



# Holkham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Keith Leesmith  
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2016/12

## Minutes of meeting held at the Estate Office Tuesday 8 November 2016 at 1900

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

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <b>Apologies</b>                                     | John Hall, Derek Jarvis, Emma Sargent<br>Vincent FitzPatrick (NNDC) |
| 2) <b>Declarations of Interest</b>                      | None  |
| 3) <b>Minutes of the Meeting held 13 September 2016</b> | Agreed and signed   |

#### 4) **Reports**

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

Despite the petition, and letters of support from Parishes including Holkham, the hoped-for roundabout at the junction of the Dry Road and the Fakenham Bypass will not be built yet, because of a lack of funds. It is the eventual intention that many hundreds of houses will be built to the south of the Bypass. When that happens, the developers are likely to have to contribute towards a roundabout. In the local policing area there is concern about inconsiderate parking, including parking partly on pavements, preventing people from walking by without entering the road. Police have promised to give this matter their attention. NCC is concerned about *Ash Die-back*. In Holkham, the Estate has the matter in hand. The "Devolution Question" continues with the final NCC debate taking place on 21 November. There are many misgivings, and the Councillors are not split on party-political lines. The main problem is the fact whilst nobody appears to want a mayor; this seems still to be a condition of the deal from central government. This is not helped by the fact that residents in most of the county will not be able to vote for the mayor, because their District/Borough Councils have rejected the idea.

##### **b) North Norfolk District Council**

Vincent Fitzpatrick was unable to attend, but sent a report which KL read. This is appended to these minutes and appears on the website.

##### **c) Safer Neighbourhood Team**

PC Jason Pegden had intended to be at the meeting but was delayed elsewhere. He sent a report to KL shortly after the meeting. This is appended to these minutes and appears on the website.

##### **d) Parish Clerk**

KL had written to Wells Town Council about the proposed 2017 Triathlon and the use of the Dry Road by 2000 cyclists on the first Sunday in July. Marie and Mike Strong had been at the Wells Meeting the previous evening and reported that the Councillors showed considerable concerns and were likely to be debating the issue in the near future.

**5) Planning Matters**

No planning matters to hand.

**6) To discuss the proposal for BT to remove telephone boxes from North Norfolk**

NNDC had written regarding a proposal to remove many (little-used) telephone boxes in North Norfolk. At the time of writing they had not been informed of the locations, but apparently the particular boxes now had notices showing their intended withdrawal. It was not known if this included Holkham. Councillors would prefer to retain the box, although it was thought that the telephone equipment had been stolen/vandalised some time ago. KL would check the box to see if there was a withdrawal notice. If there were not, no action would be taken. If there were, a letter requesting retention would be sent.

**7) To approve the budget for 2017/2018 and fix the precept.**

KL had prepared a budget for the next financial year. We had not increased the precept for several years, but it was thought that with increasing costs it was necessary to make a small increase this year. It was agreed to increase the precept from £2500 per annum to £3000.

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

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

The following cheques were agreed for payment:

|                |  |        |
|----------------|--|--------|
| Keith Leesmith | Clerk's salary and contribution to expenses – 3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr. | 459.16 |
| HMRC           | PAYE on the above  | 110.60 |

**9) Minor Matters**

None

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

Tuesday 10 January 2017 – 1900 at The Estate Office.

Marie & Mike Strong left the meeting at this point

**11) To discuss the vacancy for a Councillor with a view to co-opting a replacement**

Following the resignation of Jo Stapleton, the official notice had been posted and there were no calls for an election to be held. Consequently, we could co-opt a new Councillor. It was thought that a local person was interested in joining the Council, and they would be acceptable to the existing Councillors. JB would speak to the person, and supply KL with their contact details if they were still interested.

**The meeting closed at 1953**