

HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held online on November 12, 2020

PRESENT	Cllrs Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Bill Craig, Tom Wright, Paul Hambling, Rod Caird (Clerk) and five members of the public. County Councillor Guy McGregor and District Councillor Matthew Hicks were also present.
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1/121120 Apologies and approvals of absence

Jasen Jeffery had sent his apologies and his absence was approved.

2/121120 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/121120 Approval of the draft Minutes of the meeting held on September 1, 2020

The Minutes were approved

4/121120 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 had sent a written report. He emphasised the importance of complying with the coronavirus regulations and noted the excellent work done by District and County Councils during the crisis. Funding is available for people in serious need. It is hoped that central government will make good much of the necessary spending though some will no doubt have to come from reserves.

Cllr Hicks reported that the Mid Suffolk Local Plan is now undergoing a final six-week technical consultation before being sent to the Planning Inspectorate. Car parking throughout the district is going paperless. The Home but Not Alone phone line is back up and running during the second lockdown and there is also a Suffolk Advice and Support Service number 0800 068 3131. People are being assisted who have never had to ask for help before. In response to a question Cllr Hicks noted that industrial style chicken production facilities are not part of the Local Plan, which is focussed on housing. Cllr McGregor felt issues such as factory installations and transport should be part of the Plan.

5/121120 To review the comments submitted by NALC on behalf of all councils on the government's proposed changes to the planning process

Parish Councillors had read the NALC comments, which covered the main issues of concern. The Clerk would circulate a draft letter to Dr Dan Poulter MP in case it was felt useful to follow up with a letter to the MP.

6/121120 To consider the following planning applications:

DC/20/04767 | Full Planning Application - Change of use of land to curtilage and construction of new vehicular access to highway to provide dedicated access to dwellinghouse (currently under construction via implemented planning approval DC/18/02811). | Burder House Worlingworth Road

DC/20/04758 | Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of outbuilding/annexed accommodation (following demolition of existing). | The Homestead The Street

DC/20/04757 | Householder Application - Erection of outbuilding/annexed accommodation (following demolition of existing). | The Homestead The Street

There was no objection to any of the planning applications.

7/121120 To discuss the Parish Council vacancies caused by the resignation of April Groen and Jacques Groen, which will be filled by election in May 2021 (at the earliest)

At the request of electors, an election will be held as soon as possible in the light of coronavirus restrictions, which will be no earlier than May 2021. The likely cost to the Parish is approximately £600.00 which will be included in the 2021/22 budget..

8/121120 To discuss continued efforts to re-establish a local bus service

Cllr McGregor agreed that the loss of the bus service added to a feeling of deprivation. He would support the Parish Council's efforts to allow the voucher scheme to be applied to bus travel. It was agreed it is important to maintain as much pressure as possible on this issue.

9/121120 To consider proposing the designation of "quiet lanes" in the Parish

The Denham lane from Shingle Hill to the school has been proposed as a "quiet lane" and it was agreed to support this suggestion.

10/121120 To review recent footpath and related problems reported to Highways

Various footpath and signage problems had been and would be reported to highways for their attention.

11/121120 To receive a Financial Report from the Clerk, including any payments due, and to consider a draft budget for 2021/22 and the precept requirement for that year

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a balance of £4,933.83. No new payments were due. Since the September meeting the following payments had been made:

Sept 14, 2020	Elizabeth Gibson-Harries	705	£50.34		Purchase of paint
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Oct 26, 2020	Rod Caird	706	£226.52		Clerk pay
Oct 26, 2020	SALC	707	£105.00	VAT£ 21.00	Audit fee
Oct 26, 2020	SALC	709	£9.36	VAT £ 1.86	Training
Oct 26, 2020	ICO	710	£40.00		Registration
Oct 26, 2020	HMRC	711	£56.60		PAYE

The draft budget for 2021/22 was presented and approved. A decision on the precept would be held over to the January meeting when the tax base would be known.

12/121120 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was suggested the mobile speed sign might be moved to a different location; this is in hand.

It was noted that Council officials were aware of the issues arising from the nearby traveller camp; a close eye would be kept on developments.

Attention would also be given to any new planning applications for chicken processing plants. The site at Eye airfield had lacked a proper environmental impact assessment and the consequences were still being felt in terms of HGV traffic.

The next meeting is due to be held on Tuesday January 5, 2021. It is likely to be held online and details would be published nearer the time.