

HILGAY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held on Thursday, 2nd of February 2023 at 7.00pm in Ten Mile Bank Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors

Cllr G Carter – Chair
Cllr S Annan
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 4

159/23 Apologies for absence

- There were apologies from Cllr E Hall – Vice Chair, Cllr A Greening, Cllr P Bates.

160/23 Declarations of interest (under the West Norfolk Borough Council Code of Conduct) and any requests for dispensation

Cllr S Annan made declaration for item 166/23 planning application nonpecuniary interest.

161/23 Approval of the minutes of the Council meetings

- To approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 5th of January 2023 (Items 139/23 to 158/23).

Proposed by Cllr J Heatrick and Seconded by Cllr S Annan All there agreed.

- Cllr E Hall signed the minutes as the Chair for the meeting.

162/23 To receive application for the Casual Vacancy and consider and resolve the Co-option for the position of Councillor (circulated with agenda) If elected, to resolve that the Councillor is granted a dispensation until the end of their term in May 2023, or resignation, whichever is the sooner, to enable them to take part in Council business where this would otherwise, be prohibited because they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

The Parish Council voted unanimously to co-opt Mrs M Orwell and Mr C Wills on to the Parish Council. They signed their declaration of holding Office and this was counter signed by the Clerk.

163/22 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 Chairman closed the meeting at 19:10pm for the public participation and County / Borough Councillors to give their reports.

The Chairman invited the Jutta Whitworth-Biehler MBA MAAT, Managing Director of Baytree Garden Centres to inform the Parish councillors of the effects the planning application 22/0164/FM on the local area and also questions were invited at the end.

They're hoping to enlarge the car park, add a coffee shop, to the already existing restaurant, along with tripling the size of the plant area. With an estimate of up to 20 more vacancies created on site. Increasing the availability of work to local people.

Access from the A10 into the garden centre was a question raised by Councillor Wills. There has been a survey done on vehicle traffic using the garden centre at peak times in the summer and this was submitted with the application. The Councillors did note that any change to the speed limit and gaining a safe crossing for pedestrians was difficult on this stretch of road.

The Chairman thanked the visitors, and they left the meeting.

Cllr M Storey Norfolk County & KL&WNB, Councillor gave an update from Norfolk County Council.

Norfolk County Council and the Government have agreed, in principle, a new County Deal, to transfer funding and powers to Norfolk – a process known as devolution. This provides a unique and exciting opportunity to unlock significant funding and for decisions currently made in Whitehall to be made in Norfolk, for Norfolk. Under a County Deal, Norfolk would benefit from a new Government investment fund including £20m per year over the next 30 years, and an additional £12.9m during the current Spending Review period (2024-25). In addition to the investment fund, Norfolk would also get control of the Adult Education Budget (just over £10m in 2022/23) and an un-ringfenced Transport and Maintenance Budget (approximately £40m per year). There would also be a county council leader, directly elected by the public and with no additional bureaucracy or changes to councils.

This Deal represents a real opportunity to unlock Norfolk's potential, for the county take control of its own destiny and shape its own future, and to have a stronger voice nationally. If our Deal went ahead, we would have powers and finance to invest in areas such as better transport, skills, job opportunities, housing, and regeneration. This could be just the start of further powers being devolved to Norfolk. Some examples of additional powers and responsibilities devolved in other areas of the country include greater powers over the NHS and social care and controls over the number of holiday homes in coastal

areas. Therefore, it is important to hear your views about this Deal and your ideas about priorities for Norfolk.

Cllr Wills raised the question about the dyke again. Cllr Storey said he would chase up Mr Wallace to see how far he had got in clearing the vegetation and trees.

Councillor Storey raised the point there was a grant pot of fifty thousand pounds towards helping villages in West Norfolk purchase more defibrillators. The Parish Has two one in each village. The one in Hilgay had been collected twice by Baytree Garden Centre Staff and happily it wasn't needed to be used on a patient.

Cllr A Holmes KL&WNB, Councillor gave an update on the matters from the Borough Council as to their response to the new County Council Deal.

The Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council thanked both Councillors for their support with the Parish Councils application for a CIL Grant.

164/22 **Chair's announcements and matters for consideration.**

Signage update. The Chair showed the signs to the Councillors all agreed they were suitable, and they were to go up.

Blue bin replacement. Still on-going

Riverside toilets meeting proposal. The Clerk to arrange on-line zoom meeting and minutes to be sent out separately. It was made known that this meeting would only last thirty minutes. Councillors would be sent out a briefing sheet to aid discussions.

Play equipment at Hilgay Play Area A short brief explanation was given to the tow new councillors by the Chair which was noted in the previous minutes.

Fairfield Garage Hilgay A letter from Stephen Halls the Norfolk County Council enforcement office to Councillor J Heatrick a summary was readout by the Chair. The tenant was given notice 12 months ago and the enforcement officer had a meeting on the 25/01/2023 at the site.

Unfortunately, Councillors could not attend at the given time. The enforcement officer said he was writing in the next few days to the landowner and tenant with his proposals for clearing the site. Cllr J Heatrick could not understand how this was still on going and Councillor Storey was also asked to check that progress was being made. Cllr J Heatrick to send another letter.

Pre-election period advice to Councillors in letter.

The Clerk handed out a letter to Councillors and Councillor Holmes thought it a very good idea. Councillors and the pubic should understand how a pre-election period works. This was not a policy but an information sheet.

165/22 **Updates from working parties.**

- **Finance:** The Clerk updated the Council with reading out the AGAR statement which will be posted on the noticeboards shortly. Proposed by Cllr P Mesher and seconded by Cllr S Annan the payment of

- **Planning:** The planning application 22/02138/F was later in the agenda.
- **Allotments:** Councillor E Hall who was not present to report.
- **Footpaths:** Councillor S Anna reported two posts down and these needed to be replaced. The chair will contact Mr Nichols for him to assess and repair as necessary. Invoice to be brought back to the next meeting.
- **Communications:** Councillor S Annan reported that the Riverside news being delayed in its delivery, had caused dates for events advertised within it to have been in the past when delivered. The Clerk to meet with the editor.
- **Asset Register.** Councillor A Greening who was not present to report.

166/22 Planning Items

(a) To receive results on decisions None

(b) To discuss applications the

planning application **22/01654/FM** the Clerk to submit no objections raised.

167/22 Finance: To approve payment of accounts for 30 November 2022 to the 28 December 2022

- To approve payments as per schedule presented.

03.01.2023	Coates business	invoice 4790	BACS	47.52	11.88	59.4	0
03.01.2023	Coates business	invoice 4617	BACS	47.52	11.88	59.4	0
03.01.2023	K&M Lighting	Street lighting maintence invoice No 7154	BACS	42.8	8.56	51.36	0
04.01.2023	Npower	Street Lighting	BACS	389.09	19.45	408.54	0
06.01.2023	David Williams	Clerks Wage for December 2022	BACS	0	0	514.4	0
06.01.2023	Colin Willis	Maintenance Officer Wage/HP DEC 2022	BACS	0	0	904.58	0
12.01.2023	H Brett & Son	GOR payment in cemetry	BACS	0	0	0	63
16.01.2023	HMRC	PAYE/NIC	BACS	0	0	578.3	0
16.01.2023	NCC	invoice 5667	DDR	0	0	91.25	0
17.01.2023	D Nicholls	Supply fix post	BACS	136.97	34.24	171.21	0
17.01.2023	Starboard systems	Scribe subscription Yearly	BACS	320	64	384	0
17.01.2023	Fenland lesuire	Play equipment inspection	BACS	175	35	210	0
17.01.2023	K&M Lighting	Street lighting maintence invoice No 7154	BACS	42.8	8.56	51.36	0
17.01.2023	Mr Bees	Riverside news INV 23.12.202 No 33BBP	BACS	0	0	528.9	0
Totals for 03.01.2022 to 22.01.2023 no outstanding invoices				1063.86	161.25	3842.54	63

Proposed by Cllr P Mesher seconded by Cllr J Heatrick all present agreed.

168/22 To discuss Ten Mile Bank Church yard.

- The Reverend Moat explain that a survey of Ten Mile Bank Residents Maybe as there was confusion over the church closing and the meaning of a closed churchyard. The Church is not closing but services have been paused. Services were carried out every 2 weeks. The Reverend Moat thought it would be at least 3 months after a decision was made; as it had to be advertised and then if no objections the Church Yard would be handed over to the Borough Council.

169/22 To discuss Playing Field Ten Mile Bank.

- The Chair stated this was on-going and would be updated at the next meeting along with Councillor Storey's update on the Dyke at Ten Mile Bank.

170/22 To discuss the good companions club committee membership.

- Councillor S Annan raised the issue the trustees met and we're hoping to raise more interest in the club. What was to do with the building? This would also help with the hotspot issues, but the parish had a few months ago. Giving a place for people to go meet eat and talk. So, if Councillors could raise interest the people starting up again would be very much appreciated it.

171/22 To discuss coronation 8th of May celebrations.

- Cllr S Annan asked was it better to have street parties. Nothing really planned for this time. The King is not asking for anything special, and it was noted that the Borough Council were giving out grants again for £200. But there did not appear to be a structured approach.

172/22 To discuss Play equipment report Ten Mile Bank.

- The Clerk informed the Parish Council that a report had been received from Online Play and would need discussing at the next meeting.

173/22 To discuss Trees placed in the Parish / Common Land

- Councillor S Annan had been in touch with the County Council, and this is common land and was registered in 1967 as such there was no ownership at the time of registration. The Parish Council can plant trees on the land. Councillor A Holmes would help with this matter.

Councillors Storey and Holmes left the meeting at 20:35

174/22 Agenda items for the next meeting

- Riverside toilets
- Play Equipment report for Ten Mile Bank

The date of the next meeting will be on

Thursday the 2nd of March 2023 at Hilgay Village Hall starting at 7pm.

175 /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.

Councillors P Mesher and G Carter proposed and seconded that items go below the line.

Discussions were going ahead with prospective contractors for the Maintenance Officer, but no applications have been received. Therefore, the Clerk will draw up a tender and the Council agreed to this being a way forward.

Cemetery issues were discussed.

The meeting closed at 20.45pm