



BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Keith Leesmith
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2017/01

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2017 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Those Present Pennie Alford, Mike Bond, David Frost (Chairman), Stan Hewitt, & Lucy McCallum
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Simon Hester (NNDC), 3 Members of the Public

1) Apologies received: Liz Brown, William Wales, Vincent FitzPatrick (NNDC), Police
Marie Strong would be late (visiting another Parish)

2) Declarations of interest: None

3) Minutes: Approved and signed for the meeting of 21 November 2016

4b) North Norfolk District Council – Simon Hester

SH provided a written report which is appended to these minutes, and is available on the website. He read this at the meeting, mentioning an approach to the *Coasthopper* to ask if they could divert some buses through Binham and Langham, and also provide a late night service between Norwich and Fakenham. He suggested that a joint approach from local villages to the Big Society Fund might pay for a road safety campaign, and mentioned the proposals of the Electoral Boundary Commission. Beach hut rentals would rise by a similar percentage as coastal car parking. SH is unhappy with some of NNDC's planning policies believing them to be discriminatory, and is campaigning to get them changed.

4b) North Norfolk District Council – Vincent FitzPatrick

VF had provided a report which KL read and is appended to these minutes and available on the website.

4c) Safer Neighbourhood Team

There had been no recorded crimes since the last meeting, and only one call to police regarding a missing person who had later been found safe and well. However, there have been reports of Hare Coursing in the area, and the public are asked to be vigilant and report registration numbers of suspicious vehicles to police.

4d) Parish Clerk

In a recent report on the number of second homes in various Parishes, Binham was mentioned as having one of the highest percentages, at 28%.

5) Planning Matters

There were no new applications. Permission had been granted for:
Single storey outbuilding at 8 Hindringham Road and
Structural repairs at Abbey House

6) To discuss proposals of local Government Boundary Commission re District Councillors

These proposals were to reduce the overall number of Councillors from 48 to 40 and to “even out” the electoral areas so that where possible Councillors had a similar number of constituents. Locally, it was proposed that Priory Ward (currently two Councillors) would lose Wells and Holkham Parishes, and these would have a single Councillor to represent them. The rest of Priory (with slightly altered borders) would also have a single Councillor.

Binham Councillors believed that this step was retrograde, in that the current system usually allowed for at least one District Councillor to be present at Parish Meetings, and for them to “cover” for each other when required. KL will write to the Boundary Commission with these views.

7) To agree to an application to the Government’s “transparency fund” for a grant of a maximum of £200 to purchase computer software.

At the end of the last financial year we had applied for, and received, grants of £350 for a laptop computer, and £100 for a printer/scanner. At the time it was not possible to obtain a grant for computer software. This had now been corrected and a maximum of £200 was available. It was agreed that we apply for such a grant.

8) Financial report and accounts for settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors with agendas.

The following accounts were approved for settlement:

Clifford Hudson	Grounds Maintenance	160.00
Keith Leesmith	4 th quarter salary and expenses contribution	459.16
HMRC	4 th quarter PAYE	110.60

Marie (& Mike) Strong arrived during the following:**9) Minor Items**

On the green, the Cherry Trees are growing again and the one nearest the Field Dalling Road is close to overhead electricity wires. KL will contact UK Power Networks. With regard to the new fence and gates at Langham Road, it is understood that the owner is in discussions with Highways. There is no news of the works at Common Lane. There is a pothole at the junction of Priory Crescent and Hindringham Road. The ditch at the front boundary of Applegarth needs cleaning. The bank is eroding 200-300 metres towards Langham from Applegarth.

4a) Norfolk County Council Report

The County has a large number of children in care and the staff are working well. They work hard to keep the numbers as low as possible, to involve the whole family in decisions, and also to retain as many children as possible within the County. *Devolution* has now been abandoned but there is talk of the possibility of *Unitary* being raised again. It is thought, however that this would not be until after the County Council elections in May. The high tide and strong winds of 13 January produced worries of surge flooding but luckily little damage was caused. Because of early warnings, Flood Wardens were able to assist police in keeping people safe near Wells Quay. Mobile ‘phone coverage should be at least 90% of the country by the end of this year, the government having persuaded the mobile companies to improve coverage. The Wells Dementia Friendly Community is doing good work at Wells Hospital, where there will be a dance soon.

10) To confirm the date of the next meeting

Next normal meeting – Monday 20 March 2016

The meeting closed at 2045