



Holkham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Keith Leesmith
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2016/01

Minutes of meeting held at the Estate Office Tuesday 12 January 2016 at 1900

Present Jane Berwick, Paul Bloomfield, Harvey Gunhouse, John Hall, Derek Jarvis (Chairman), Emma Sargent & Jo Stapleton
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Marie (& Mike) Strong (NCC), PC Jason Pegden

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|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Apologies | None |
| 2) Declarations of Interest | None |
| 3) Minutes of the Meeting held 10 November 2015 | Agreed and signed |

4) Reports

a) Norfolk County Council

The consultation period has now finished and hopefully the budget can now be completed. Norfolk has one of the highest percentages of elderly people and NCC may be able to increase the budget by 2% for adult social services. The Council has decided to put £1m into support workers to help keep people out of hospital, or to assist them to go home earlier than they otherwise would be able to. Council Tax could be put up as much as 3.9% and many people have suggested in the consultation that this would be preferable to losing services. There are several "dementia friendly" events being planned this year including an event at which Heritage House and Wells Hospital will work together. Following the recent setback over mobile reception in the Blakeney area, a solution is still being sought. It is hoped that the House of Lords may be more sympathetic towards organisations like Homes for Wells and the Blakeney Housing Association than the government. MS will be speaking to someone there soon. This will possibly involve an amendment to the Charity Act to allow these organisations to retain rather than sell their properties. Better broadband is now available to most properties in the area.

c) Safer Neighbourhood Team

There had been one recorded theft in the area – of a quad bike belonging to the Estate. There have been several recent parking violations on the coast road between the Victoria Inn and the Burnham Market turn. This was due to the appearance of a rare bird, and "twitchers" caused the problems. DJ wanted to record that Jason Pegden was always helpful with problems on the reserve.

d) Parish Clerk

KL had written to NNDC in respect of the non-appearance of the new District Councillors. He had received an acknowledgement but no follow-up since mid-November. Even though small Parishes, with under £25k turnover will not require an external audit on a regular basis in future, they will be required to appoint auditors in case of any complaints from the public. It is hoped that NALC will handle these arrangements. KL had received notification that our "transparency fund" grant had been

approved, but was still waiting for confirmation that the money has been transferred to the bank account. A letter from a Stanhoe Councillor, calling for a federation of Norfolk Parish Councils was ignored, since Norfolk ALC already undertakes this role.

5) To discuss any Planning issues to hand.

There were no new planning applications for discussion, but notification had been received that the following plans had been approved:

Conversion of Mill Farm Barn to single dwelling

The next phase of work to be undertaken at Longlands

Erection of orientation centre and café at Lady Anne's Drive

6) To discuss (registration of) Public Rights of Way

Marie Strong has advised that paths used prior to 1949 will have to be registered as Public Rights of Way before 1 January 2026, or the right to use such paths may lapse. Paths that were started to be used after 1949 are not affected. The Parish of Holkham has only one registered Public Right of Way (the Coastal Path) despite people being used to walking on many parts of it on a regular basis. The Parish Council is not the only body that can apply for registration and in view of any conflicts of interest (Parish Councillors who are also Estate employees) it may be better if a body were formed that included Councillors and other people to progress the matter. Councillors would consider who might be interested, and also which routes might be involved, before the next meeting. In the meantime KL would speak to David Horton-Fawkes with the intention of hearing the Estate's point of view on the matter. Although the Estate probably owns most of any land involved, the position of English Nature also has to be considered.

7) To discuss north Norfolk Parishes meeting – Monday 22nd February

A meeting had recently taken place between some of the tourist Towns in north Norfolk to see if they could work together on some issues. It was decided that issues other than tourism might be worth discussing, such as Parish Plans and Second Homes. With this in mind an invitation to a meeting in Cromer on 22nd February had been received. KL said that he would attend and PB and HG also expressed an interest.

8) 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:

Keith Leesmith	Clerk's 4 th quarter salary and contribution to expenses	£453.60
HMRC	PAYE on the above	£109.40

9) Minor Matters

DJ thanked JB for arranging to obtain the new litterbin in the bus shelter. This should improve the look of the shelter in the summer. HG said that whilst the lights between the Victoria and the Ancient House had been adjusted, some of them were still shining too high. The footpath on the north side of the road where the allotments used to be is muddy – as it is often at this time of year. KL would see if he could get it cleared.

10) To confirm date of next meeting

Tuesday 17 March 2016 (one week later than usual) – 1900 at The Estate Office.