



# Holkham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Keith Leesmith  
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Norfolk NR23 1BE

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2016/03

## Minutes of meeting held at the Estate Office Tuesday 15 March 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), Vincent FitzPatrick (NNDC)

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|--|--------------------------|
| 1) Apologies                                   | Safer Neighbourhood Team |
| 2) Declarations of Interest                    | None                     |
| 3) Minutes of the Meeting held 12 January 2016 | Agreed and signed        |

#### 4) Reports

##### a) Norfolk County Council

DAB radio should be available in the area before too long. MS promised to email a full report on this matter to Councillors the following day. The possibility of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire forming a devolved unit with additional powers and extra funds appears to be getting closer. It will mean that an elected mayor will be a requirement and HG questioned how much this would cost. MS did not know but would attempt to find the answer. People who are unhappy about their existing (copper) broadband service should complain to their provider and if necessary, to OFCOM. There are many instances of improvements being available after a complaint is made.

##### b) North Norfolk District Council

VF apologised for not having attending a meeting until now. NNDC has obtained the *Investors in People Gold Standard* for staff development, which should be good for both staff and the public. As well as the enterprise zone at Egmere, specialising in alternative energy, another area at Scottow will concentrate on low carbon and other modern technologies. These two sites will benefit from tax incentives, very fast broadband and other assistance. Government *Coastal Fund* grants of £100k have been awarded to Wells, for the Maltings development, and Cromer. Pigs are being used to clear brambles in Holt Country Park. The budget was passed on 23 February. There would be no increase in Council Tax but costs such as coastal parking would rise. There has been some criticism of the reserves held by the Council but these enable emergency work to be carried out quickly after such events as the December 2013 sea surge. The Department of Work & Pensions now has an office within the NNDC office at Cromer, providing assistance to the public and helping to reduce costs. The Big Society Fund is still available for local projects. VF is happy to assist local people with problems. He can be contacted at [vincent.fitzpatrick@north-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:vincent.fitzpatrick@north-norfolk.gov.uk) or 07808 299549.

**c) Safer Neighbourhood Team**

The police were unable to attend the meeting, but sent a report, which KL read. There had been two recorded crimes since the last meeting – one theft and one common assault. In the neighbouring area, thieves have been targeting work vans and taking any tools left within. Police advise people to remove tools/valuables from vehicles before leaving them overnight, and if possible, park work vans in such a way as to prevent access to rear/side doors.

Norfolk Trading Standards are also warning residents that people are still being targeted with various versions of the “computer fault” scam. The scam starts with a phone call or email from individuals who claim to work for computer software companies or broadband providers. The contact advises that there is a problem with the user’s computer and that they can offer a security check. The individual then gains access to the computer. This gives them access to personal information held on the computer, including account login information and bank details, which can be used to commit fraud. Victims can also end up being asked to pay for the “fixes” the fraudster has made to their computer.

**d) Parish Clerk**

The Citizens’ Advice Bureau is resuming “drop-in” sessions in Wells. The dates of these are advertised on the village notice board. King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council are consulting on a proposed *Community Infrastructure Levy* (not yet available in North Norfolk).

**5) To report on North Norfolk Parishes meeting held at Cromer on 22 February**

PB, HG, and KL had attended. There were about 100 attending from Parishes all over North Norfolk. There was a general dissatisfaction with NNDC and it was decided to form a committee containing representatives of some of the major towns, and some of the smaller villages to try to improve matters. We are promised feedback from future discussions.

**6) To report on meeting regarding the registration of Public Rights of Way**

KL had a meeting with David Horton-Fawkes at which JS was also present. A letter had been received from the Estate, which had been previously circulated to Councillors. The Estate believes that it provides more access than it needs to at present, and does not want to see any footpaths made Public Rights of Way. Councillors felt this was a difficult matter for them, since they all live in Estate houses and the Estate also employs several of them. They do, however, believe that they may have an obligation to the wider public, and particularly to other Parishioners. It was decided to leave the matter until the next meeting to allow further thought.

**7) To discuss any Planning issues to hand.**

Application to subdivide 32 Park Road into two staff flats for the Victoria. JB and JS declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. Resolved – no objection.

A previous application to erect a kitchen extension at the Victoria Hotel had been agreed by planners.

**8) To consider financial appeals from local organisations.**

It was agreed to send £100 (the whole of the current year’s budget) to Heritage House.

**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:

Keith Leesmith	cost of website set-up (paid by government grant)	£88.00
HMRC	PAYE on the above	£22.00
Heritage House	donation – as above	£100.00

It was agreed that the £450 received from the government grant should be ring-fenced for the purchase of computer equipment as and when required.

**10) Minor Matters**

There had been “odd noises” during the evenings at New Holkham. Following police patrols these had now stopped.

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

Tuesday 10 May 2016 – 1900 at The Estate Office.

**The meeting closed at 2035**