



Hempton Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 16th January 2020 at 7pm, Hempton Church Rooms

Parish Councillors present: Vivien Woods (Chairman), Christine Haydon, Robert Mallett.
Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk), Tom FitzPatrick (County Councillor), Nigel Housden (District Councillor) there were 10 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed those present.
Apologies received from Cllr Stubbs. Apologies accepted.

2. **Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

There were none.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2019**

The minutes of the meeting were approved and were 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 reports from:**

5.1 Local Police officer was not present.

Clerk circulated Police Newsletters; further copies are uploaded to www.hemptonpc.info

5.2 NCC Cllr Tom FitzPatrick

Report to follow

5.3 NNDC Cllr Nigel Housden

Environmental Agency have been issuing flood warnings – continue to do so as more rain is forecasted for tonight – it may not affect Hempton but some surrounding villages are affected.

The Big Society Fund awarded the Parish Council £3800 of the requested funding but it was suggested that we submit a further application to attempt to secure additional funds to cover the third element of the project. Thanks give to Cllr Housden and NNDC.

There is currently an overview of the Scrutiny Committee for Emergency Services in an attempt to improve the national average wait time from 21 minutes.

Chairman raised the issue of the Fakenham post office closing on 20th January without making provision for another to take over. This will leave many people very vulnerable and without access to gas and or electric top ups, meaning that some may not have any heating or cooking facilities. Individuals and local businesses will be severely impacted.

Cllr FitzPatrick and Cllr Housden have both been in conversations with Jerome Mayhew MP, Post Office staff and Fakenham Town Mayor. Mr Mayhew has been lobbying to find a replacement location. There are mobile Post Office facilities in the area, that may assist temporarily.

There was much discussion about this topic and how it is felt that the Post Office should be held accountable for taking little or no action during the two year notice period given to the Post Office by McColls.

Local Post offices that can be used for those with transport are Great Rybrugh, Massingham, Little Snoring and Guist.

6. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from the public

A member of the public suggested fitting wired glass in the windows of the shed to replace the boards that are currently there, as opposed to bars, which may indicate that valuable items are kept in there. The shed is used only to keep items used for the village events, e.g. signs and banners.

A decision will be made in due course, once some costs have been obtained. Cllr Woods added that either strong plastic or wired glass windows would probably be best.

Another member of the public wished to know why the NCC Registration service has been reduced over the years to being available one day a week, and now apparently being closed for the foreseeable future. It is not practical or acceptable to expect people from Fakenham and surrounding villages to have to go all the way to County Hall or Kings Lynn to register a death, birth or marriage.

Deaths should be legally registered within 5 days, a recent experience proved that it took 10 days for a recent death to be registered due to this local and essential service being unavailable/withdrawn.

Cllr FitzPatrick advised that he would look into this and request that the service is reinstated to at least one day a week.

7. Allotment Report

Nothing to report in Cllr Stubbs' absence.

8. Memorial Hall

8.1 Committee report

Cllr Stubbs was absent, however Clerk had been informed that a toilet window had been broken and reported to the police. It had also now been repaired.

8.2 Agree fascia quote

Discussion took place and it was AGREED that C&S Roofing would be awarded the work once the quote had been confirmed, to a maximum of £2500. Clerk to schedule the works.

8.3 Fire doors update

The order has been given to Colin Marshall, awaiting a date for commencement. Advised that work will commence as soon as the contractor's vehicle issues have been resolved.

9. Highways update

9.1 Goggs Mill Speeding

Cllr FitzPatrick suggested requesting chevrons and 'slow' to be painted onto the tarmac close to the bridge, all agreed this would help. Cllr Woods suggested more awareness signage could be installed. All agreed the speed limit should be reduced to at least 50mph. Clerk to liaise with Cllr FitzPatrick and Highways.

10. Open Spaces

Cllr FitzPatrick is looking into obtaining funding for a pilgrimage trail which includes Hempton Abbey Ruins and the Abbey Ruins, similar to Reepham.

The Kings Lynn to Fakenham (Hempton) Railway route is being looked into as a cycle/walkers route. There had been some initial reluctance but it is believed to become a huge success.

Clerk has been in discussions with Fakenham Garden Centre regarding parking issues. They would be very pleased to receive ideas of how else they can reduce the congestion and provide more parking spaces. One option would be for the Garden Centre to landscape the area behind River Court and make it into a staff only car park, which would be lowered and disguised with trees and vegetation. However residents of River Court are anti this proposal due to the potential impact on their lives.

Another option would be for them to tarmac the curb side area up to their fence line to allow cars to park along the outside. The Garden Centre will attend to any potholes immediately outside their property and fill holes with shingle/hardcore. They wish to keep the area looking its best.

It was suggested that the owners of the plot of land close to the bridge be approached to discuss the option of an area of this land become used for staff parking and potentially having another access from Goggs Mill Road.

Clerk to pursue this and to forward copy of the plan of the area of land behind River Court to Cllr Housden to help with the section106 order. If this is granted to the Parish Council a community orchard / play area would be the preferred option.

10.1 Play Area Climbing Net Update

AOT has provided a quote to build a bespoke metal framed climbing frame for £1950. It was AGREED that we would give the go ahead to AOT. It was agreed that this work will be funded by the £1000 awarded from Tesco Bags of Help and £950 from the Parish Council reserves. Clerk to schedule the work.

10.2 Pond Area – Update, Funding & Surveys

The Big Society Fund have awarded us £3800 towards the pond area project. Much thanks given to NNDC. The window for work will be Autumn 2020 to clear the pond and then install the posts.

NWT have confirmed that they hope to have surveys to us by the end of January. Results of these surveys will be considered and works would be planned for over the next 3 -5 years, in partnership with Raynham Estate.

11. Planning Matters

There were none.

12. Financial Matters

12.1 Clerk advised the Financial Statement for the period Dec 2019 to Jan 2020 which was AGREED.

12.2 The Council RESOLVED to approve the payments list (below)

Payment to	Description	Amount
J Bond	Salary	£517.92
PaperKlip	Clerk stationery	£95.86
NNDC	Bin Empty	£369.84
Hempton PCC	Hall hire	£70
CGM	Grass Cutting	£72
Parish Printing	Newsletters	£96.32
	Total	£1709.52
Receipts from	Description	Amount
wrpc	Clerk mobile and stationery	38.91
	Total	£213.01

13. To receive correspondence

The correspondence was made available for Councillors to read.

14. Village Events

The events have been growing in success, which is good news. Events planned for 2020, Daffodil Tea, Summer Fete, Children's Halloween Party, Christmas Cheer and possibly 2 quiz/bingo nights. Dates are available on the website and Parish News.

14.1 Set up of an Events Working Group

As a result of the growing success it was agreed that a dedicated events team would be set up. It will be called 'Friends of Hempton' and the group of volunteers will meet informally to discuss and organise the PC events. A member of the group will attend the Parish Council Meetings to update us of their plans.

DRAFT until agreed at next meeting

15. To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda

Wheelie Bins

Amendment to the Standing Orders to allow public participation at the end of meetings.

Clerk's Laptop

16. To note the date of the next parish council meeting

Thursday 19th March

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed by Chairman: Date: