

HILGAY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held on Thursday, 7th of December 2023 at 7.00pm in Ten Mile Bank Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors

Cllr P Mesher – Chair
Cllr S Annan – Vice Chair
Cllr J Dix
Cllr J Heatrick
Cllr A Greening
Cllr M Orwell
Cllr C Wills

Cllr M Storey Norfolk County & KL&WNB
Clerk Mr D R Williams

Member(s) of public 0

128/23 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for absence.

- There were apologies from Cllr R Munday, Cllr P Hodson KL&WNB.

129/23 Declarations of interest (under the West Norfolk Borough Council Code of Conduct) and any requests for dispensation

- Cllr C Wills and Cllr P Mesher declared that they had a non-pecuniary interest as members of the Hilgay Charities Board. Items 137/138 on the agenda.

130/23 To agree the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 2nd of November 2023 (Items 112/23 to 127/23).

They were accepted and confirmed.

Proposed by Cllr C Wills and seconded by Cllr M Orwell all present agreed.

131/23 An open forum for Public Participation (15 mins – 3 mins per person max): an opportunity to hear from Members of the Public, Borough Councillors, and County Councillors.

- Cllr M Storey Norfolk County & KL&WNB gave his report:
Norfolk County Council Cabinet will consider options for the possible devolution of powers and funding to Norfolk when it meets on 4th December.

Last December, Norfolk County Council and the Government signed an in-principle agreement to transfer key powers and funding to Norfolk - known as a level three county deal. This includes a £20 million per year investment fund, plus powers and funding for transport, brownfield regeneration and skills.

Following public consultation earlier this year and further negotiations with the Government, four options will be considered by the cabinet:

Proceeding with the current, in principle deal, which would see voting for a directly elected leader in May 2024 – a year ahead of the county council elections.

Proceeding with the current, in principle deal, but with voting taking place in May 2025, alongside the county council elections, after the Government agreed to allow this option to be considered.

Going back to Government and negotiating a level two deal, which would mean Norfolk wouldn't receive the £20 million per year investment fund and other funding and powers over transport and brownfield sites - but would have adult education funding devolved to the county.

Deciding not to proceed with a devolution deal.

County council leader, Councillor Kay Mason Billig, said: "Over the last year, we have consulted the public and partners on the current deal and continued talks with the Government about potential further benefits. "There are four clear choices. Cabinet will consider the potential benefits of each approach and then make a recommendation to full council."

Councillor Storey then informed the meeting of several bits of news which he said could be all found on Norfolk County Council website.

Councillor Storey in reply to concerns raised by Councillors Meshier and Wills about several potholes on roads in Ten Mile Bank, also Councillor Dix raising that there had been another accident due to vehicles avoiding potholes. All these concerns Councillor Storey would raise with the County highways team in a meeting he was having and inform the Parish Council of the outcome.

132/23 Chair's announcements and matters for consideration.

Update on Ten Mile Bank school public meeting.

- The Chair informed the meeting several Councillors attended and there were a lot of questions DEMAT as the academy administrators could not answer. The people representing DEMAT at the meeting had no idea of the problems caused with excess traffic at Hilgay School. They never have advertised the school in

local area. The Chair sent a letter to Elizabeth Trust our local MP. The consensus was that the school would close. There were suggestions for uses of the building and some discussion. Councillor Storey would investigate the process and would keep the Parish Council informed but stated it is early days. Ten Mile Bank would appear in the eyes of planning officers as a hamlet therefore would not be seen as a place for large development. So, the school would unlikely be sold to a developer. There was some discussion if the school closed could it become a Community Centre for Ten Mile Bank. Not just for the Community but also attract businesses to use it as their base. The Chair of Hilgay Charities was cautious about the idea. There were further discussions, and this would be a going item for future meetings. The Chair asked for Councillors to ask the residents in the parish to engage with the proposal response form.

Discussion on CIL bid for Ten Mile Bank Play equipment.

- The Chair informed the Council that we should not go ahead with the implementation of the CIL bid until the School Closure has been resolved. The Chair will send email to the Headmistress of Ten Mile Bank.

Update Highways responses.

- The Dyke at Ten Mile Bank was cleared, and Cllr C Wills informed the meeting the Elders were still there. Cllr M Storey would take that item to his highways meeting. The Clerk would send suggestions to the rangers who are visiting in January 2024.

Update Closed Church yard wall.

- The Clerk informed the meeting that no response had been received from the Borough Council. The Clerk to send reminder email.

River Side News (RSN) issue numbers and publication increase.

- The Chair informed the meeting that the editor of the Riverside News (RSN). The Council discussed three or four issues a year. The Council decided there would be quarterly issues sent out after the Christmas issue. The number of issues to remain the same @ 600. The editor to ask about paper quality and see if this reduces the cost.

133/23 Updates from working parties.

- **Finance:** The Chair informed the Council that he had viewed the current balances and the Community account stood at £7,939.01 and the business account stood at £20470.71. There was discussion about the budget to be set for 24 /25. To be confirmed at the next meeting.

- **Planning:** Cllr J Heatrick nothing to report on.
- **Allotments:** Cllr S Annan had nothing to report.
- **Footpaths:** Cllr S Annan had nothing to report.
- **Infrastructure:** Cllr C Wills reported he had met with K&M Lighting and three of the lamps had been changed on Church Road. Cllr A Greening reported there were streetlights that were temporary ones, which could need changing. Cllr C Wills suggested that this item is deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk to chase K&M lighting. The Maintenance Officer informed the Clerk that the Bus shelters in Hilgay on Ely Road and Bridge Street have leaking roofs which are moulded and need repairing Maintenance Officer to try and do a fix with silicone weld. The Clerk and Maintenance Officer went and collected a loaned lifter to move the bins on Mr Carters driveway.
- **Communications:** Cllr M Orwell informed the meeting the note on the School Closure, Road repairs, and Careline scam message were placed on the three social media sites. Parking comments were sent into the Riverside News along with the D-Day 80 event. Further updates would be sent in as when required.
- **Asset Register.** Councillor A Greening requested pictures of the waste bin's final locations. Also, the dog bin was moved twice in the same day. But its destination was well received by dog walkers.

134/23 Planning Applications

- (a) To receive results on decisions: **None**
- (b) To discuss applications received: **None**

This was discussed and this planning application was refused by delegation.

135/23 **Finance:** To approve the payment of accounts for September 2023.

To approve payments as per schedule presented.

2 October 2023 (2023-2024)

Hilgay Parish Council

PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
50 Electricity	04/09/2023		Community Barclays (	electric supply for stre	Electricity	Npower street lighting	L	338.02	16.90	354.92
51 Payroll	05/09/2023		Community Barclays (	Clerks salary August	Clerk Salary	David Williams	Z	534.50		534.50
52 Wild Flower Meadow	05/09/2023		Community Barclays (	seed for Wildflower mx	Maintenance Supplies	Frontier Agriculture Ltd	S	71.67	14.33	86.00
53 Grass Cutting Contract	25/09/2023		Community Barclays (	Grass cutting for Augu	Grass Cutting	Holly Landscapes	S	194.97	38.99	233.96
54 Maintenance	25/09/2023		Community Barclays (	Street lighting mainter	Streetlight Maintenance	K&M Lighting Services	S	42.80	8.56	51.36
Total								1,181.96	78.78	1,260.74

Proposed by Cllr C Wills and seconded by Cllr J Dix all present agreed.

136/23 To discuss the D-Day 80 event.

- Councillor M Orwell informed the meeting there will be a meeting on the 8th of December 2023. A report would be sent round to Councillors and the Clerk by Councillor R Munday.

137/23 To discuss cost of disconnection of electricity to Riverfield Toilet Block.

- The Clerk informed the meeting the electrical disconnection had been completed and a certificate had been received.

138/23 To discuss cost of disconnection of the water to Riverfield Toilet Block.

- The Clerk informed the meeting that we are getting there slowly and was awaiting a response from wave the billing agent.

139/23 To approve the cost of street lighting in Ten Mile Bank

- The Clerk informed the meeting that he yet to receive the invoice for the 3 lamps on church road. The cost of £1200. The Parish Council delegated the Clerk to pay the invoice if received before the next meeting.

140/23 To discuss Cycle Storage Expression of Interest BCKL&WN.

- The Parish Councillors discussed the email sent to them prior to the meeting. Unanimously rejected the proposal as not needed.

141/23 Late correspondence

- The Vice Chair read out email from the FOHS regarding the allotment space. Cllr A Greening requested that our insurance give advice. Cllr J Dix had spoken with Headmistress and the school are not involved. The Chair requested that the Clerk asked for clarification from FOHS.
- The Chair requested if a Councillor could lead on an application to make the playing field in Ten Mile Bank a protected green space. Cllr M Orwell volunteered to take on the research for this topic.
- Cllr J Heatrick informed the meeting a fair in the school at 3:15pm and then 5pm tree lighting service with Hilgay band and school children attending to place decorations on the tree.

125/23 To discuss Document Management Policy sent out prior to the meeting.

- This item moved to the next meeting.

126/23 To discuss items for information for the social media pages.

- Nothing to place on the pages at the time of the meeting..

Agenda items for the next meeting

- Update on the D-Day 80 event.
- Update on the budget
- Allotment plot decision for the FOHS

The date of the next meeting will be on

Thursday **4th of January 2024** at 7.00pm in Hilgay Village Hall.

127/23 Exclusion of Press and Public – To consider resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

No Business transacted.

The meeting closed at 20:45pm