



Holkham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Keith Leesmith
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2023/12

Minutes of meeting held at Heritage House, Wells Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 1830

Present Harvey Gunhouse, Elaine Hendry, Daisy Hone (Chairman), Emma Sargent
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Peter Fisher (NNDC), Clarey Harvey

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|---|-------------------|
| 1) Apologies | None |
| 2) Declarations of Interest | None |
| 3) Minutes of the Meeting held 5 September 2023 | Agreed and signed |
| 4) Reports | |

b) North Norfolk District Council

Peter Fisher brought with him a report which was distributed to those present. This is attached to these minutes and appears on the website.

In addition, he distributed copies of the NNDC *Sustainable Communities Fund* which is intended to provide grants to assist in building environmental and community sustainability.

c) Parish Clerk

KL had provided a report to Councillors which is attached to these minutes and appears on the website.

After writing the report, he had received an account for work done by NNDC on the May Election. He was still of the opinion that no costs should be payable by Parishes when no election takes place. This is because the minimal work undertaken by the District Council should be offset by the work that they ask Parishes to do in printing and distributing material for both the Parish and the District elections. However, the account was for £20.25, which was a reduction since the last election when it was £35.46. It was agreed that it was likely that non-payment was likely to lead to a long, protracted argument and it was not worth doing this for the small amount involved.

5) To discuss any Planning Matters to hand

Repairs and Alterations to the Jordon Bird Hide

It was agreed that this work was necessary as the woodwork on the hide, and the associated staircase was in a bad condition. As this was such a popular attraction, we felt that we could support the application.

No other planning matters.

6) To approve the budget for 2024/2025 and fix the precept

KL had prepared a budget for the coming year and believed that we could just manage without raising the precept. It was therefore agreed that we precept for £3500 as before.

7) Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement

Copies of the spreadsheet and bank statement had been distributed to Councillors before the meeting. The Barclays Account had now been closed by them, writing off the small overdraft which was caused by their error.

The following amounts had been paid since the last meeting:

30/09/23	Quarterly Bank Charges	18.00
14/11/23	Clerk – 3 rd quarter salary and contribution to expenses	555.56
14/11/23	HMRC – PAYE on the above	132.40

In addition, the £20.25 for the NNDC election expenses would be paid in the next few days.

8) To discuss search for additional Councillors

Clarey Harvey had attended the meeting to see what a typical Parish Council meeting was like, and she was now asked if she would like to become a Councillor. She would like to, and Councillors voted unanimously to co-opt her.

9) To discuss possibility of improving “community spirit” in the village

Following on the short conversation at the last meeting, it was thought to be worthwhile to try to revive the former community spirit that existed in the village. One of the problems with this was that there was now no village hall which could become a natural focus for activities, also local residents had lost the facility of a welcoming public house. However, it was thought to be reasonable for the Parish Council to try to encourage a greater sense of community. With this in mind ES and DH with any others that would like to join, would consider the matter before the next meeting when a further discussion on the subject could take place.

10) Minor Matters

HG asked what was happening with the attempt to turn the speed limit through the village from 40mph to 30mph. KL had received an encouraging email from the Aylsham Highway Engineer but had heard nothing further for about a month. He would chase the matter up.

11) To confirm date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th January 2024 – 1830 at Heritage House

The meeting closed at 1925