



Holkham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Keith Leesmith
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2015/03

Minutes of meeting held at the Estate Office Tuesday 17 March 2015 at 1900

Present Jane Berwick, Paul Bloomfield, Harvey Gunhouse, and Emma Sargent
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), John Hill (Prospective election candidate)
Marie (& Mike) Strong (NCC) Peter Terrington (NNDC), PC Jason Pegden

In the absence of Chairman Derek Jarvis, Jane Berwick was elected as Chairman for the meeting.

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| 1) Apologies | Jonathan Savory (NNDC) |
| 2) Declarations of Interest | None |
| 3) Minutes of the Meeting held 13 January 2015 | Agreed and signed |

4) Reports

a) Norfolk County Council

There are rumours of an attempt to make the whole of the area of the ANOB a 40mph zone, but the details are not known yet. Although it was intended to start charging for using Wells recycling centre (and other rural centres) from 1 April 2016 this will not now happen although a review will take place later in the year. Potential *Reference Zones* including the proposed one at Blakeney will now be known as *highly protected marine areas*. Areas in the country that cannot receive any emergency mobile 'phone signal, including some in Norfolk, will benefit from a £150m fund to ensure better coverage. People should check that their concessionary travel cards are still in date, as after 7 April drivers will retain "hot cards". NCC is part of a partnership to expand the number of apprenticeships in the county. The Dry Road between Wells and Fakenham will now not have a full closure, but will work for periods on temporary traffic lights. These will not be used during school holiday periods. Faster broadband should reach the main village soon, but there is currently no news on a service for New Holkham.

b) North Norfolk District Council

With reference to item 6, PT said that he did not like the cabinet system in use at NNDC. He would not be standing in the forthcoming election. Work is progressing to add circular paths to the Coastal Footpath, so that people have a greater choice of walks. Recent meetings took place in Fakenham and Cromer to engage Town and Parish Councils, but there was little local interest. The Big Society Fund is still operational, although it will be smaller this year, as NCC has taken a bigger slice of the second homes money. A successful business promotion event took place at Thursford recently. There was little interest from local firms, although it appears that moves are being made to re-start the Wells Business Forum. A partnership has been formed with Waveney and King's Lynn & West Norfolk districts for coastal management work. It is recognised by NNDC that they need to develop more dialog with Parishes, particularly over planning matters. NNDC are now paying the minimum of the living wage to all staff. JB thanked PT for his help and interest over the past four years.

c) Safer Neighbourhood Team

Since the last meeting there had been 4 calls to police and three thefts, two of which had been from parked cars on Lady Ann's Drive. This area is particularly vulnerable, and people still leave valuables in cars on show. It would help if people could note down the registration numbers of any suspicious vehicles and advise police. Locally, there have been several thefts from allotment sheds and people are advised that heavy padlocks containing alarms (which are inexpensive) are a good deterrent. Because of the number of rare nesting birds in the area, there are people who are collecting eggs. Again, it would help if people could collect registration numbers and advise police if they are suspicious.

d) Parish Clerk

A letter has been received from the *Pension Regulator* regarding the compulsory government pension scheme. Since this is not applicable to people with low earnings over retirement age, there will currently be no liability. *Norfolk Rural Community Council* is merging with *West Norfolk Voluntary & Community Action* to form *Community Action Norfolk* from 1 April. Christine Hiskey recently found some Parish archives amongst the Estate records, and these have now been lodged with the Norfolk Records Office. However, there were no minutes within these and KL has only ever had minutes dating back to 2002. So an appeal was made to anyone who might be holding older minutes.

5) To discuss any Planning issues to hand.

There were no planning matters for discussion

6) To discuss a letter from NCC regarding committee (as opposed to cabinet) governance

Last year the County Council had switched from cabinet governance; where most of the decisions were made by a small number of the major political group, back to committee governance. This system uses committees to decide on minor matters and to recommend to full Council on major matters. Such committees contain Members chosen from the whole Council. As it is twelve months since the change we are being asked for our opinions. MS believed that the committee system was much better, and was unlikely to lead to costly mistakes like that of the "incinerator". It was agreed that we write, backing the new system.

7) To discuss new Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

A change in the law will make it compulsory in the near future for Parishes to publish certain information on a website. KL believed that the cheapest and easiest way to accomplish this was to join the *Norfolk Association of Local Councils*, as one of the benefits of this was the availability of a free site. The cost would be approximately £100 per annum. It was agreed that we join.

8) To consider financial appeals from local organisations

It was agreed that we donate the whole of the budgeted amount for this year to the Wells RNLI Shannon appeal.

9) Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement

A copy of the current bank statement and spreadsheet had been circulated and was approved.

The following payments were agreed:

Wells RNLI Shannon Appeal	donation	100.0
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10) Minor Matters

PB was concerned that the Church gates were locked over the Christmas period. JB said that they were not, in fact, locked – merely pulled together to stop animals entering the Churchyard.

11) To confirm date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 May 2015 – 1900 at The Estate Office.

The meeting closed at 2012

After the meeting, Councillors and John Hall completed forms to put themselves forward as candidates in the forthcoming Parish election.