemsby as it has rock armour. He suggested fishtail groynes would work as they had been successfully used at Caister. Emergency repairs can be undertaken very quickly – installing something new takes far longer.
7. Joyce Phelan asked where the 'natural' cliff was located. It was stated that the properties in Fakes Road had been built behind this.
8. Graham Plant stated that GYBC had gone from a Borough with a £70 million spend down to a Borough with an £11.5 million spend through savings and improved efficiency and money was very tight.
9. Sue Oliver asked if any more high tides are anticipated in the coming weeks. Paul stated that high tides was not the problem this time, it was the Easterly wind.

Although, there was a lot of frustration at the lack of progress in installing sea defences since the surge of 2015, the public agreed that they were satisfied with the answers received and would help in the consultation.

Dan Hurd (Coxswain HIRS) stated that the emergency was well handled and that the village pulled together to help all those affected.

The public left.

As the public session had been extended to answer questions, Councillors felt that, due to late hour, any remaining business should be adjourned to a future meeting. However, it was pointed out that there were a couple of urgent items to be dealt with. Therefore, items 15 and 16 were addressed. All other items were to be carried over to another meeting to be held at 7pm Monday, March 26th 2018.

15. *Ratification of items following Clerk's report from meeting held 5th March 2018* - Councillor Leslie Mogford proposed that all items be accepted 'en bloc' Seconded Councillor Terry Barnes All in favour

16. *Bills outstanding* - All payments to be made – proposed Councillor Tony Bowgen, Seconded Councillor Terry Barnes All in favour. Noel Galer registered a personal interest in the Clerk's salary and did not vote on this item to be paid.

AOB. Councillor Terry Barnes had received complaints from parishioners regarding the amount of vehicles parked outside the Richardson's site. Chairman Keith Kyriacou will investigate.

Complaints have been received re the chip shop car park. Clerk Elaine Galer to notify Highways

Blocked drain in Hall road was causing localised flooding. Clerk Elaine Galer to notify Highways

Meeting Closed at 21.35