



## Holkham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Keith Leesmith  
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2014/01

### Minutes of meeting held at the Estate Office Tuesday 14 January 2014 at 1900

**Present** Jane Berwick, Paul Bloomfield (Chairman), Harvey Gunhouse, and Emma Sargent  
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Marie (& Mike) Strong (NCC) Peter Terrington (NNDC)

- 1) **Apologies** Jonathan Savory (NNDC), Safer Neighbourhood Team
- 2) **Declarations of Interest** None
- 3) **Minutes of the Meeting held 12 November 2013** Agreed and signed

#### 4) **Reports**

##### **a) Norfolk County Council**

Free NHS checks are now available every five years to people aged between 40 and 74 (presumably as well as those for people over 75). Visit [www.norfolklivingwell.org/nhshealthchecks](http://www.norfolklivingwell.org/nhshealthchecks) The budget is nearing completion, although the government decision is still awaited on the incinerator, and this will make a big difference financially. There was a low uptake on the public consultation, but several people suggested that this was because it was a) very complicated and b) offered no real choices. It has not yet been decided whether the county portion of council tax will increase. A meeting to discuss the future roll-out of faster broadband (which should include dates and proposed speeds) will be held at Binham at 7.00pm on 27 January. Norfolk Green (including the *Coasthopper* service) has been sold to Stagecoach Holdings. The new operator intends to operate the service as before during the coming summer, and during that period will decide on any changes to the winter timetable. MS also spoke about the recent (5 December) flood surge. These comments are minuted under item 5.

##### **c) North Norfolk District Council**

There have been several objections to the proposed learning centre on Lady Ann Drive. These are mainly concerned with increased visitor numbers. Planners and the Estate are in discussion to put in place ideas to mitigate any possible problems. The proposed filling station in Wells should begin construction soon. Discussions are currently taking place over signage at the adjoining Co-op Store. The Gifts Galore/Yellow Shop site on Wells Quay is still the subject of disputes between neighbours. Unless work is started to repair Clarence House (Buttlands, Wells) before November, NNDC will undertake repairs and send the bill. Others sites including Maryland business units and the old grain store are also under consideration for similar action. The budget for 2014/15 has been approved. A "coastal concordat" has been agreed to try to prevent problems/overlaps with coastal issues between bodies such as the MMO, DEFRA, and NNDC. *Victory Housing* is intending to continue with their policy of disposing of old properties at market value and using the money to rebuild new properties. There is a concern that such action might work to the detriment of housing in coastal areas where selling prices and land values are higher than elsewhere. It is intended to be tougher in future on people who do not pay their Council Tax. The *Big Society Fund* is still open for grant applications.

**c) Safer Neighbourhood Team**

The Team had sent a report which KL read. There had been one crime – an attempt to break into a car park ticket machine on Lady Ann Drive. There had been 5 calls to police, mainly concerning traffic accidents and mud on the road.

**4d) Parish Clerk's report**

A new version of the Norfolk Gritting Routes leaflet has been received. There do not appear to be any changes to local routes. Other items; the broadband meeting at Binham, and the sale of *Norfolk Green* had been reported elsewhere.

**5) To consider effectiveness of Community Resilience Planning following the recent flood surge event**

Unfortunately, the flood warden; Derek Jarvis, was not in attendance at the meeting. However, it was known that communication had taken place between him and the Wells flood wardens, and he was presumably also in contact with NNDC and other bodies. There had been no problems in Holkham as the defences had held. Marie Strong said that in discussions with the Estate it was decided to evacuate Pinewoods campsite and this had made it possible to close the Beach Road. Although the Wells flood wardens had worked well and had the situation in hand, the mobile telephone system failed shortly before the surge. There was also a "last minute" suggestion that properties at the south of the town might be vulnerable, as well as those on or near the quay. Following the flood a visit from the Prime Minister had given the opportunity to mention the insurance situation (the current arrangements are continuing) and the problems of mobile telephone reception which affected the police as well as the flood wardens.

**6) To consider any points arising from the NNDC visit in November.**

It was generally thought that the visit was of little benefit to Holkham Parish Council but PT believed that NNDC gained by the visits, which he thought were likely to continue. In particular, a lot of parishes were unhappy about the way that planning decisions were made and that Parish Council comments appeared to be ignored. This issue was likely to be addressed.

**7) Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement**

A copy of the current bank statement and spreadsheet had been circulated and was approved. There were no accounts to be paid.

**8) Minor Matters**

The entrances to the car park at New Holkham need attention; the underside of some cars are scraping on the roadway. JB would ask the Estate to attend to this. The shingle in the road at the end of Freeman Street (near the old railway bridge) had not been cleared. KL had asked Wells Town Council to pass the message to the Highway Rangers as the junction is in their area. He would send a reminder.

**10) To confirm date of next meeting**

Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 1900 at the Estate Office

**The meeting closed at 2005**