

HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held online on May 5, 2020

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| PRESENT | Cllrs Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Bill Craig, April Groen, Jacques Groen, Rod Caird (Clerk) and two members of the public. The County Councillor was unable to attend but District Councillor Matthew Hicks was present. |
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1/050520 Apologies and approvals of absence

Paul Hambling, Tom Wright, and Jasen Jeffrey had sent their apologies and their absence was approved.

2/050520 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/050520 Approval of the draft Minutes of the meeting held on March 3, 2019

The Minutes were approved and would be sent to the Chair for signature

4/050520 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 Hicks reported that the Home but Not Alone 0800 number was receiving 200 calls a day, mostly looking for help with food and prescription deliveries. The community was displaying great resilience and voluntary groups were doing great work. New numbers were being launched to offer help in relation to mental health and domestic violence. The District Council has a helpline for council tax problems. Eviction proceedings would be paused for at least six months. Grant funding for small businesses is available across the district; some local community centres would also be eligible for help. Efforts were being made to ensure no one was sleeping rough. Garden waste collections will restart on May 11.

The Parish Council expressed thanks to all volunteers in the community who are doing great work for residents.

Some concern was expressed about noise levels in the countryside at present but no action was considered necessary.

5/050520 To consider updates on current planning applications

There are no current applications.

6/050520 To consider any further arrangements which may be needed to assist residents during the coronavirus crisis, and to thank the village shop for its efforts.

Councillors thanked volunteers in the shop for their very hard work in keeping the shop, Post Office and cash machine in operation for residents. It was felt that stock levels were maintained to an excellent standard and this was of real benefit to the whole village. Councillors were also asked to be aware of any particular needs and to continue to offer help whenever possible.

7/050520 To discuss reports of excessive noise caused by shooting

It was felt likely that the noise complained of was caused by bird scarers and no further action was needed. It was suggested that farmers should be encouraged to turn off scarers whenever possible.

8/050520 To consider the position on purchase of the Speed Indicator Device ordered from Smart Group but not yet delivered

This would be pursued further by the Clerk and Councillors [NB since the meeting, the sign has arrived and is now installed]

9/050520 To discuss continued efforts to re-establish a local bus service

In the absence of Cllr McGregor it was agreed to keep this item on the Agenda for further attention.

10/050520 To discuss HGV use of local roads and the recent Mid Suffolk Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation

It was agreed to maintain a close interest in this issue. Cllr Gibson-Harries had hosted an eight-village meeting considering the issue when there was still a proposal for major new chicken production units. The fact that the proposal has been shelved does not remove the traffic problem, especially in relation to HGVs.

11/050520 To receive a Financial Report from the Clerk, including any payments due and to confirm the end of year accounts for 2019/20

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £3,686.74. No new payments were due.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 was presented and approved. It was agreed the Clerk and Chair could sign the paperwork for submission to the audit process.

12/050520 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

The Chair thanked everyone for the Thursday evening clapping efforts in support of NHS and other essential workers.

The next meeting on July 7 will probably be online again but details will be circulated nearer the time.