

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HAPPISBURGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WENN EVANS CENTRE ON 13TH JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM**

Present:

Cllr Glenn Berry (Chairman), Cllr David Mole, Cllr George Siely, Cllr Thomas Love, Cllr Robert Fleming, Cllr Clive Stockton

**Jo Beardshaw (Clerk)
19 members of the public**

- 1. To consider apologies for absence.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ritchie and Cllr C Siely
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items.** None were received
- 3. To agree the minutes of the meetings of Happisburgh Parish Council held on 11th and 14th November and matters arising** (for information only). The minutes were agreed. The Chairman noted that the caravan park relocation planning application had been withdrawn

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, members of the public, District Councillor Lee Walker and County Councillor Eric Seward for attending. He explained that he would invite Nicola Turner and David Williams from NNDC to speak at the beginning of the meeting.

4. Reports

4.1 The Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported that he felt that Happisburgh had got away fairly lightly during the high tides of 5th / 6th of December. He said that the losses to people (other than land loss) had been minimal. He explained that once the storms were over, the ramp was re-graded, the posts were put back in and the sand had returned to the beach. He stated that he had received various enquiries from members of the public regarding Bryony Nierop-Reading's house, asking why it had not been fully removed. Mr Stockton explained that under pathfinder, Defra had agreed to make the funds available for the demolition of properties that were in danger of falling into the sea. Any further clearance was to be at the owners' expense. The Chairman also noted that he had received complaints regarding a power cable lying across the road. The Chairman asked Bryony to address the Council, but she said that she did not wish to answer questions. The Chairman had spoken to Highways about putting something permanent at the end of Beach Road to prevent cars going down the road – they had agreed to put a bund in position there. The Chairman also noted that Malcolm Kerby and himself had attended a meeting of the emergency committee for Bacton, Walcott and Happisburgh. He explained that this was a group of people who were joining together to help if and when another storm occurs. The Chair of Walcott PC had asked if Happisburgh PC wished to join the group. Mr Fleming said that he would like to know more about the group before committing to joining. The Chairman invited the Chairman of Walcott PC to address the meeting. She explained that she was the co-ordinator of the resilience committee and chair of the emergency committee. District Councillor Lee Walker said that Norman Lamb had been working with Bacton and Walcott following the storms, and she encouraged the Council to join the emergency group. There was general agreement that there needed to be a 'whole coast' approach rather than separate groups joining together with no clear direction.

4.2 District and County Councillor reports:

County Councillor Eric Seward noted that he understood there to be a meeting in two days' time to discuss a 'whole coast' emergency strategy meeting. He also reported that NCC had received over 15,000 comments regarding the 'putting people first' budget campaign. NCC has some difficulty with setting its budget because of the incinerator. He expected a result to come through very soon regarding the incinerator, which would make things a lot clearer.

The County Councillor also noted that there had been another 'look' at the flood management report regarding the pond in Happisburgh. He said that he had seen the second draft of the report but that it was still not something coherent or useful. He hoped that a sensible answer could be received in 3 – 6 weeks' time regarding the actions that need to be taken in order to prevent the pond flooding again.

Denise Burke asked the County Councillor if he might be prepared to ask if there was a possibility of having additional footpath signposts put in front of St Mary's. Denise had found that tourists were following the footpath signs and then becoming lost when the signs stopped. Mr Seward agreed to look into this.

There was general agreement that NCC would be very wrong to cut financial assistance for transport for 16 – 19 year olds. It was felt that it is critical that these young people are able to get to colleges around Norfolk rather than pay a fee which may amount to approximately £800 per year.

4.3 Police report.

The Clerk was pleased to report that there had been no reported crimes in the village since the November meetings

4.4 Car Park report.

The Chairman thanked Jason Langford very much for his continued hard work at the car park. He also noted that the toilet block had received another Gold Award. He thanked Mr G Siely for opening the gates at the car park over the Christmas period

The Chairman said that he would be looking into close boarding on the pathway down from the car park to the beach, as the weeds were growing through the fence. Mr Fleming felt that he was not keen on covered boarding, but that he recommended widening the path. The Chairman said he would look into this further. Mr Fleming, Mr G Siely and Mr Mole agreed to work together to re-gravel the car park, with the loan of a loader from Mr Love

4.5 Pavilion and Playingfield report.

None

4.6 Allotments report

Mr. G Siely noted that there had been another allotment tenant resign their tenancy and there are therefore 3 allotments to let. He had received £110 in rent for the year. He was also keen to find out if it is possible to receive a grant for fencing allotments from rabbits and the like. The Clerk agreed to look into this

4.7 Wenn Evans Centre report

Mr Mole informed the meeting that he had received a rebate of £900 from EON, but that the back door had split so he would need to replace it. The Council agreed to this. Mr Mole, Jan Newall and the Chairman would be holding a meeting regarding the Wenn Evans centre in the near future and agreed that it should take place on a Monday evening

4.8 Playspace and beach cleaning report (by Rosemary Munday)

The Parish Clerk has confirmed that the Land Registry paperwork has been received and also that the Licence of Alteration has been signed by all parties and a copy received to be held with the car park lease.

The fencing has been delivered to Cllr Cubitt Siely's barn and will be erected once the ground conditions improve. Agreement has been obtained from NNDC's Big Society to delay the installation for the benefit of the project if this should prove necessary as technically the fence should be installed by 25th February to meet the grant criteria.

- The Parish Council are asked to agree at agenda item 7.3 to release the funds to the contractor for the remaining fencing element of their invoice (£8,277.85). The remainder of the invoice will be paid on completion of the installation (£4,740.00). The Council agreed this
- The Parish Clerk has arranged insurance cover for the fencing at a cost of £28.87 – agenda item 7.4.
- Once we know when installation of the fence will take place we will liaise with Cllr Love re dismantling the section of post and rail fencing.
- Funds increased after the last meeting by a further donation from Jan Newell from the bingo of £150 and we would like to record a big thank for this continued support.
- The Chair of the 'Friends of Happisburgh School' is keen to support a joint fundraising venture including an auction of promises (possibly combined with the school fete) and will take this to the next meeting and the Governors, she sees this an excellent opportunity to bring school and community together.
- At agenda item 6.3 the Parish Council were asked to consider making a sizeable donation from last year's car park income and to consider also agreeing in principal to a donation from this year's income.

The Parish Council agreed to consider this further at the May / July meetings once the car park finances were understood more thoroughly.

5. Adjourn the meeting for public session / comments on planning applications and any other matters

Reconvene the meeting

6. Agenda items

6.1. Two members of NNDC Housing team (David Williams, Housing Development Officer and Nicola Turner, Team Leader - Strategy) had attended the meeting to discuss Exception Housing Schemes in the village. The Chairman had asked them to speak at the beginning of the meeting: Nicola Turner explained that the Government had made clear that all local planning authorities that have small rural communities should include a 'rural exception site policy'. Much of the district is subject to policies of development restraint. The Countryside, including a large number of smaller villages, is not regarded as an appropriate location for new house building. However, in order to contribute to balanced communities in rural areas affordable housing will be permitted outside selected settlements as rural exception sites. Regarding affordable housing in the countryside, she explained that proposals for affordable housing development within the area designated as Countryside will be permitted only where:

- The proposal would help to meet a proven local housing need for affordable housing as demonstrated in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and waiting list information, and
- For schemes of 10 or more dwellings the site is situated within 100m of the boundary of a Principal or Secondary Settlement or one of the defined Service Villages or Coastal Service Villages, or,
- For schemes of 10 dwellings or fewer the site adjoins an existing group of ten or more dwellings; and is not situated within a 1 km radius of any other scheme which has been permitted under this policy, and
- The affordable housing provided is made available to people in local housing need at an affordable cost for the life of the property (the Council will ensure that any planning permission granted is subject to appropriate conditions and/or planning obligations to secure its affordability in perpetuity).

Nicola explained that 43 people on the housing list have good connections with Happisburgh. This means that they could live / work or have close connections with Happisburgh. She explained that NNDC would recommend 10 houses for Happisburgh. NNDC had spoken to the owners of a field on Happisburgh Common on Short Lane; 5 market dwellings to finance 10 affordable houses. They said that the land was in one ownership and the owner was prepared to sell. Mr Love asked how many people were

on the NNDC housing list. Nicola explained that there were currently around 1800 people on the list. It was recommended generally to Nicola and David that they speak to the church regarding access across their land in order to improve access. In addition, Nicola and David were informed that the land was owned by both the Townsend family (who Nicola had spoken to) and also the Church (who she had not spoken to). She was grateful for the information and planned to approach the Church as soon as possible. A member of the Parish asked what size houses NNDC planned to build. She explained that they planned to build 4 x 1 bed, 2 x 2 bed bungalows, 3 x 2 bed houses and 1 x 3 bed market dwellings. She agreed that in order to reduce bedroom tax some people who currently live in affordable housing in the village could move to a smaller property (if relevant). A member of the public noted that she lived on the corner of Short Lane and she suspected that the people living around Happsburgh Common would not like the idea of the houses being built, as there were already access problems. The Chairman noted that this was the first time any members of the Council had heard about these plans. Nicola confirmed this. The Chairman summarised the feelings of the Parish Council by telling Nicola and David that the Parish Council would be happy to work with NNDC in their attempt to deliver an exception scheme.

- 6.2. Mary Trett. Parish Council discussion regarding a way to commemorate Mary Trett. It was suggested that a display should be put in place at the church and also online, and that there should be a village exhibition in 2014. The Chairman asked Jim Whiteside to bring recommendations to the next meeting
- 6.3. Discussion regarding donation ideas from the car park. The Clerk was asked to put an item in the Parish News requesting bids for donations from the car park fund. It was agreed that donation amounts would be agreed at the May or July meetings, when full year figures would be known. There was also a general discussion regarding maximising revenue from the car park. Mr Stockton suggested that the Council should combine the idea of display boards / artefacts with the new car park – ie that there could be some form of visitor centre at the car park, which would encourage visitors to the car park and also increase revenue. Mr Love suggested using the Wenn Evans as a permanent display of Mary Trett's history of the village. It was also noted that people were parking at the 'no entry' sign on Beach Road rather than parking in the car park. Cllr Seward was asked to look into this
- 6.4. Precept alteration - £569 grant from NNDC, therefore precept request change suggested. A revised precept of £6,431 was agreed
- 6.5. Parish Council donations. These were agreed as follows:

S137 Donations	2014
Walcott Village Hall	
Wenn Evans Centre	
CAB	200.00
St Marys Church News Sheet	150.00
St Marys Church Room Fund	
St Marys Churchyard	50.00
Friends of Happisburgh Lighthouse	100.00
Happisburgh Cricket Club	500.00
Happisburgh Heritage Group	159.00
Nth Walsham Area Transport	100.00
Playingfield & Recreation Trust	
Mary Trett Historical Document	
Magpas. The Emergency Medical Charity	
Norfolk and Suffolk 4 x 4 response	50.00
Stitch N Bitch	
Jan Newall / Happisburgh fundraisers	25.00
Totals	1,334.00

7. Financial Matters

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

- 7.1. PC Account. Chq no 560. Dean Ellis. . Playingfield mowing / strimming. £200
- 7.2. PC Account. Chq no 561. Clerk salary and expenses. £417.83
- 7.3. PC Account. Chq no 562. NGF. Playspace fencing. £8,277.85
- 7.4. PC Account. Chq no 563. Aon Insurance. Fencing insurance. £28.87
- 7.5. PC Account. Chq no 564. SLCC membership. £50.50
- 7.6. CP Account. Chq no 31. Jason Langford January salary. £465
- 7.7. CP Account. Chq no 32. Jason Langford. February salary. £420

8. Planning applications

None

9. Planning decisions noted

- 9.1. PF/13/0914. Land adjacent to 2 High House. Refused
- 9.2. PF/13/0963. Installation of two wind turbines at 'Land at the Chimneys, Ostend Road. Withdrawn
- 9.3. PF/13/1220. Land South of North Walsham Road. Change of use of land to caravan park. Withdrawn

10. Items for the Parish News

- 10.1. Donation bids from the car park fund
- 10.2. Allotment tenants required

11. Correspondence and Circulars for information and action

None

12. Any other business

A member of the public requested that the Parish Council write to the planning department to ensure that the residential caravan at the end of Beach Road was legal. The Council agreed that the clerk should write accordingly

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13. Date of next meeting – Monday 10th March 2014

The meeting closed at 9.55pm