



Holkham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Keith Leesmith
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2015/12

Minutes of meeting held at the Estate Office Tuesday 10 November 2015 at 1900

Present Jane Berwick, Paul Bloomfield, Harvey Gunhouse, & Derek Jarvis (Chairman)
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Marie (& Mike) Strong (NCC)

- 1) **Apologies** John Hall, Emma Sargent, & Jo Stapleton
- 2) **Declarations of Interest** JB Items 5a & 5b
- 3) **Minutes of the Meeting held 8 September 2015** Agreed and signed

4) **Reports**

a) **Norfolk County Council**

Fibre-cabled broadband is now available in Holkham Village. By connecting with the Ofcom website, people could find out which providers are available and at what cost;

<http://consumers.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio/price-comparison/>

The Coasthopper is now running an hourly winter service between Hunstanton and Cromer. The service used to be the most heavily subsidised in the county but is now unsubsidised since being operated by a different company. The position of local housing societies (Homes for Wells/ Blakeney Housing etc.) is still unclear in government plans to allow tenants of housing associations to buy their homes at discount. The CPRE has now added their voice to those opposing the move in rural areas. The NCC consultation – *Re-imagining Norfolk* is now open until 14 January. MS urged people to comment, since only by doing so could the strength of local feeling (on issues like the closure of Household Waste/Recycling Sites) be seen. An appeal has been made for people to trim back hedges that are overhanging footpaths. This will assist people who are visually impaired. Talks are progressing between Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and all the district councils in the two counties with regard to central government pronouncements on devolution (following the Scottish referendum). These are currently at an early stage and there is nothing at present to report.

d) **Parish Clerk**

KL asked if Councillors would have any objection to moving the March 2016 meeting from the 8th to the 15th as he had a clash of appointments. There were no objections, so it was agreed that the meeting would be held on 15 March 2016.

5a) **Planning application – further works at Longlands**

Councillors had no objections to the proposed works.

5b) **Planning application – Conversion of field barn to single dwelling at Mill Farm Barn**

Councillors had no objections to the proposed works

5c) Planning Decisions

Permission had been granted for the following:

- a) Changes to the west façade of the former laundry building to allow louvered timber screens.
- b) The conversion of a field barn to a dwelling at Quarles.

6) To approve application for grant from government transparency fund.

KL reminded Councillors that the government had decided early in the year to remove the need for an external audit from Parish Councils with a turnover of less than £25k. In exchange they had to set up a website and publish certain information. Holkham PC had joined Norfolk ALC to obtain a free website and KL had set one up by the required date of 1 April. However, many small Parishes had protested that they did not have computer equipment and/or their Clerks did not have the required knowledge to undertake the work. The government had now (belatedly) offered a fund to pay for equipment and training. Holkham PC does not have a computer or scanner but KL uses his personal items. Training was not required, except for the cost of an evening at County Hall to explain the grant scheme. By applying for a grant, we could obtain our own equipment and KL could be reimbursed for the additional time (approximately a day and a half) that it took to set up the website.

It was agreed that we would apply for a grant of £577.

7) To approve budget for 2016/2017 and fix the precept

KL had prepared a budget for the following year, with a precept requirement of £2500. This was agreed.

8) Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement

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

The following were agreed for settlement:

Norfolk ALC	Cost of training evening for government transparency fund	5.00
Keith Leesmith	Clerk's 3 rd quarter salary and expenses contribution	465.70
HMRC	PAYE on the above	109.60

9) Minor Matters

District Councillors – Councillors expressed disappointment that once again they had not received a visit or report from either of the District Councillors. It was thought that there is now a belief at NNDC that the ruling party Councillors are working for their political party rather than the people who voted for them. KL would write to the Leader of the Council with a copy to the Chief Executive.

Following the mention of rubbish in the bus shelter at the last meeting (cleared voluntarily by DJ and HG) the Estate has agreed to provide a bin.

JB will ask if anything can be done to improve the pathway beside the bowling green, which has become muddy and rutted.

HG asked if the lights on the path between the Victoria and the Ancient House could be adjusted as they currently shine in the eyes of people walking the path at night.

10) To confirm date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 January 2016 – 1900 at The Estate Office.

The meeting closed at 1955