

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTE of the Meeting held on 14 December 2009 at Hopton Village Hall Station Road Hopton-on-Sea commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Cllrs. Mike Butcher (Chairman), Ken Hicks (Vice-Chairman), Lenny Gent, Jay Formosa, Brian Howard, Maureen McGovern, Howard Shepherdson and Lilian Walker.

Also in attendance: Julie McNair, Clerk to the Council and four members of the public were present.

1. To consider apologies for absence.

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Val McGee. Apologies were also received by the Chairman from all Borough and County Councillors as they were attending the Civic Carol Service at St Nicholas Church. The Chairman advised that Vicky Mummery has resigned from the Council due to work commitments. The Chairman has thanked Vicky for her work and wished her well in her new job role. There are now two vacancies on the Parish Council and a local election will take place in February 2010. If any members of the public are interested in finding out more about the role of a Parish Councillor, an information sheet and job description can be obtained from the Clerk.

2. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

Cllr. Shepherdson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5(ii) in that he is the owner of one of the properties in question. Cllr. Shepherdson did not form part of the Planning Committee in relation to that particular application. Cllr. Butcher declared a personal interest in item 11 as he is the existing chairman of the Parish Council.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30 November 2009.

Unanimously resolved to approve the minute as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Resolution to suspend the meeting to receive PCSO Dave Nickerson's report.

Duly resolved. PCSO Dave Nickerson advised there were 51 calls to the Norfolk Constabulary from Hopton during the month of November, which resulted in 5 crimes. At a recent KIN meeting the priorities for the next three months in the village are speeding and parking. The meeting was reconvened.

5. To receive and consider the Clerk's reports:-

(i) **Correspondence** (as outlined in the attached list). The Clerk reported on paper correspondence received since the last meeting.

(ii) **Planning applications.** 06/09/0698/F S. Manning. Stardust Amusements Warren Road. Retrospective application for standing of a mobile catering fish and chip trailer. 06/09/0665/F 2 & 4 Old Church Cottage Station Road. Convert bakery building to cottage and removal of extensions in connection with bakery.

06/09/0682/F 26 Watsons Close. Ground floor extension and conversion of garage to improve access, safety and comfort in a disabled persons dwelling. 06/09/0716/F 27A Station Road. Extension to car port. The Parish Council's Planning Committee had no objections to the above applications.

Planning Permissions granted by GYBC. 06/09/0627/CU Around a Pound Warren Road. Change of use from gift shop to coffee shop serving drinks and snacks. C/6/2007/6007 Cliff Ravine Potters Leisure Resort. Infill of part ravine with locally sourced material (retrospective).

(iii) **Finance - to agree invoices for payment.** The Clerk presented 14 cheques to the meeting numbered 1328 to 1341 with a total value of £6,147.50 and a further cheque for £62.01 from the St. Margaret's Ruins account. It was resolved to pass these for payment. GYBC has confirmed that no financial adjustments will be made to the grant for concurrent functions year 2010/2011, but there may be adjustments in future years should the amount paid for concurrent function services by the parish be either less, or more, than the amount of the grant received from the Borough.

6. To receive a brief update on matters arising from the Minutes:-

(i) Drains Lowestoft Road. Cllr Hicks had a meeting with Mr Minter from Anglian Water on 20 November. The problem has been identified and a start date is awaited. A letter will be sent to residents in the vicinity of The Laurels advising them when works will be carried out.

(ii) Cycleway/footpath along Warren Road. The Chairman advised that the outcome will be made public this week. [Note: Since the meeting, Norfolk County Council has advised that the decision has been taken to proceed with the work on Warren Road, and works will be carried out during this financial year]

7. To receive information concerning the play area at Trafalgar Grange.

Following a recent consultation morning at the play area organised by GYBC, the equipment and layout has now been decided and construction is due to start in the New Year.

8. To receive information and consider an application to NALC for a grant of £5,000 “Your Parish, Your Decision” scheme (copy attached).

Cllr. Hicks outlined the application details. It was unanimously agreed to apply for the grant.

9. To receive an update from the Village Hall Management Trust (VHMT) re new village hall complex.

Cllr Hicks advised that a programme of works has now been received from John Youngs Limited. A storage container will be set up in the far corner of the car park on 18 December and there will be no parking in the village hall car park from 4 January. Completion is still scheduled for the end of August 2010. An application has been submitted by the VHMT to WREN for a grant of £50,000 and other grants are being investigated. An open morning took place in the Village Hall on 21 November for residents to view full plans and model of the new complex.

A proposal was put forward that given the financial situation that the VHMT is likely to find itself in until the two new halls are up and running, that the Parish Council supports the booking clerks position in the sum of £70 per week, should the VHMT request this assistance. The proposal was seconded and carried unanimously.

10. To receive and consider a report and update by the St. Margaret’s Ruins Committee (old church Coast Road).

Three more volunteers have been recruited. Two raised beds have been positioned ready for planting before Christmas which will brighten up the north wall in the Spring. The application to WREN will be re-submitted once work has started. The website is proving popular with both local and overseas visitors - www.oldstmargarets.com

11. To give consideration to invoking the suspension referred to in Standing Order Number 12 dated 13 November 2006 re election of chairman (copy attached).

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Hicks, seconded by Cllr Formosa and unanimously agreed to invoke the suspension referred to in Standing Order Number 12 for a period of 12 months. Cllr. Hicks advised that he will be retiring from the Parish Council in May 2011.

12. To consider insurance renewal quotations from Zurich and Came & Co.

The Clerk read out the quotations and following discussion it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the three year option from Came & Co (AVIVA).

13. To receive information and consider illuminating the skate park and west end of the football pitch at the recreation ground.

The Chairman advised that the cost of two 5M high posts with two lights on each would be £800. Two lights could be installed looking onto the skate park and the other two looking onto the west end where the goal is. Running costs would be around £460 per annum. The lights could go on at dusk and off at a pre determined time to be decided. It was unanimously agreed to proceed to obtain a further quotation for the supply and installation from GYB Services, and following this the Parish Council will apply for the necessary planning permission.

14. To receive information following a meeting with Carrie Kerry, NCC, concerning Norfolk Heritage and Biodiversity Walks.

A Norfolk health, heritage and biodiversity walks booklet is being drafted for Great Yarmouth and will include a circular walk from Gorleston to Hopton via the St. Margaret’s ruins and beach.

15. To receive information following a meeting at Hopton regarding sea defences.

The meeting was suspended to allow resident Brian Hardisty to speak. He advised that on the 26 November a meeting took place on the cliff top to discuss coastal erosion at Hopton. This was attended by the Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment and others.

Minutes of the recent Coastal Erosion Group meeting have been circulated to all Parish Councillors and the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), which has not yet been adopted by GYBC, will be look at again by them in January 2010. DEFRA will be publishing an erosion map in Spring 2010 which may assist people who are buying/selling coastal properties. Some discussion took place concerning the Pathfinder Plan under which £300,000 has been allocated to Scratby. Lowestoft has been awarded £1.5M although no decision has been made as to how this money is to be spent and £3M is going to North Norfolk. A copy of the full minutes can be obtained from the Clerk.

Caulking of the sea wall at Hopton is almost complete. Consideration now needs to be given as to how the steel piles can be maintained as these will require reinforcing in the next 3 years or so. The Chairman thanked Brian for his input and report.

16. Resolution to suspend the meeting for the Public Forum, County Councillor and Borough Councillors' Reports.

Suspension of the meeting continued. Members of the public raised the following points:-

- The broken bus timetable holder at the entrance to the village has been reported.
- Somerfields have responded verbally that they are unable to house the bottle banks.
- Spraying of weed killer and notice of the mechanical sweeper around Seafields Drive have both been notified to GYB Services Ltd.
- Works to Highways re (i) junction Warren Road/Coast Road/Station Road (ii) outside the school and (iii) zebra crossing on Station Road near the doctors surgery, will commence towards the end of 2010.
- Some discussion took place concerning the use of wind generation, solar panels and rain water harvesting for the new village hall complex.
- Drains will be cleaned by GYB Services Ltd on a call out basis if a problem has been identified and advised to them.
- The posts at the entrance to Trafalgar Grange that are no longer used and are to be removed.

No further items were raised and the meeting was reconvened.

17. To read Parish Councillors' Reports (previously submitted in writing).

There were none.

18. Items for the next Agenda (not for discussion).

(i) New Village Hall Complex - update (ii) St. Margaret's Ruins update (iii) Christmas Tree (iv) Lights on the recreation ground – update (v) Street lighting – NCC letter (vi) Summer Fete and Carnival.

19. Confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council will be Monday 11 January 2010 at 7pm Hopton Village Hall (behind the Health Centre) Station Road).

The Chairman thanked the public (and any press) for attending and the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed Date
Chairman / Vice-Chairman

These Minutes are unconfirmed until approved by the full Council.

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