



# Hempton Parish Council

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday 19 January 2022, 7pm

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Parish Councillors present: Vivien Woods (Chairman), Christine Haydon, Christine Warne, Tom FitzPatrick (County Councillor), Nigel Housden (District Councillor), PC Rich Dawson. Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk) and Sara Foster (Deputy Lieutenant). There were 5 members of the public present.

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### **1. Welcome and to receive apologies for absence**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Apologies were received from Patricia Ainger. Apologies accepted.

### **2. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations**

Cllr Woods declared a pecuniary interest in item 9.

Cllr Warne declared a pecuniary interest in item 8.1 (including sub items).

It was RESOLVED to grant Cllr Woods a dispensation to participate in the consideration of item 9 and to grant Cllr Warne a dispensation to participate in the consideration of item 8.1 (including sub items).

### **3. To approve the minutes of meeting held on 16 September 2021**

The minutes were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **4. To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting**

There were none.

### **5. Receive community commemorative plaque, presented by a Deputy of Lady Dannatt's office.**

Sara Foster introduced herself and presented the Chairman with a commemorative plaque who accepted it on behalf of the whole community for their efforts during the Covid lock downs. The plaque was gratefully received and will be installed in a prominent position in the village.

### **6. To receive reports from Local PC, NCC Councillor and NNDC Councillor if attending**

#### PC Rich Dawson

There is not a lot of bad behaviour and incidents to report and it was a quiet Christmas / New Year period.

A new Beat Manager was trialled last summer. They were appointed to work at Wells during the summer, and other areas when not so busy. The trial went well so another one will start in April. The workload will be split into rural and urban areas.

The next SNAP (Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel) meeting will be held via Teams on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Members of the public are welcome to attend to raise any concerns.

Officers went round checking all road lines in Fakenham and have found 4 old traffic orders that they did not know about. These will be reinstated in conjunction with Highways Dept.

Cllr Woods asked whether the funding streams were forwarded following our meeting in July. PC Dawson advised that they had been forwarded on to relevant organisations to consider and decide on submitting a bid.

The youth provision in Fakenham struggle for funding in particular, and this will be discussed further with Fakenham Town Council.

PC Dawson has a regular stall once month at the Thursday Market in Fakenham as an engagement surgery for the public to come along and discuss any concerns. Cllr Woods added that visibility is a positive thing and believes will have a positive effect on the community.

Cllr Housden asked whether the police do speed checks along Goggs Mill Road? PC Dawson explained that the road needs to be fairly straight for a speed gun to be effective.

Cllr Woods asked about the status of County Lines. PC Dawson advised that we do not have a particular problem in North Norfolk; they tend to stop in Norwich, some in Kings Lynn and Great Yarmouth but relatively little in North Norfolk.

*Tom FitzPatrick, County Councillor*

The proposed roundabout planning application is open until 21<sup>st</sup> January. A planning meeting will then be held at County Hall which members of the public can attend. Cllr Woods asked whether details of this meeting will be advertised. Cllr FitzPatrick confirmed that they will be advertised and the Clerk will be notified, details can also be found on the NCC website and he advised to keep checking the website.

*Nigel Housden, District Councillor*

The community governance review will be voted on 9<sup>th</sup> February. The consolidation of Parish Councils is a positive move and seems sensible. Once ratified the new Parish Council will become 'The Common Parish Council of Hempton and Pudding Norton'.

Cllr Housden also confirmed that the corner house on River Court is not a designated safe house. It was thought it may have been, based on various incidents that have occurred in or outside this property in the past. It was noted that there does not appear to have been any recent incidents.

**7. Open Forum for Public Participation: An Opportunity to Hear from Members of the Public**

- Robust discussion ensued concerning the proposed roundabout.
- A member of the public explained that her son has had 2 accidents on the crossroad, because people cannot see the junction. It was also noted that poor road markings, poor signage, wrong sat nav instructions, and low sun are also contributors.
- Another member of the public asked if the current plan can be re-evaluated as the visual impact and character of the village will be greatly affected.
- Cllr FitzPatrick added that comments go to the planning committee and they can suggest changes, they may say yes they may say no there is some latitude but he has never known a roundabout refused, as usually they take years to reach build stage. People's comments will be taken into account, they will be balanced against Highways, Historic England, Archaeologists reports etc, but having the land owners willingness to part with the land is beneficial. However, locating the roundabout on the junction is a 'no no'. When Cllr FitzPatrick was first elected the then Parish Council members asked for a roundabout and the previous County Councillor was asked for a roundabout...so there is some history. Cllr FitzPatrick has asked for mitigations such as planting to minimise the visual impact.
- Cllr Woods also pointed out that the structure is oversized for the setting and there appears to have been a lack of meaningful research into alternatives.
- A member of the public raised concern that the proposed size of the roundabout will bring it closer to peoples homes which will be further impacted by increased noise levels. Cllr FitzPatrick responded that no one had approached him directly with this issue, and made the point that it had been requested in the past that the road

should remain open whilst the work was being carried out, and this is another reason for its proposed location.

- Cllr FitzPatrick sent an email to the Clerk in October 2018, just before a Parish Council meeting explaining that there may be funding available for a roundabout at the B1146/C550 junction and was lobbying for this to happen.
- Cllr FitzPatrick explained that Highways had engaged with the PC on quite a few occasions, which is virtually unheard of in his experience. Usually a project such as this would go ahead unhindered and without question. He believes that both he and Highways Department personnel have been very accommodating and does not understand the objections he has been getting. Adding that securing as much funding as possible was a key function of his role as County Councillor, and cited the new special needs school in Fakenham as another of his successes.
- Cllr Woods responded, explaining that there have been meetings and public engagement opportunities, but the Parish Council requested them all , they have not been offered up as part of the process. It was also highlighted that the initial public consultation survey asked questions based around road safety, rather than direct questions about the proposed roundabout.
- It feels as though we have been hitting our heads against a brick wall and no one is listening, it's clear that Highways are set on a clear path from the supposed consultation to planning, and nobody throughout this process has listened to the requests for reducing the size and possibly the location of the roundabout so that it remains in keeping with its surroundings. No one has listened and nothing has changed.
- Cllr FitzPatrick added that the Shell roundabout is too small. There is not another B and C road category roundabout like this one, its also because it is one of the 10 most dangerous junctions in Norfolk, and this roundabout is the right solution. There is no point in having a roundabout built and then people say 'it's too small'; we are not alone in thinking it's oversized but that decision is up to the safety team in the final analysis, not him.
- Cllr FitzPatrick stated that when he briefed the Highways team he had specifically asked that the roundabout should be future proofed. Which informed the final design that is currently under consideration by the Planning Dpt team.
- Cllr Housden remarked that the fundamental point is that the crossroads do present a hazard. If Highways confirm traffic lights are not possible, and a roundabout is feasible then one of a more suitable proportion could be the solution. However, if you look at 3 of the roads joining the junction, they all run through a rural setting and he believes an urban mindset prevails here as the design team are Manchester based– he believes writing a strongly worded but concise letter is the best thing to do now.
- Cllr Housden also added that people don't trust the system and that's the reason people want to see proper consultation, so that we don't see something out of proportion, as we have here, and we don't want this just 'rubber stamped' and with an overall lack of transparency things can easily be pushed under the carpet. He firmly believes in getting things right first time as retrospective changes are very costly and 'white elephants' even more so.

## **8. To receive updates from Council Members**

### **8.1 Allotment Report**

#### **8.1.1 Allotment plot numbering update**

Cllr Warne reported that all plot numbers have now been installed. Thanks were given to her for the work she had put into achieving this. Thanks too will be sent to Carol Stubbs who assisted with this project.

8.1.2 Allotment rent review

Following discussions, the Council has RESOLVED to increase the annual rent to £12 per year commencing 1 October 2022. A letter to this effect has been sent to all allotmenteers. It was also AGREED that the allotment year will run from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

8.2 Memorial Hall Committee Report

Cllr Woods advised that the air source heating system has now been installed which should heat the hall during the winter and cool it during the summer. The existing gas heating system will remain in situ and top up heat if and when required.

8.3 Events Committee Report

8.3.1 Consider lighting a beacon for the Queens Platinum Jubilee on 2 June 2022

Discussion ensued. It was suggested that a new larger beacon basket should be purchased, and a community barbecue was also suggested. Communication will follow with the owners of The Bell to discuss whether they are organising anything for the Jubilee and whether they would consider having a barbecue in conjunction with the beacon lighting on the Common.

**9. Receive update on the proposed roundabout**

The planning application has been submitted and comments must be submitted by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The Council will submit a letter of objection to the current proposal, as alternative mitigations or a smaller roundabout situated on the existing crossroad junction would be more suitable. (Please also see item 7).

**10. Open Spaces**

Clerk recently met with a representative from Cadent Gas to walk the high-pressure gas line that runs underneath the Common. The Council was unaware of the high pressure pipeline as the markers are not visible and no communication has ever been received from Cadent to notify the Parish Council of their existence.

10.1 Play area - receive update on the new swings and maintenance work

The maintenance work and swing replacement has now been carried out and the annual maintenance of other equipment will be carried out by Roy Swain in the spring.

10.2 Receive update on the new village benches

Three benches have been installed. The remaining 3 benches will be installed when the weather permits. The metal ends of the old benches will be sand blasted, painted and repurposed, possibly around the other ponds.

10.3 Duck pond and other ponds update

Work is still in progress, and we are awaiting a report in terms of the planting plan.

There is no further update on the other ponds. Clerk will follow up with Helen at NWT regarding the plans and get a funding update.

10.4 Receive an update on works to the bus shelter & consider reinstating the bus shelter on Raynham Road

The new roof work is complete on the Shereford Rd shelter.

Cllr FitzPatrick has asked the bus dept. to check whether there is a timetable in situ at the top of Raynham Road. It is believed that a Sanders bus stops there. Cllr FitzPatrick will advise as soon as he knows.

Cllr Woods noted that the expected cost of a new bus shelter to match the existing one would be high.

Carol Stubbs asked whether a bench could be installed at the bus shelter site in any case. This will be considered.

- 10.5 To consider lighting a beacon for the Queens Platinum Jubilee on 2nd June 2022  
Please see item 8.3.1 above.

**11. Planning matters**

- 11.1 To receive results of applications

There were none.

- 11.2 To receive applications for consideration

**PF/21/2601** | 18 River Court, Hempton, Norfolk, NR21 7LZ

Single storey side and rear extension following removal of conservatory to rear

PC comment – NEUTRAL but consider the potential safety issue with the structure being so close to the boundary.

**PF/21/3218** - Hempton - 4 Horns Row, Hempton

Single/two storey rear extension to dwelling and porch to front

NNDC comment - WITHDRAWN

**PF/21/3314** | Hempton - Land Between 13 & 19, Shereford Road

Demolition of existing building and erection of terrace of 3 no. two-bed dwelling houses

PC comment – NEUTRAL | NNDC decision - PENDING

**PF/21/3020** | Payne Brothers East Anglia Ltd, Fakenham Agri Park, Helhoughton Road

Erection of building to be used as storage for bagged agricultural fertiliser

PC comment – NEUTRAL but consider adequate safety provision for storage of the fertiliser | NNDC decision - PENDING

- 11.3 Consider and agree to publish planning applications on the Facebook page

Following consideration, the Council RESOLVED to publish details of applications on the PC Facebook page.

**12. Financial matters**

- 12.1 To approve the payment of accounts list

The Council RESOLVED to approve the payments list (refer to page 6).

- 12.2 To agree to renew the direct debit instruction for Eon electricity.

Information has been received that Eon and Npower are merging. The Council RESOLVED to inform the bank that there is a new customer number required for the direct debit mandate. Clerk to action.

- 12.3 To review and approve the budget and set the precept for 2022/23

Following a budget meeting and further discussion the Council RESOLVED to approve the budget presented by the Clerk and set the precept for 2022/23 at £16000. This represents a reduction of 12.5% on last year.

**13. To consider and discuss correspondence received**

- Littlethorn Bus Shelter Literature – made available for Councillors.
- Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine – made available for Councillors.
- Play Park Equipment Email – Agreed to keep on file.
- Email received from a local resident with issues re speeding on Raynham Road– Fakenham Town Council will support Hempton Parish Council if this is progressed further. PC Dawson advised that he has requested a speed

van to attend this stretch of road to record speed. Cllr FitzPatrick has requested the speed to be reduced here in the past however has been advised by Highways that as there are only houses along one side of the road they will not reduce the speed limit. Cllr FitzPatrick will request roundels to be painted on the road in an effort to keep speeding down. Clerk to forward a letter of support to Cllr FitzPatrick for the roundels.

**14. Receive an update on progress with the proposed merger with Pudding Norton Parish Council**

As mentioned above, the decision should be voted on at the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Once confirmed we will look to combine the newsletter with Pudding Norton and Testerton parishioners. A note will be included in the newsletter requesting volunteers to deliver them.

**15. To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda and to note the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 March 2022.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.58pm.

Signed by Chairman: ..... Date: .....

<b>Payment of Accounts List (item 12.1)</b>			
<b>Payments To</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Chq No.</b>	<b>Payment</b>
Eon	Electricity (Dec)	DD	46.54
O2	Clerk Mobile (Dec-Feb)	DD	70.77
Hughes	Clerk Laptop Rental (Dec-Jan)	DD	60.00
J Bond	Office 365 Annual Subscription	101663	79.99
Viking Direct	Stationery Expenses	101664	54.34
NGF Play Ltd	Play Area Work	101665	1961.50
J Bond	Salary (Dec-Jan)	101666	720.96
Fakenham Prepress Solutions	Newsletter Printing	101667	321.30
CGM Ltd	Grass Cutting	101668	401.03
<b>Total Payments to be Approved</b>			<b>£3716.43</b>
<b>Receipts From</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Barclays	Interest on reserves (Dec)	DC	0.35
PNPC & SPC	Contribution towards Clerk Expenses (Oct- Nov)	100156	47.96
SPC	Contribution towards Clerk Expenses (Dec-Jan)	100157	31.69
RPC	Contribution towards Clerk Expenses (Dec-Jan)	DC	21.98
HHPC	Contribution towards Clerk Expenses (Dec-Jan)	DC	20.19
UKPN	Rebate	100157	970.10
D Roper	Newsletter advert (1yr)	DC	18.00
<b>Total Receipts Received</b>			<b>£1110.27</b>