

HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held outdoors at the Community Centre on July 6, 2021

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| PRESENT | Cllrs Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Bill Craig, Keith Bartlett, Jasen Jeffery, Tom Wright, Paul Hambling, Rod Caird (Clerk) and seven members of the public. County Councillor Peter Gould and District Councillor Matthew Hicks were also present. |
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1/060721 To elect a Chair and deputy Chair for 2021/22

Elizabeth Gibson-Harries was elected Chair and Paul Hambling was elected Deputy Chair for 2021/22.

2/060721 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

3/060721 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Keith Bartlett declared an interest as the applicant for planning application DC/21/03579 and agreed to leave the meeting during discussion of that item.

4/060721 Approval of the draft Minutes of the meeting held on May 25, 2021

The minutes were approved.

5/060721 Members of the public are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on the agenda. Reports may be presented by District Councillor Matthew Hicks and the newly elected County Councillor Peter Gould

Cllr Hicks noted that the £200,000 renovation of Stradbroke Sports Centre is now complete and everyone is encouraged to use it. There will be further hearing on the Babergh Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan and there will be opportunities to contribute. Mid Suffolk is working to bring derelict buildings back into use such as new workspaces now in use in Eye.

Cllr Gould said he is progressing through his list of Highways issues though he is unable to guarantee repairs in every case. The traffic lights on the Horham to Stradbroke road are there for safety reasons, and not in preparation for works. Discussions will be held with landowners as any remedial work to hold back the banks would be really major. The enforcement team is looking at the drainage problem in Worlingworth Road. An HGV use review is in progress and there will be an opportunity for public consultation on this very difficult issue. The Highways contract with Keir expires in two years and consideration

is being given now to its future or a new arrangement, possibly involving more than one contractor.

6/060721 To discuss three planning applications:

DC/21/03579 | Householder Application - Erection of single storey extensions and cart lodge. | Springfield Worlingworth Road

Keith Bartlett having left the meeting at this point it was agreed after discussion to make no objection.

DC/21/02359 | Planning Application. Demolition of existing agricultural barn and erection of 1no one-and-a-half storey dwellinghouse. Change of use from agricultural land to C3 dwellinghouse. | Land East Of Horham Road NB this application has been revised since it was considered by the Parish Council on May 25

Councillors had visited the site again. The applicant was present at the meeting. After discussion it was agreed to make no objection but to recommend in the light of the level of controversy that the application be considered by the Planning Committee.

DC/21/03609 | Application for Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved, access to be considered) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Erection of 4 no. dwellings with access. | Land North Of The Street

After discussion it was agreed to oppose the application and to make the following comments:

The Parish Council opposes the application on the following grounds:

- The position of the site, on an awkward and busy junction between The Street and Horham Road, is unsuitable for more housing. The access point established for the two existing recent builds will not accommodate additional traffic from four new houses without major re-engineering of the junction to ensure safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.
- The applicant's own published statement says: "Whilst through the eyes of planning policy the site is technically located in the countryside, the site is sustainably located in relation to existing settlement and nearby settlements, with necessary services and facilities which are all accessible. The site falls within an area of built form and would not be isolated in the ordinary meaning of the word."
- The site is indeed in the countryside, and is in fact not sustainable. Horham currently lacks any form of public transport, the last remaining bus service having been cancelled. There is no school and only one small village shop. There is no pedestrian access or footway to the site. All access to and from the new houses would be wholly dependent on private vehicles, with four new houses likely to add at least eight cars to the regular traffic flows in the immediate area. It cannot reasonably be argued that "necessary services and facilities" are accessible - they are not.
- Serious questions have been raised about the viability of the drainage system in the immediate area of the proposed new houses.
- Horham already has one site where outline permission has been granted for seven new homes. No reasonable case can be made for further new houses in a rural community which lacks basic essential facilities, at a time when Mid Suffolk has established it can meet its five-year supply requirements. For these reasons the Parish Council urges that permission be denied and requests that if planning officers are minded to approve the application it should be referred to the Planning Committee on the grounds of local

controversy.

7/060721 To consider how best to contribute to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022

It was agreed to hold this and Item 8 over to the next regular meeting of the Parish Council.

8/060721 To consider Mid Suffolk's current Cycling and Walking Consultation, with special reference to the absence of any current bus service

See 7/060721

9/060721 To consider a financial report from the Clerk and to deal with any payments due

A bank reconciliation to date was presented showing a balance of £5,095.26.

Payments made since the previous meeting (including one shortly to fall due) are:

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| July 5, 2021 | Rod Caird | 730 | £208.44 | Clerk pay |
| August 5, 2021 | HMRC | 716 | £52.20 | PAYE |

It was noted that the annual audit report by SAC has been received. The Clerk will present a summary of its main findings to the next meeting of the Parish Council for action as required.

10/060721 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was agreed to record disappointment that the Community Centre is not yet open for indoor meetings