

HILGAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 at 7.00pm in Ten Mile Bank Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors Cllr S Annan  
Cllr A Greening (Chair for the meeting)  
Cllr J Heatrick  
Cllr P Mesher  
Cllr M Storey Norfolk County & KL&WNB, Councillor  
Cllr A Holmes KL&WNB, Councillor.

Clerk Mr D R williams

Member(s) of public Mr Wills

**78/22 Apologies for absence**

- There were apologies from Cllr P Bates, Cllr G Carter – Chair, Cllr E Hall – Vice Chair.

**79/22 Declarations of interest (under the West Norfolk Borough Council Code of Conduct) and any requests for dispensation**

- None declared
- Cllr Greening in the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair took the Chair for the meeting.

**80/22 Approval of the minutes of the Council meetings**

- Cllr Bates was noted twice on the minutes and should have only been stated as apologising for not attending the meeting with that amendment the minutes were proposed by Cllr Heatrick and seconded by Cllr S Annan as a true record all present agreed.

**81/22 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.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:15pm for the public participation and the County / Borough Councillors to give their reports.

**Cllr M Storey Norfolk County Council & KL&WNB, Council gave a report.**

- The county council faces “very significant challenges and enormous uncertainty” as it continues work to bridge a £60 million budget gap, a report reveals.

- Norfolk County Council says that “very severe headwinds” such as inflation and cost of living will “inevitably serve to increase the size of the budget gap”.
- Cabinet member for finance, Councillor Andrew Jamieson, said: “We all know the cost of living is rising sharply and that has made our efforts to bridge the £60 million gap much more challenging.
- He is confident that we will be able to balance the budget next year but it will be a much harder task than usual and we cannot ease up on our intensive work to find robust savings.
- In July, the county council announced the first £13 million of savings to meet a £60 million budget gap next year. Further proposals will be considered by cabinet in October.
- The report says the council has identified further savings, which take the total to £32.5 million.
- Many elements of the budget remain unknown and “intensive work therefore continues to identify further savings”
- There is a “significant risk that the council will be obliged to consider reductions in service levels”
- It is “critical” that the council continues to lobby the Government and MPs for “adequate and sustainable funding for Norfolk”
- The latest proposals, totalling £19.5 million, include:
  - £11.7 million from adult social services
  - £1.8 million from children’s services
  - £2.9 million from community and environmental services
  - £0.05 million from strategy and transformation
  - £0.03 million from governance
  - £3.1 million from finance and commercial services
- The same meeting will consider an update on a strategic review of the council, to improve the way it operates and save between £15 million and £20 million. Once detailed proposals are developed and checked, they will be added to the budget.
- Cabinet considered the report when it met on Monday, October 3rd. Watch the meeting recording on the County Council website.

**Cllr A Holmes KL&WNB, Councillor gave a report**

**An update on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH)**

- As of the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, there were 44 inpatients with Covid-19 within the hospital and the Management Team were content that this was under control. There was lots of work on reducing the impact of expected seasonal highs in both Covid -19 and Flu cases.
- The hospital are at or ahead of national lead-times for treatment backlogs. Currently 104 weeks will reduce to 78 weeks by April 2023 and 54 weeks at the end of 2023. Management Team were confident these targets were achievable.
- IT services rapidly approaching national NHS standards; two years ago, the hospital were 10 years behind the national NHS standards.

- The concrete problem affecting the roof. Is seeing currently 2500 plus props in place several of which future proof some of the ceilings. There was to be more failsafe props fitted. Overall cost of safeguarding the roof estimated to be £100 million. But this will not extend the lifespan of the hospital past 2030.
- Current and future improvements (before the new build) will complement the new hospital. The earliest news on the bid for next funding round will be December 2022. Management Team confident that QEH will succeed.
- An alternative site would not be cost effective and therefore would fail in its bid, so the current site rebuild is the only show in town. There would be a 38% increase in the size of the hospital which will satisfy future population growth for many years. Multistorey Car Park to be first priority to allow for rebuild on current car park site.

### **Shakespeare's Guildhall**

- Latest bid for lottery Heritage funding was unsuccessful, largely for similar reasons to the last unsuccessful bid. Independent group have been arguing that this was likely for months.
- Plan B is for the Borough Council to meet the funding gap some £3.5 million from reserves. Rest of the funding to be sourced through His Majesty's Treasury (HMT). The independent group's view is that HMT will take a similar view to the Lottery Heritage Fund and reject the business plan.
- At the last full Council meeting the Council agreed to the independent group / Labour group requests that all Borough Council Councillors and direct employees be trained on diversity issues.

### **Mr Wills member of the public**

Raised with the Parish Council that trees were damaging the entrance to Ten Mile Bank (TMB) playing field and the side walls of the dike along station road, which could cause a major problem in heavy rain fall. This would need to be addressed by Norfolk County Council highways and Councillor Storey would raise this with the area manager. Mr Wills also asked about the playing field and was there any progress on previously raised matters. The Clerk through the Chair informed the meeting that a site meeting was to be arranged through Councillor Storey NCC and other interested parties. This matter was not going to have a very swift resolution.

Cllr Mesher asked Cllr Holmes was there any Borough Council advice on possible community hot spots. Cllr Holmes stated the Borough Council were working on bringing a plan forward.

### **82/22 Chairs announcements and matters for consideration**

- The Chair announced the resignation of Cllr Highnam who has left the Parish Council with immediate effect having emailed the Clerk. The Chair thanked Cllr Highnam for all his recent efforts with the Jubilee celebrations along with his five year plan and wished him well from the Parish Council.

### 83/22 Maintenance Officer's report

- The Councillors had received all the reports from the previous month prior to the meeting and there were no questions from Councillors.
- The Maintenance Officer informed Cllr Heatrick and Cllr Annan the tree with vine issue they raised at the last meeting was being addressed and had not been forgotten.
- The TMB defibrillator battery had been changed.
- The defibrillator battery at Hilgay would need checking and the Clerk would contact Cllr Carter or Ms Di Farrow as to when it was last checked and if it needed replacing.
- Trees were over hanging the play equipment on TMB playing field the Clerk was to write to DEMAT at NCC as they are the landowners. Also, the fence required looking at, and the Clerk to email DEMAT and cc Cllr Storey NCC in on the email.
- The Sam 2 at Hilgay was ongoing
- The smaller 2 seat play swing. The matting under neath the swing had been ripped up. Proposed by Cllr Heatrick and seconded by Cllr Mesher all agreed that a quote for the placement of a resin base like the large swing be costed and brought back once quotes have been received.
- Also, a quote for the Pyramid's scramble net, and bolts that were coming through. Proposed by Cllr Annan and seconded by Cllr Heatrick all agreed that a quote be sort.
- Tree bark was needed at TMB play area.
- The Lawn mower required its winter service proposed by Cllr Mesher and seconded by Cllr Greening all agreed the same company is used even if warranty had expired. Could take 6-8 weeks. The hedge cutter and strimmer had recently been serviced.
- No 4 lock was required from NCC for River field gate.
- 

Nothing further to report, the Maintenance Officer left the meeting.

### 84/22 Updates from working parties

- **Finance:** Clerk updated the meeting that the finance working party were to meet in late October to discuss a draft budget, precept submission and this would be presented at the November meeting.
- **Planning:** Nothing to report.
- **Allotments:** The Clerk informed the meeting that over half the allotment holders had paid their yearly fee and there would be no changes at this time to the list as all plot holders had indicated they were renewing.
- **Footpaths:** no observations had been reported.
- **Communications:** As both Councillors had resigned this working party composition was to be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Asset Register.** Cllr Greening - ongoing

## 85/22 Planning Items

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

## 86/22 Finance: To approve payment of accounts for September 2022

- To approve payments as per schedule presented. That the payment of bills be approved in accordance with the schedule and the receipts are noted.

Date	Payee	Description	Transaction	Net £	VAT £	Gross £	Receipt £
01.09.2022	Fenland Leisure PR	Invoice for bolt caps	BACS	20	4	24	0
02.09.2022	Npower Street lighting	Direct Debet	BACS	135.13	6.76	141.89	0
02.09.2022	A T Johnson	ecturn construction and information shee	BACS	9.16	1.83	10.99	0
02.09.2022	A + E Hall	Flowers sunderies	BACS	27.82	6.96	34.78	0
02.09.2022	Mr Bees Foto Stop	Riverside News summer edition	BACS	0	0	565.8	0
05.09.2022	David Williams	Clerks Wage August	BACS	0	0	487.44	0
05.09.2022	Claire Dorman	Burials x 5	BACS	0	0	400	0
05.09.2022	Colin Wills	Maintenance Officer	BACS	0	0	362.59	0
06.09.2022	R H Bond Funeral	Cemetery fee	BACS	0	0	0	400
06.09.2022	R H Bond Funeral	Cemetery fee	BACS	0	0	0	414
06.09.2022	Walton loo hire	Loo River field	BACS	144	36	180	0
08.09.2022	A + E Hall	Flowers sunderies	BACS	17	4.25	21.25	0
20.09.2022	G Gooch	Allotment Fees	BACS	0	0	0	25
21.09.2022	MC & L Wonnacott	Allotment fee	BACS	0	0	0	12.5
21.09.2022	Holly Landscapes	Invoice 4913	BACS	152.15	30.43	182.58	0
21.09.2022	Mr PJ & Mrs WE Mesher	Allotment Fee	BACS	0	0	0	12.5
21.09.2022	A Hall	Allotment Fee	BACS	0	0	0	12.5
22.09.2022	Lees D & R	Allotment Fee	BACS	0	0	0	12.5
22.09.2022	H Brett & Sons limited	Ashes interment	BACS	0	0	0	52.5
26.09.2022	Burton Jame	Allotment fees	BACS	0	0	0	25
27.09.2022	Fenland Leisure PR	SIN048782	BACS	1440.75	288.15	1728.9	0
27.09.2022	Fenland Leisure PR	SIN048781	BACS	2862.4	572.48	3434.88	0
28.09.2022	Mrs S Vaughan	Allotment Fee	BACS		0	0	12.5
28.09.2022	Mr & Mrs Thomas	Allotment Fee	BACS	0	0	0	25
28.09.2022	Mr & Mrs Collyer	Allotment fee	BACS	0	0	0	12.5
29.09.2022	Mrs A Page	Allotment fee	BACS	0	0	0	12.5
29.09.2022	Intermedical UK Ltd	Defiberilator Battery	BACS	205	41	246	0
Totals for 01.09.2022 to 29.09.2022 no outstanding invoices				<b>5013.41</b>	<b>991.86</b>	<b>7821.1</b>	<b>1029</b>

## Proposed by Cllr P Mesher seconded by Cllr A Greening All present agreed

### 87/22 To discuss Ten Mile Bank church yard.

- There was a discussion around the continuing maintenance of St Mark's church yard in Ten Mile Bank by the Maintenance Officer. Cllr Greening to email the Clerk with details of the new Reverend and were the Church lays within the diocese. To be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

### 88/22 To discuss playing fields in the Parish.

- This item had been discussed under the Maintenance Officers report.

**89/22 To discuss cutting of Hilgay Church Avenue**

- Cllr Annan would speak with Cllr Bates and seek the views of the PCC for Hilgay Church and bring the matter back to the next meeting.

**90/22 To discuss commemorative bench for Cllr P Carter**

- After some discussion it was decided that it would be better to a quote for a commemorative plaque with a role of Honour to be placed in both Village halls. Proposed by Cllr Heatrick and seconded by Cllr Mesher all agreed

**91/22 Update by the Clerk on Grit Bins at Ten Mile Bank.**

- The Clerk informed the meeting this was on going and the item moved forward to the November meeting.

**92/22 To discuss contingency planning cost of living crisis.**

- There was a great deal of discussion and there was some provisional in place around coffee mornings in Hilgay Methodist Church and Hilgay Village Hall. Cllr Mesher to email the Clerk to the Hilgay United Charities Trustees to request the use of the Halls. The Clerk to write to Community Action Norfolk and seek two grants for the village Halls. The Clerk would produce a leaflet of contact numbers and advice to help those in need.

**93/22 To discuss Trees placed in the Parish.**

- Cllr Annan updated the Parish Council on her meeting with Richard Fisher from Norfolk County Council. There would be a great opportunity to have a community orchard with a wildlife pond established once the common land registration had been investigated and completed through the land registry. Also, there was a volunteer with the woodland trust in the village who would assist with the planning, and this was expected to take some 2 to 3 years. Proposed by Cllr Mesher and seconded by Cllr Greening that Cllr Annan contact Mr Topham and arrange a meeting.
- It was proposed by Cllr Heatrick and Seconded by Cllr Annan all agreed that £250 be put towards the purchase for a live Christmas Tree. Cllr Heatrick to investigate and seek a purchase of a suitable tree.

**94/22 To discuss Hot Places during the winter in the Parish.**

- Already discussed previously with in the meeting.

**95/22 Update from the Clerk on Publication and CiLCA.**

- The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the SLCC membership has to be renewed and the CiLCA registration had moved to December 2022 so the Parish Council would be invoiced then, and the Clerk was awaiting the invoice for the updated version of the Arnold-Baker book 13<sup>th</sup> edition on Local Council Administration. The Clerk to action the invoices once received. Proposed by Cllr Greening and seconded by Cllr Mesher all agreed.

**96/22 Agenda items for the next meeting**

- Commemorative Bench
- TMB Churchyard
- Contingency Planning
- Grit Bins TMB
- Coronation Celebrations
- TMB Bridge naming
- Fairfield Garage update
- Xmas Tree update

**The date of the next meeting will be on**

Thursday the **3rd of November 2022** at Hilgay Village Hall starting at 7pm.

**97/22 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.**

An item was raised by the Clerk but was put forward to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:55pm