



Holkham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Keith Leesmith
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2024/01

Minutes of meeting held at Heritage House, Wells Tuesday 09 January 2024 at 1830

Present Harvey Gunhouse, Clary Harvey, Elaine Hendry, Daisy Hone (Chairman)
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Michael Dalby (NCC), Peter Fisher (NNDC)

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| 1) Apologies | None – Emma Sargent |
| 2) Declarations of Interest | None |
| 3) Minutes of the Meeting held 14 November 2023 | Agreed and signed |

4) Reports

a) Norfolk County Council

Michael Dalby had sent a report which was distributed to Councillors. This is appended to these minutes and appears on the website. In response to a question, he had not had any correspondence with Cllr. Andrew Jamieson regarding the possibility of reducing the speed limit through the Village from 40mph to 30mph. However, he would be seeing him at a County Council meeting the next day and would try to find out if there had been any progress.

Michael Dalby left to attend meetings elsewhere.

b) North Norfolk District Council

Peter Fisher distributed a report to Councillors present at the meeting. This is appended to these Minutes and appears on the website. The report mentioned the current housing crisis. The District Council has a legal duty to house homeless people, and the number of these has risen by 40% in the last three years. It currently costs £700 a week to house a family, but NNDC can only reclaim £98 from the government. This is presenting problems to the Council's budget, and the possibility of closing some toilets (a non-statutory duty) has been discussed. However, NNDC has recently won an award for the revamped toilets on Stearman's Yard in Wells and Queen's Road in Fakenham.

c) Parish Clerk

KL had provided a report to Councillors which is attached to these minutes and appears on the website. He would email Cllr. Jamieson (NCC) in the hope of getting the speed limit reduced on the main road.

- 5) **To discuss any Planning Matters to hand**
Nothing to hand.

6) To discuss government requirements for biodiversity/conservation

The government require all public bodies, including Parish Councils, to discuss this matter with a view to making improvements in the area. KL had prepared a statement which Councillors agreed:

Biodiversity and Conservation – Holkham Parish

Apart from one ex-railway cottage, all the land and every building in the Parish of Holkham is owned and managed by the Holkham Estate.

For some years they have actively done their best to follow a path of energetic biodiversity and conservation whilst also managing successful agriculture and tourism businesses.

Their work includes:

A partnership with Natural England to manage an extensive area of woodland, saltmarsh, and beach. Employing staff specifically to deal with conservation and biodiversity.

Therefore, it is unlikely that the Parish Council, with its very limited resources, could do anything to add to this work.

We therefore feel that all we can do in this area is to continue to monitor the situation and raise any points with the Estate that we feel necessary.

7) Financial Report and Accounts for Settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors.

The following had been paid since the last meeting

Parish Clerk – 4 th quarter salary and contribution to expenses plus backpay	721.96
HMRC – PAYE on above	174.00

8) To discuss search for additional Councillors

We currently have five Councillors, plus two vacancies. CH and DH believe that they have found two people who might be prepared to become Councillors. It was agreed that we invite them to the next meeting, and if they felt the same at the end of the meeting, the formal process of co-option could begin.

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

CH and DH would circulate the village with a survey to try to find out what people might want. The results of this could be discussed at the next meeting, and if it was thought helpful, we could invite Peter Mitchell to the following meeting in May in the hope obtaining the use of facilities.

10) Minor Matters

There was a defibrillator on the outside of the Victoria Hotel, but it was not known if this was registered with the ambulance service. This is a requirement for its use. CH would make enquiries.

A map would be obtained which could be put on the notice board, to assist delivery drivers find individual properties.

8) To confirm date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 March 2024 – 1830 at Heritage House

The meeting closed at 1940