

HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 3, 2020 at 7.30pm in
Horham Community Centre

PRESENT	Cllrs Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Bill Craig, Paul Hambling, Tom Wright, April Groen, Jacques Groen and Jasen Jeffrey, Rod Caird (Clerk) and five members of the public were present. County Councillor Guy McGregor and District Councillor Matthew Hicks were also in attendance.
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1/030320 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

2/030320 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/030320 Approval of the draft Minutes of the meetings held on January 7, 2020

The Minutes were approved.

4/030320 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 the District and County Councillors

Cllr McGregor reported that the County budget had been approved showing a council tax increase of 1.8%. A working party has been established to study HGV use in the county. Children's services have been rated "outstanding" by Ofsted. The Fire Service was also rated as "good value for money". Adult services are performing well and the report will be compiled on operation of the home to school bus service. Parking enforcement has now moved to District Councils. In answer to a question Cllr McGregor said he would look into whether the bus voucher scheme can be used for private bus companies, but he did say that the voucher scheme was an alternative to bus passes for the over 60s, not an additional scheme. A further question was asked about getting Horham's bus service back but Cllr McGregor said resources would not allow it. It was pointed out that the bus service was valuable in combatting loneliness and isolation. Cllr McGregor also confirmed that he would make a grant from his budget towards the cost of purchasing the Speed Indicator Device.

Cllr Hicks reported that District Council tax is up by 1.66%. £500,000 has been set aside for climate emergency projects. Stradbroke's fitness centre has been rated one of the best in the county. Mid Suffolk is looking at discounting business rates for retail properties. A grant has been made to improve accessibility at Needham Market Station. Efforts are being made to reduce plastic waste and a list will be published of shops offering refill services.

5/030320 To consider updates on current planning applications, including 20/00731 Springfield, Worlingworth Road, erection of fence (retention of).

No objection was raised to this application.

6/030320 To make arrangements for purchase purchase of a Speed Indicator device (SID), including confirmation of the contribution from Cllr McGregor, funds already having been received from Cllr Hicks

Cllr Hicks' controbution having already been received, it was agreed to proceed with the purchase in anticipation of a grant from Cllr McGregor.

7/030320 To discuss HGV use of local roads

Cllr McGregor's information about a County-level study of HGV use of local roads was noted and approaches would be made to the Council officers concerned.

8/030320 To discuss cleaning of road signs in the village

The Highways reporting tool would be used to report dirty and damaged signs and Cllr McGregor said he would take up the question of the damaged Athelington village sign.

9/030320 To discuss a funding request from the New Reeding Woods group which looks after Pound Lane Wood

It is understood the immediate request for funding for a notiuceboard has been resolved from other sources.

10/030320 To receive a Financial Report from the Clerk, including any payments due

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £4,008.73, and the figures were confirmed with the published bank statement. Payments were made to Rod Caird (clerk pay, £202.88) and HMRC (PAYE, £101.40). A payment of £1,530 including £255.00 in VAT was also made for the SID to SG Manufacturing Ltd.

Payments were made under sections 111 and 112 of the Local Government Act 1972.

11/030320 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was greed a close eye should be kept on any signs of new planning proposals for chicken sheds. The meeting on May 5, 2020, will also be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting.