

HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Community Centre on
May 25, 2021

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.

1/250521 Apologies and approvals of absence

None

2/250521 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/250521 Approval of the draft Minutes of the meetings held on March 2 and March 23, 2021

The Minutes were approved

4/250521 To welcome the newly elected Parish Councillor Keith Bartlett, and to consider co-opting a further volunteer to fill the remaining vacancy

Cllr Bartlett was welcomed to the Council and it was agreed to co-opt Charlotte Wilson as Councillor.

5/250521 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 Gould said he was familiar with the concerns of the area having served as Town Councillor in Eye and also District Councillor. He will take an initial particular interest in highways issues and is compiling a detailed schedule of problems raised and officers' responses. Four particular Horham reports included the still unresolved drainage issue on Worlingworth Road and the Stradbroke Road traffic lights which have been left unattended for many months.

Cllr Hicks noted a big increase in fly-tipping; residents should always ask apparent refuse clearing companies to show their licence before undertaking any work. He urged everyone to take regular home coronavirus tests; the delta variant is present in the Needham Market area and everyone should be vigilant.

6/250521 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

And to review any other planning matters; the reserved matters application 17/04943, seven houses on land south east of Dragon House, is still listed as “awaiting decision”.

After a full discussion which included the applicants and several members of the public the Parish Council agreed to comment on 21/02359 in the following terms:

The District Councillor Matthew Hicks declared an interest as a neighbour to the property. Parish Councillors had visited the site in advance of the meeting and had met the applicants. Councillors were also aware of the previous successful application from a different applicant for a barn conversion on the same site.

It was clear after discussion that there are very strong views on both sides of the argument. Several Parish Councillors expressed the view that the proposed design was interesting and attractive, and would not impinge on the nearby listed property; but the neighbours’ opposition focussed on the danger of light pollution, size of the structure (especially the height), disruption of the local ecology and an inappropriate clash with local building styles.

Parish Councillors felt that the applicants and their neighbours should consider whether they would be able to arrive at a proposal for the building which met concerns on each side of the argument. It was not felt possible to arrive at a view which definitively supported or opposed the application.

As this is likely to be a decision delegated to planning officers, and would be unlikely to be referred to the Planning Committee, there is still time to work towards an agreed outcome which broadly satisfies both sides of the argument. The Parish Council is sympathetic towards both the applicants and their neighbours and feels it should be possible to reach an agreed solution - rather than an imposed outcome from planning officers which will anger or disappoint one side or the other.

A mutually agreed solution would clearly be in the best interests of the village and the Parish Council.

7/250521 To consider a financial report from the Clerk, including approval of the accounts for 2021/22 and to deal with any payments due

A bank reconciliation to date was presented showing a balance of £5,652.20.

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

May 1, 2021	SALC	724	£189.91		Subscription
May 1, 2021	Rod Caird	725	£208.64		Clerk pay
May 24, 2021	MSDC	726	£37.13	VAT £ 7.43	Waste
May 25, 2021	Elizabeth Gibson-Harries	727	£32.98		Stationery exp
June 2, 2021	Zurich Municipal	728	£218.96		Insurance
June 10, 2021	HMRC	729	£52.00		PAYE

A bank reconciliation covering the full year to March 31, 2021 was also presented, showing a balance on that date of £4,456.74. The Parish Council

approved these figures as representing activity during the year and authorised the chair and clerk to sign all the relevant annual audit paperwork.

8/250521 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

The July meeting would include the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at which the Chair for the coming year would be elected.

DRAFT