

HARDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2015 in the Memorial Hall, Hardingham at 7.30pm

Present:

John Sharples (Chairman) Henry Edwards (Vice Chairman) Tim Barrett
Richard Burke Glen Gower
Lynn Whitwell (Clerk)

Members of the public present.

Mr Cliff Jordan (District and County Councillor)
Mrs Ella-Mae Wallis
Mr Ian Wallis

The Chairman welcomed Mr Jordan and Mr & Mrs Wallis to the meeting.

It was agreed that Item 7 Campaign for Better Broadband be brought forward and John introduced Karen O’Kane, Programme Director, Better Broadband for Norfolk

Karen gave an overview of the programme for Better Broadband for Norfolk, explaining that with the current copper system speed reduces the further the signal travels, leaving the cabinet at 80mbps, but 3km away reducing to 2mbps. The aim was to provide a fibre based solution to approximately 250,000 households by the end of 2016.

The households in Hardingham are covered by the Hingham cabinet on a copper system. Currently High Common, being closer, would experience better speeds than those households further distance from Hingham. The solution was to install two new cabinets, however, the team were experiencing difficulty in finding locations for the cabinets in the Highway. It might mean that suitable sites on private land be sought. A solution should be found by the end of 2015.

In answer to a question by Henry, Karen explained that the Cabinets were 4’x3’x5’tall. Safety and vision were considered by the Highways department and a power supply was needed.

Mrs Wallis asked the meaning of “in the highway”. Karen explained this meant the grass verge.

Karen confirmed there should be a solution by the end of 2015, however, if road closures are required for installation, some slippage may occur.

John asked Karen to keep in touch with the Clerk on progress and the Council will help with finding a location. He thanked Karen for attending and for the efforts made on behalf of Hardingham.

The Meeting opened at 7.45pm and Mr and Mrs Wallis were given the opportunity to comment on Agenda Item 6 3AG/2015/003 Application of prior notification of construction of winter storage reservoir 400m north of Hardingham Hall.

Mrs Wallis was concerned that although a letter from Breckland Council had been received by the Parish Council on 20th January she had not been consulted and no comments had been made to Breckland by the Parish Council. It was explained that as this was a prior notification of agricultural development under the Permitted Development Order no consultation was considered and that the notification had been circulated to all Councillors for any comments. Consultation and consideration would be carried out when the formal application was received.

Mrs Wallis re-iterated her concern that if a full application was not received then they would have lost an opportunity to comment. Mr Wallis stated that this was not a trivial matter because of the lack of opportunity to comment on the development.

Mr Jordan explained that it would be a full application.

Mrs Wallis suggested that consultation should take place on all notifications, not just full applications.

Mr and Mrs Wallis left the meeting
Parish Council business commenced at 7.55pm

1. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none. The Council were already aware of any interests existing

2. TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Nick Pounder and Jane Strudwick

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th JANUARY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January 2015, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Public Right of Way – Low Street

Henry explained that he had walked from The Grove to Church Road and there was no problem with access. The diagonal route may not conform exactly to the map, but was accessible. The Clerk explained that she had seen a group of ramblers and they confirmed that access was ok.

5. FINANCE

Barclays £1529.87

Santander £1589.17

Cheques authorised

Hardingham Memorial Hall £17.00 (Hire of Hall 2nd March) LGA1972 s111

Mr D Pike 50.00 (Ground Maintenance) Highways Act 1980 s96

Mrs R J Whitwell £57.38 (Stationery £42.73, Telephone £10.00)

nominal, Postage £4.65) LGA1972 s111

Budget - details of actual against budget previously circulated - there were no questions

Notification of regular payments made to Zen Internet Ltd.

7th Jan (7th Jan – 6th February)
7th February (7th February – 6th March)

6. PLANNING

For Consideration:

3PL/2015/0046/F – Browne's Farm, Manson Green – Removal of Condition 3 – hedge planting – Resident had been consulted and there were no objections. The Council had no objections

3PL/2015/0240/F – Thorncroft, Reymerston – Erection of two-bedroom bungalow and garaging. The Council had no objections

For Information

3PL/2015/0008/F- 23 Nordelph Corner – Replacement of two storey side addition with one and two storey side extension above and proposed two storey rear ext. - Permission given

3PL/2014/0553/F – Mill Road – Relaxation of agricultural occupation condition – Permission refused

3AG/2015/0003 – Hardingham Farms – Application of prior notification of agricultural development Town & Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 1995 Sch 2 parts 6 & 7 – Construction of winter storage reservoir 400m north of Hardingham Hall

The Council considered comments by Mr & Mrs Wallis and agreed that in future notifications under the Permitted Development Right Act should be posted on the noticeboard and on the website inviting comments.

Feedback from the Planning & Development Meeting at Breckland Council

John gave feedback on the meeting he and the Clerk had attended. He expressed concern that being outside the settlement boundary is now no longer defence against large scale or inappropriate development and said that options included, liaising with the Local Planning Committee at Breckland or developing a Neighbourhood Plan. He and Tim would attend a meeting at Breckland on 27th March on Neighbourhood Planning. Cliff suggested that a village appraisal should be the first step.

7. CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER BROADBAND FOR HARDINGHAM

See above report

8. TO AGREE THE ANNUAL REPORT

This was deferred the Chairman would circulate the Annual Report via email

ACTION: John

9. TO CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT 2014 INCLUDING THE TRANSPARENCY CODE

The Clerk had previously circulated a report on the implications of the Transparency Code and it was considered that most requirements were met. Recommendations were made to ensure the Council was fully compliant.

Minutes, agendas and meeting papers of formal meetings

“All the information stated above must be published on a website which is publicly accessible and free of charge”

The Council decided that with regard to meeting papers, these will be published on the website only and reference made to the website, or the Clerk, on Agendas published on the noticeboard. This will include reference to Breckland Planning Website for details of any planning applications

The Council decided that the practice of sending out Agendas to residents should cease and they should be directed to the website.

The Council confirmed there is no need to register under the Data Protection Act.

10. REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS INCLUDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SYSTEMS

The Clerk had previously circulated a report on the review of the Financial Regulations which appear in order. The new Audit Regulations would need to be reflected once made law. The Council was asked to consider nominating another bank signatory. The Council appointed Tim Barrett.

The Clerk was asked to investigate interest rates at Barclays with a view to transferring the money from Santander to Barclays.

ACTION: Clerk

The Clerk stated that in her opinion as long as signatories make the prescribed checks as per para 5.4 and the Internal Scrutineer carries out the necessary checks, systems remain effective. However, as the Clerk/RFO carried out this review, the Council may wish to carry out an independent check.

11. ASSET INSPECTION REPORT

This was deferred as Jane was not at the meeting

12. HIGHWAYS

The Clerk gave feedback on current work pending with Highways. Cliff offered to take up any longstanding issues with Norfolk County Council on our behalf.

OTHER MATTERS

The Clerk informed the Council that Joy Neave (Trustee appointed to the Village Hall Committee by the Parish Council) had notified the Council that she would be leaving the village. The Council agreed that a replacement would be identified at the Annual Meeting in May.

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm