

HORHAM AND ATHELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 3, 2019 at 7.30pm in Horham Community Centre

PRESENT	Cllrs Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Jasen Jeffrey, Bill Craig, Paul Hambling, Tom Wright, Rod Caird (Clerk) and eight members of the public. County Cllr Guy McGregor and District Cllr Matthew Hicks were also present
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1/030919 Apologies and approvals of absence

Cllrs Jacques Groen and April Groen had sent apologies and their absence was approved

2/030919 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/030919 Approval of the draft Minutes of the meeting held on July 2, 2019

The Minutes were approved

4/030919 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 encouraged Councillors and residents to comment on the draft Local Plan. He said bin collection day changes seemed to be working but any problems should be reported to him by email. Gateway 14 is an enterprise set up by Mid Suffolk to encourage establishment of logistics companies along the A14 corridor, to generate income for the District. He said Mid Suffolk aims to be carbon neutral by 2030. There are as yet no formal planning applications for chicken sheds as anticipated.

Cllr McGregor said he is still arguing that bus route 482 should be improved rather than cut. The Saturday service has already been cancelled but he is hoping the weekday service will be better than at present. He felt the Parish Council should write to County officers and Cabinet members arguing for a better, joined-up public transport service providing access to rail as well as main population centres. He is also trying to sort out school bus transport, especially to Stadbroke High School for those pupils who may technically be closer to Bungay. He said he is watching carefully moves to increase HGV traffic to and from Cranswick's poultry plant in Eye. He does not agree with the District Council's project to purchase land for industrial use (such as the A14 corridor plan). He said the District Council should develop a policy to deal with the threat posed by intensive animal rearing, pushing back against

the risk of the landscape being dominated by poultry units. He has funding available for SID signs.

5/030919 To consider updates on current planning applications and proposals, including fund-raising for the campaign against the proposed new poultry units in Horham and Southolt, and establishment of a Parish Council sub-committee to deal with this issue

Sue Ives reported that parishes are in close contact with each other to monitor the planning situation and research the plans of the companies concerned. The Cranswick plant in Eye (on the airfield site) will be one of the most advanced in Europe, processing 1.2 million chickens per week. That plant is likely to be the first stage of a related network of production sheds and feed suppliers around the region including Horham, Southolt, Denham, Occold and elsewhere. These are industrial scale mega-farms. Inquiries have also been made about a site in Bedingfield. Mid Suffolk's draft Local Plan includes no provision on how to deal with this. It is possible a planning consultant will need to be engaged, so funds will be needed.

6/030919 To consider the Parish Council's response to the current Mid Suffolk draft Local Plan (the consultation ends on September 30)

Cllr Gibson-Harries will draft a response to the plan for circulation among Councillors.

7/030919 To discuss the position of the noticeboard in Athelington

Athelington does not require a noticeboard but it is suggested Horham's should be moved to near the bus stop.

8/030919 To discuss the Horham village sign

Estimates will be obtained for restoration of the sign. An application for funds may be made to the District Councillor's Locality budget.

9/030919 To discuss an update on the proposed purchase of a Speed Indicator device (SID) and other traffic management improvements

Sites for posts have now been agreed. Final safety checks are now being made, to be followed by installation. Cllr McGregor has agreed in principle to funding the purchase of a battery and solar powered sign.

10/030919 To receive a Financial Report from the Clerk, including any payments due and an update on banking arrangements

A bank reconciliation was presented and agreed; it was checked against the bank statements. The Parish Council cashbook is now available online through the link on the website. Payments were made as follows: £48 to Ladywell Accountancy for payroll services; £158 to Tom Wright to cover the

cost of two dog wastes bins; £36 to MSDC for bin emptying; £76 to HMRC for PAYE; £304.52 to Rod Caird for clerk wages; £55.20 to SALC for Councillor briefing; £646.67 to MSDC for the cost of a contested Parish Council election; £20 to the Old School for room hire. All payments were made under sections 112, and 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

11/030919 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

A recent incident of vehicle vandalism should be reported to the police, and the Parish Council expressed serious concern about any such occurrence in the village. Clerk will contact local farmers to express dismay about the mess caused by tractors on roads around the airfield.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday November 5.

DRAFT