

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTE of the Meeting held on 9 November 2009 at Hopton Village Hall Station Road Hopton-on-Sea commencing at 7pm.

Present:

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

Also in attendance: Julie McNair, Clerk to the Council, Borough Councillor Steve Ames and County Councillor Gerry Cook. Ten members of the public were present.

1. To consider apologies for absence.

Apologies received and accepted from Parish Councillor Lenny Gent.

The Chairman advised that Julie Woods has resigned from the Council as she will be moving out of the Parish. The Chairman has thanked Julie for her work and the Council wish her well for the future.

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

There were none*.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 October 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 45 calls to the Norfolk Constabulary from Hopton during the month of October, which resulted in 8 crimes. There were no incidents on Halloween night.

5. To receive guest speaker Bernard Harris re coastal erosion at Hopton and Corton.

The Chairman welcomed Bernard Harris and Tim Howard GYBC and Paul Patterson Service Manager for Coastal Protection and Land Drainage WDC to the meeting. Bernard advised that the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is still progressing. The recent sea wall collapse just south of Hopton was predicted although it did happen slightly earlier than anticipated. The sea wall maintenance at Hopton is due to start Wednesday (11 November). Delays have been due to staff absences. Beach levels have increased recently, although they are lower at the moment.

Many questions were raised by Cllrs and members of the public. In summary:

- There are no details regarding the Governments proposed new initiative concerning the purchase of properties affected by coastal erosion.
- GYBC has received the report from EastPort concerning the impact of the outer harbour works on surrounding areas but the report is not in a format acceptable to the Borough Council and is being re-written. HPC request to see analysis. Baseline first report needs to be right to assess subsequent data. All signatories to the agreement have a controlling interest and say how it is reported.
- If the sea wall at Corton end continues to deteriorate the policy is no active intervention. No justification to invest in works to extend the life of that structure. Not economically viable for WDC to repair. Looking at ways to manage the problem to ensure safety of public. Aim to remove the structure in front of Broadland Sands with a view to allowing public access to the beach.
- For the Hopton section of the sea wall, the policy is to maintain the wall whilst there is still economic life in doing so. In the medium term, once the wall has failed, GYBC will look at managed realignment, or no active intervention.
- The Hopton boundary is north of the collapsed sea wall about 700m short of the first house.
- Waiting until after winter to assess the extent of corrosion to the wall.
- Asking consultants to review strategy to ensure that proposed works are appropriate.
- Possibility of moving extra sand from the outer harbour to Hopton beach.

- Joint discussions between WDC and GYBC for one continuous plan of treatment. Although there will be different treatments for varying parts of the coast. People of Hopton should not worry. Waveney stretch will be dealt with under the SMP for that location. The boundaries will be treated sensibly.
- Policies set by considering a wide range of issues including tourism and public amenities. Investing in defence is not always a means of raising the quality of the shoreline.
- Defences built in the 1970s which came under WDC. In 1974 the boundary split between WDC and GYBC. The 2004/7 SMP breaks the coast up into management units. The policy covering Corton (WDC) is no active intervention. The area running to the north coming into Hopton, where there are more assets, more risk of loss, will be managed.
- Unable to replace structure until Government provides funding.
- There will be a time in the future when it won't be economical to repair the Hopton section of sea defences but policies will be in place to help communities adapt to this reality.
- GYBC has been in communication with both Hopton Holiday Village and Potters Leisure Resort.
- Website to view SMP – www.northnorfolk.org/files/SMP_Aug07.pdf
- An artificial reef would save Hopton, and all alternatives will be considered, but they are all subject to available funding.
- Funds are available through the European Community for studies but not works. The number of schemes far outnumbers the monies available. All schemes are prioritised.
- There are various shifting sand banks off the coast. Cannot say whether the outer harbour has caused scouring.
- Area was surveyed prior to completion of outer harbour construction and monitored on a twice yearly basis. Trends showed corrosion at Hopton even before the outer harbour started. From surveys can calculate direction flow and volume of sand movement. From this they can interpret effect over time.
- If one policy in the SMP is altered, it would have an effect on the entire structure. This is beyond the remit of GYBC. Even if there was a change in policy, this would not guarantee work is carried out. All works are subject to finance.
- Lack of scientific evidence to show that dredging has an impact.

The Chairman thanked the gentlemen for attending and reiterated that this is an important issue for everyone in the village, and particularly those who have properties on the cliff top.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. 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** 06/09/0627/CU Around a Pound Gift Shop Warren Road. Change of use from gift shop to coffee shop serving drinks and snacks. 06/09/0601/F Bubbles Amusements 1 Warren Road. Retrospective application catering trailer serving hot and cold food and drinks. No objections were raised by the Planning Committee to either application.
- (iii) **Finance - to agree invoices for payment**. The Clerk presented 8 cheques to the meeting numbered 1320 to 1327 with a total value of £2446.44. It was resolved to pass these for payment.
- (iv) **To consider and agree the budget/precept for 2010/2011**. Following a meeting of the Finance Committee, a draft budget report was previously supplied to all Councillors. Further copies were circulated and the Clerk read out a letter from the Head of Finance at GYBC outlining proposed changes. Resolved to suspend the meeting to allow Borough Councillor Steve Ames to clarify some points. The meeting was reconvened and following discussion it was unanimously agreed to approve the figures. The precept will not be increased for 2010/2011 as it was felt prudent to maintain financial stability in the current economic climate.

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

- (i) Drains Lowestoft Road. No further information despite letters and telephone calls.

- (ii) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme at Trafalgar Grange. Nothing further to report.
- (iii) Compulsory Purchase Order. The Public Inquiry has now been held and the Inspector will advise the outcome at the end of this year. The Chairman thanked David Ramsden for attending and giving evidence. Once again, the lease option has been put forward, but there is no change to the previous offer, which was voted on, and rejected, last month.
- (iv) Cycleway/footpath along Warren Road. *Cllr McGee declared a personal interest as she lives in the location of Warren Road. The Chairman advised he attended a meeting of objectors, with Cllr. Cook, at the Golf Course recently. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Bert Collins. Some discussion took place concerning the objector's views and it was noted that NCC has received letters and e-mails from Hopton residents in support of the proposed works to the cycleway/footpath. Resolved to suspend the meeting. Cllr. Cook advised that NCC want the matter resolved by the end of this week. The meeting was reconvened.

8. To receive a report from the Village Hall Management Trust (VHMT) re: (i) Progress of the New Community Village Hall project (ii) to approve and sign the Loan Agreement between HPC and VHMT (iii) to approve and sign the Public Works Loan Board application form in the sum of £100,000. (Note: All Parish Cllrs have dispensation from the Standards Board in relation to the following matters).

(i) Cllr. Hicks advised that the contractor is JohnYoungs Limited from Norwich. Within this contract will be sub-contractors Norwich Electrical and Great Yarmouth Heating. The Big Lottery Fund has confirmed that funds can now start to be drawn down by the VHMT. Works will start on 5 January with completion by the end of August 2010. There is a public open morning in the village hall on Saturday 21 November between 10 – 12 to view full plans of the new village hall complex and talk to members of the new build committee about the project. Refreshments will be available. Resolved to suspend the meeting. Cllr. Ames confirmed that application can be made to GYBC for the £50K grant whenever it is needed. The meeting was reconvened.

(ii) and (iii) Hard copies of the PWLB application, report to the Council, asset list and proposed budget for 2010/11 were supplied to all Cllrs, along with a copy of the proposed Loan Agreement between HPC and the VHMT. The Clerk outlined matters contained in the Report and the proposed transactions were fully discussed. It was unanimously agreed to sign the PWLB application and the Loan Agreement in the formats supplied and apply to the PWLB for £100K as soon as practicable.

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

Cllr. McGee supplied a copy of the Survey Ruins Report. There was an 18% return. 64% preferred option 2 – the romantic ruin. This would involve restoration of the walls with inclusion of some decorative gates and grills. The gates would be open from dawn until dusk to enable public access. Full results will be published in View magazine. A meeting has been arranged for Saturday 14 November between 10 – 12, for anyone wishing to volunteer their assistance for this project. Refreshments will be provided. Application has been made to Wren for a £5K grant. Ruins booklets are now being sold in the Post Office. A letter of support from the Church Commissioners was read out.

10. To receive information and consider quotations re signs on the recreation ground and supply of free dog pooh bags.

The Chairman advised that dog pooh dispensers and bags have been received and installation will take place shortly by GYB Services. The first visual survey has been carried out by the Environmental Ranger to record the level of dog pooh on the field. A further quotation for signs is expected shortly.

11. Organisation of the Over 60's and Family Christmas Parties.

The Clerk advised that the Family Christmas Party is now fully booked and a waiting list is in operation. There are still places available for the Over 60s party to be held on Sunday 13 December between 3 – 5pm. Ticket applications are in the November edition of View magazine. A meeting for volunteers has been arranged for Monday 23 November 7pm in the village hall to progress organisation of both parties. Refreshments will be provided.

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

Resolved to suspend the meeting. Members of the public raised the following points:-

- Prior notice of the sweeper being used around Seafields Drive
- Spraying of weed killer around Trafalgar Grange.
- The footpath on Hall Road has now been cleared by GYBS.
- Re-location of the bottle bank. No response from Somerfields.
- Hall Road and the Post Office. Turning points, lack of road markings, blind spots. [Borough Councillor Cook will take this forward].
- Meeting of East Coast Erosion Committee has still not taken place. Cllr Shirley Weymouth would like to visit Hopton with some colleagues to look at the sea defences.
- Cover smashed and bus timetable removed at the Lowestoft Road stop.

No further items were raised and the meeting was reconvened.

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

There were none.

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

(i) VHMT – New Build Project (ii) Sea defences (iii) Gardening costs (iv) Ruins (v) Dog poo dispensers and signs.

15. Confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council will be **Monday 14 December 2009 at 7pm** Hopton Village Hall (behind the new Health Centre Station Road).

16. To receive and consider the Staffing Committee Report.

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of item 16 – staffing committee report.

The Chairman thanked the public (and any press) for attending. The public, press and Clerk left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Signed Date
Chairman / Vice-Chairman

These Minutes are unconfirmed until approved by the full Council.

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