



Hempton Parish Council

Extraordinary Meeting Minutes

Monday 2nd March 2020, 7.30pm, Hempton Church Rooms

Parish Councillors present: Vivien Woods (Chairman), Carol Stubbs, Christine Haydon, Robert Mallett.
Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk), there were no members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.
Apologies received from Tom FitzPatrick (County Councillor) and Nigel Housden (District Councillor).
Apologies accepted.

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

There were none.

3. **To discuss proposal for a merger between Hempton and Pudding Norton & Testerton Parish Council**

Chairman briefed the Council on the proposed plans for a merger between Hempton and Pudding Norton Parish council.

Pudding Norton is the neighbouring parish to Hempton, and they are a very small Parish Council with very few members.

With Hempton currently having 3 vacant seats, and Pudding Norton having 2 vacant seats, it is felt that this merger would create a larger united council and benefit both Hempton & Pudding Norton.

Discussions followed, including taking into consideration the planned works for the new roundabout, which will encroach on Pudding Norton as well as Hempton, and also the Bullock Hills which falls within both parishes.

The Pudding Norton PC Chairman informed us that they have had a public meeting to discuss the merger and are in full support.

It was agreed that a flyer, notifying members of the public in both Parishes, of the proposal, which will be circulated within the Fakenham Sun for the Hempton & Pudding Norton area. This will cost £70, which will be shared between each Parish Council. An article has also been included in the Hempton News. This will allow us to gauge residents' views about these plans and give them an opportunity to make any comments or feedback concerning the plan.

In the meantime, a meeting has been planned between Vivien Wood (Chair), Patricia Ainger (Pudding Norton Chair), the Parish Clerk and Robert Henry and Steve Blatch of NNDC to discuss the next stages.

More information and updates will be provided at future meetings.

The decision to progress with the merger, in principle, was Proposed by Cllr Woods, Seconded by Cllr Stubbs, all Agreed.

4. **To discuss and consider new Councillor applications for co-option**

A Parish Councillor application has been received from Nicola Ryder. Nicola meets the criteria required to become a Parish Councillor.

Following discussions, it was agreed that Nicola would be co-opted onto the Council at our next meeting on 19th March 2020.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed by Chairman: Date: