



Hempton Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 15 July 2021, 7pm

Parish Councillors present: Vivien Woods, Carol Stubbs, Christine Haydon, Tom FitzPatrick (County Councillor), Jerome Mayhew MP. Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk). There were 8 members of the public present.

1. Welcome and to receive apologies for absence

Cllr Woods opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Apologies received from Nigel Housden (District Councillor), 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 8.6.

It was RESOLVED to grant Cllr Woods a dispensation to participate in the consideration of item 8.6.

Cllr Stubbs declared a pecuniary interest in item 7.1, 7.1.1 & 7.1.2.

It was RESOLVED to grant Cllr Stubbs a dispensation to participate in the consideration of item 7.1 and sub items.

3. To approve the minutes of meeting held on 20 May 2021

The minutes were approved without amendment.

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

The Council shed has now been repainted.

A suggestion for an arboretum in memory of those lost to Covid-19 will be presented to Tom Raynham for consideration in the Hempton area via Nigel Housden following recent discussions.

Cllr Stubbs has been booked onto the NALC Charitable Trusts and Parish Councils training course on 23rd July 2021.

Activities for young people have been discussed with PC Dawson, who will be taking the lead on working and addressing behavioural issues in partnership with other agencies, local PC and Fakenham TC.

Flooding issues - Lord Dannatt seems to be progressing in the right direction however it still seems that many people have fingers in many pies and is critical that parties work together and co-operatively to ensure that maximum efficiency and effectiveness is achieved e.g. avoid duplication of effort.

**5. To hear from guest speaker: Jerome Mayhew MP, if attending
and to receive reports from NCC Councillor and NNDC Councillor if attending**

Jerome Mayhew MP

Cllr Woods introduced Jerome Mayhew to our meeting.

Flooding

Further to the flooding issue above Jerome Mayhew added that Lord Dannatt is bringing all agencies together to combat flooding. He has an action plan with better co-ordination for this coming winter and he has requested funding from Central Government. Cllr Woods explained that erosion on the coast and soil is directly affected too. Jerome agreed that they are separate issues but all fall under flooding. The water should be captured and somehow used.

Abstraction services for surface water are being discussed and there has been discussion regarding the planning constraints for taking surface water and building reservoirs.

Following a parishioner's comment about being under water stress in this area, Jerome explained that Anglian Water are building a pipe to pump water from areas that have excess water and looking to import water to areas that need it and move away from using bore holes. It is agreed, we must be more efficient with our water, it is becoming an increasingly precious resource. We also need schemes to capture rainfall to reserve for future use i.e. during periods of low rainfall.

Covid-19

On 19th July we will see the relaxation of Government restrictions and many comments have been received. This stage is based on the Government's 4 tests which were set out in the roadmap. The vaccination treatments have been 96% effective. 31% of people becoming ill are now younger however, it is still a numbers game. It is less

serious than it was, but we will still get a high number of people in hospital. Number of infections will rise until mid-August and then diminish again – this is based on the scientific modelling from 3 universities. It will be better to have the increase in infection rates during the summer and not over the winter. The Government must keep on track and keep on top of any new variants and the testing required.

NHS Dental Service

A local dental surgery (Wensum Dental Practice) is withdrawing their NHS service. Jerome spoke to the Minister to highlight the issues that caused Teresa to give up the NHS, as the reasons behind the decision were mostly due to how she has been treated within the system, not just about income.

Offshore Windfarm

There are plans for offshore wind corridors coming through South Norwich and affecting many other areas in Norfolk. Jerome has been working with Parish Councils to discuss the need for an offshore network. He is trying to raise issues with laying the flex through the landscape. Changing legislation is almost impossible but he has been meeting with various people and putting pressure on the Government as the flex required is not currently permitted to share the trench alongside another flex. An offshore transmission review will now take place as the Government are now taking an interest in the logistics of the processes required.

There are plans around storing hydrogen from offshore wind when the energy is not needed. Also, a smart meter network, by looking to use millions of large batteries (like car batteries) into the network to store the energy instead of having huge batteries which have a high potential explosive risk.

Jerome would be happy to take questions, his contact details are available online.

Thanks were given to Jerome for attending.

Tom FitzPatrick, County Councillor

A full report is available to view and download via our website.

In addition to the report Cllr Woods asked whether there is any update on the local Post Office.

Cllr FitzPatrick explained that there is a service running. No one has expressed an interest to take the Post Office into their existing business and premises, which Cllr FitzPatrick feels would be the best thing for matters to progress. Some early suggestions were not suitable for disabled access.

Cllr Woods mentioned that Tesco was interested. Cllr FitzPatrick advised that they were approached nationally but nothing further has happened. The existing service is better than having a mobile Post Office van on market day and the other option is that it is closed. All agreed that it's important to have a Post Office in a town centre location – for example if it went into Morrisons it would take the service out of the town centre.

Cllr FitzPatrick's main aim is to keep a functioning Post Office in Fakenham and all he can do is continue to push the Post Office. Every now and then he gets in touch to get updates and asks for any more news, the Post Office always give a negative response.

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

There was a very loud outspoken and unruly parishioner present who barraged the councillors with comments about his allotment and that the Parish Council can 'take him to court' He also interrupted Jerome Mayhew on more than one occasion while he was addressing, the parishioners and was asked not to be rude, to stop interrupting when others were speaking and to be quiet by the Chairman.

7. To receive updates from Council Members

7.1 Allotment Report

Cllr Woods advised that the Council will be reinstating the annual allotment holders meeting once the Government restrictions have lifted. A designated meeting will be organised to discuss the allotment issues in detail that have been sent to the Clerk within the past day or two.

One member of the public present raised his voice and started shouting about the allotment land, rents and how the council can 'take him to court'. The Chairman again asked him to refrain from shouting or he would be asked to leave.

7.1.1 Allotment plot numbering update

The allotment plots have all been renumbered on the councils' records and new leases have been sent out to allotment holders to include new plot number where relevant. The renumbering is purely an administrative exercise to ensure records are maintained in an appropriate way.

7.1.2 Allotment rent review

As above item.

7.2 Memorial Hall Committee Report

Cllr Stubbs advised that the driving theory test will be taking place in the hall and will be included on the central list as a future driving test centre.

The car boot in May was a success and a car boot sale is planned for Bank Holiday Monday 30th August

Electrical services have been carried out and the fire extinguishers have been serviced.

The AGM will be held at 7pm on 11th August 2021 at the Memorial Hall.

Since receiving Covid -19 grants the committee are looking into sourcing an eco-friendly heating system and reverse refrigeration unit to help save energy and ongoing energy costs.

Cllr Woods added that the entrance gates drain has now been installed.

The handrails were painted but not very successfully – the rails were prepped correctly by the decorator, however the paint used appears to be the problem. Cllr Woods has arranged for the paint supplier to look into this and following this investigation the handrails will be repainted.

7.3 Events Committee Report

Cllr Haydon proposed that the Council looks to organise another yard sale during the summer holidays. All AGREED. Cllr Haydon will make enquiries and try to source some volunteers to help. Further update to follow.

7.3.1 Consider and adopt the Media Policy

Following review, the Council RESOLVED to adopt the Media Policy presented by the Clerk.

8. Open Spaces

8.1 Play area report

Cllr Stubbs suggested sourcing durable recycled plastic slats to be used on the picnic table tops. Clerk to research and obtain some prices. All agreed this may be a good option since we have suffered a bit of vandalism in the past. Clerk is still awaiting a quote for repair works highlighted in the annual play area inspection. Once received this will be circulated to Councillors for consideration.

8.2 Consider and agree replacement of village benches

Following recent discussions outside of this meeting and consideration of the quotes presented, the Council RESOLVED to purchase 4 Tudor Wooden benches from Hanworth Timber for a total cost of £1426.88 inc VAT. Clerk to action.

8.3 Duck pond and other ponds update

The duck pond work is still in progress. Following the recent site meeting with the contractor the Parish Council RESOLVED to proceed with the next stage of work required to cut the wet meadow area of grass, this will be required 2-3 times prior to new wet meadow seed being planted. The agreed cost will be £200 per visit. Also, some of the young shrubs that had been planted have died off and will be replaced at no extra cost. Nick Acheson has kindly agreed to help manage the wet meadow area and plant locally sourced native wet meadow plant seeds free of charge.

We are looking to clear the ponds on the common which have become incredibly overgrown, and hope to see the return of native invertebrates and other wildlife. Helen Baczkowska NWT and Nick Acheson are convinced they are pingos that date back to the ice age.

A recent site meeting with Helen, Tom Raynham and John Service established which ponds to start on and funding will be applied for the work. Volunteers will also be greatly appreciated to help clear the reeds and overgrowth etc once this work starts.

8.4 Receive an update on Bullock Hills litter bin

The Clerk has made enquiries with Fakenham TC, Pudding Norton PC, Colkirk PC and Gt Ryburgh PC to seek financial help with a new litter bin to be sited at the Bullock Hills. An update will follow once these Councils have had the opportunity to discuss this at their respective Council meetings

8.5 Receive and update on works to the bus shelter

The re-roofing work will be carried out next Friday. A new noticeboard will then be installed.

A parishioner asked why there wasn't a bus shelter at the top end of Raynham Road. Cllr Woods explained that this had never been brought to the Parish Council's attention, but it would be considered if parishioners would like to discuss it further.

8.6 Receive an update and discuss proposed roundabout following the public consultation

Cllr Woods expressed the concern of the majority of council members is the sheer scale and size of the proposed roundabout, being presented at 40.5m in diameter, in a rural setting is wholly out of scale and inappropriate.

A majority of the council members objects to the current design and location of the proposed roundabout and believe it should be smaller and located on the junction, to the north west corner of the crossroads where it will not encroach on any of the common land, the font green or Abbey Cottages green.

One member of the public had serious concerns and did not feel the leaflet was informative and was quote 'very misleading'..., other members of the public agreed. 106 additional people objected to the current proposal. However as these objections were submitted in a petition style format Cllr FitzPatrick said this would only count as 1 objection. There will be opportunity for concerns to be considered once planning permission phase opens.

One member of the public present asked why not have traffic lights instead?

Another member says kids play out on the green, his kids can't play if the road is moved closer. Also, he has experience of driving large vehicles and negotiating smaller roundabouts, such as the one near Megafun which is not a problem for larger vehicles, there is no need for a huge roundabout.

Cllr FitzPatrick advised that the public consultation period had commenced and closed and that the objective for a roundabout is for safety and to reduce the number of incidents.

He was asked by the Parish Council 8 years ago why the funding was withdrawn for a roundabout at this junction and since then has been waiting to bid for further funding when it became available. He thought he would be welcomed with open arms when the funding became available.

The current Parish Council membership has changed in the past 8 years and the current members were unaware of this, and were not reminded, consulted or briefed before the funds were allocated. The first awareness of a roundabout being suggested for this junction was when an article appeared in the local newspaper, the EDP.

It was the Parish Council that called a meeting with Cllr FitzPatrick, the local police and district councillor and landowner. At this meeting the Parish Council put forward alternative suggestions for safety measures, including reducing the speed limit around the crossroads and installing traffic lights, and asked to be involved with all the aspects of the design to ensure that any proposal would be the best for the area.

There were no further updates until the Parish Council called for a further meeting, this time with the Highways Project Manager where the first drafts were presented. Following this meeting further concerns were raised with the plans to relocate Pond Road across the Front Green and the road across the green in front of Abbey Cottages.

Cllr FitzPatrick highlighted that during the Parish Council's May meeting the local Police Beat Manager was supportive of a roundabout and didn't feel that traffic lights would be the best option. He believed the ambulance service are also in favour of a roundabout.

Emergency services are legally permitted to drive through red lights in an emergency so traffic lights would not hinder them in carrying out their services.

Another meeting was held with Cllr Fitzpatrick yesterday and the Council asked for our concerns to be fed back to the Highways Design Team for review and consideration and resolution prior to the planning stage. These included reducing the size of the proposed roundabout and positioning it on the existing junction on the North West corner. Also, Cllr Woods asked whether the 40.5m diameter includes the roads as well as the roundabout? Jerome Mayhew believed it did following a quick look at the sketch submitted by Highways and, will the public presentation be before the planning stage or as part of the planning consultation?

Cllr FitzPatrick agreed to flag up why it's the side its proposed and not the other side, however he feels that it may also be due to it being further in 'open countryside' if moved to the other side.

Cllr Stubbs believed the reason that the design team set the roundabout off centre was to allow the traffic to continue while the roundabout is built.

Cllr FitzPatrick supports this roundabout and advised that a majority of people who responded to the consultation were in favour of it. 45 respondents expressed support, 18 respondents expressed opposition plus the 106 objections on the petition and 5 respondents were not sure.

He explained that it must be future proofed and its unusual to have funding for a roundabout but it is seen as in need and for its size Hempton is regarded as a big problem.

The Parish Council record that based on a clear majority the formal position taken is to object to and therefore oppose the current proposed roundabout as presented by NCC Highways Department. However, the Councillors wish to engage with the Project Engineer? design team leader, Paul Gallop and arrange a public meeting to discuss alternatives.

Cllr Woods advised that a petition was submitted with 106 names to oppose the current design of the roundabout and when added to the 18 who opposed via the 'consultation process' the result outweighed the 45 in favour.

Cllr FitzPatrick explained that it was an individual public consultation so the petition would only be taken as one individual. He advised that people's comments will be taken on board at the planning stage and this is the opportunity for people to support or object, then the final proposal will come out for comment.

The Parish Council will be asked for their views as a stake holder and members of the public will also have the opportunity to comment. A member of the public expressed that this was unclear from the leaflet that was delivered, and they were displeased. They also missed the opportunity to comment because of issues with logging online and having received the leaflet after the start date of the 21 day consultation period.

- 8.7 Review new Bowls Club lease and rent review
This item will be postponed until November.

9. Planning matters

- 9.1 To receive results of applications.
PF/21/0948 | 13 Dereham Road, Hempton, Fakenham, NR21 7JY
PC Comment – Neutral | NNDC Decision – Approved

- 9.2 To receive applications for consideration
There were none.

10. Financial matters

- 10.1 To approve the payment of accounts list
The Council RESOLVED to approve the payments list (refer to page 6).

11. To consider and discuss correspondence received

Barclays Bank letter regarding changes to their terms and conditions – Letter was made available to view.

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

Clerk is awaiting some dates to arrange a meeting with Rob Henry and Steve Blatch. However, 2023 has been suggested by NNDC which is a much longer period than first mooted in September 2020. December 2021 were the original dates given by NNDC.

13. Consider and agree archived documents to be stored at the Norfolk Records Office

The Council RESOLVED to have archived documents stored at the Norfolk Records Office. Clerk to action.

14. 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 Thursday 16 September 2021.
The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.51pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date:

Payment of Accounts List (item 10.1)			
Payments To	Description	Chq No.	Payment
Eon	Electricity	DD	41.84
O2	Clerk Mobile	DD	27.17
The Gallow	Room Hire	101621	20.00
Clerk	Expenses	101622	110.51
Clerk	Salary	101623	671.40
Fakenham Prepress	Newsletter Printing	101624	206.40
Roy Swain	Tommy Fitting	101625	25.00
C Haydon	FGC Voucher - Quiz	101626	5.00
ROSPA	Annual Play Area Inspection	101627	90.60
Jewson	Replacement Hall Door Handle	101628	15.07
John Service	Pond Restoration Works	101629	2990.00
The Gallow	Room Hire	101630	30.00
Total Payments to be Approved			£4232.99
Receipts From	Description	Ref	Amount
Barclays	Interest on reserves	DC	0.06
Various	Allotment Rent	100147 - 100150	250.00
SPC, PNPC	Contribution towards Clerk Expenses	100151	50.46
HHPC, WRPC, BPC, ERPC, RPC	Contribution towards Clerk Expenses	DC	108.27
Total Receipts Received			£408.79