



BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Keith Leesmith
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2017/08

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 July 2017 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Those Present Mike Bond, Liz Brown, David Frost (Chairman), Stan Hewitt & Lucy McCallum
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Simon Hester (NNDC) & 6 Members of the Public

- 1) Apologies received:** Pennie Alford, William Wales, & Marie Strong (NCC) would be late
- 2) Declarations of interest:** None
- 3) Minutes:** Approved and signed for the meeting of 15 May 2017

DF thanked Stan Hewitt for the work that he had done on the bus shelter. It was now looking very good and should last for several more years.

4b) NNDC Report – Simon Hester

The inspector has turned down the appeal against the refusal of permission to build 200 homes at Sculthorpe. The main reason for this was that NNDC already has a five-year land bank in place. Wells and Cromer now have compactor bins near to the fish and chip shops. This should make the areas tidier as the bins take eight-times the previous capacity and notify the contractors when they need emptying. Over the last year NNDC has collected 98.7% of all Council Tax, and a similar percentage of Business Rates. The current waste removal contract is due for renewal soon. A joint working party has been set up between Wells Town Council and NNDC to try to come to an acceptable solution with regard to the redevelopment of the Beach Road toilets site. The Splash swimming pool at Sheringham is due for renewal (costing about £8m) but may be moved to a site in Cromer.

4d) Parish Clerk

With assistance from Marie Strong, it was discovered that the gates at the end of Priory Crescent were the property of Victory Housing and not Highways. They agreed to remove them, and this has now been done. The street naming section at NNDC are happy with the choice of Leeders Pightle as the name for the road on the new development. The local housing enabler has recently been in touch with KL regarding the government grant to alleviate the problem of second homes. At present they are only dealing with Warham, but it is expected that Binham will follow.

5) Planning Matters

- a) The Barn House, Warham Road - conversion and alterations to outbuilding – No objection
b) Manor Farm – retention of portacabin office (previous temporary permission) – No objection

c) Land off Priory Crescent/Walsingham Road – revised plans – KL had checked these and apart from minor amendments at two properties, which there was no objection to, most of the papers were merely giving confirmation that requirements before construction commencement (such as the archaeological survey) had now been completed. However, there were a couple of items that might concern Council.

In the *Construction Traffic Management Plan* it states “The Site Manager and Contracts Manager will liaise with the occupiers of neighbouring properties in order to keep them updated on progress of works on site, and to consider and address any concerns or comments they have.” We had asked for formal meetings to take place between the contractors/developers and a sub-committee of the Parish Council to address any problems of this nature during the construction period. We would still prefer this approach as not only immediate neighbours might be affected. In the *Energy and Sustainability Statement: Addendum* there is mention of a community LPG gas supply. Both Councillors and members of the public had concerns at this suggestion. Firstly, they believe that LPG is a relatively expensive method of heating. Secondly, they believe that a community supply will be linked to a single supplier and therefore it will not be possible to “shop around” to find the cheapest. It seems a pity that the use of alternative technologies is so casually dismissed in this report.

It was agreed that we object to these two items.

Marie (& Mike) Strong arrived during the following

- 6) **To discuss letter from North Norfolk Forum of Town & Parish Councils – re “2nd homes money”**
The suggestion that this body is working on is that at least some of this money should be remitted directly to the Parishes that generate it, on the principle that they should have a better idea of how to mitigate the effect of second homes. NNDC uses the whole sum to fund the *Big Society Fund*, which whilst being useful to fund “one-off” expenditure such as repairs extensions to village halls, it is not available for continuing, if lower, expenditure. We are asked by the Forum to make three suggestions of how the monies might be spent if remitted to this Parish. Suggestions were: Maintenance of green areas and public footpaths, expenditure on play areas and village halls, and the cost/subsidy of community bus services.
- 4a) **Norfolk County Council Report**
It has recently been announced that NCC now have to find another £100m of savings in 2018/19 and 2019/20 in addition to the £24.9m already announced. Even staunch Conservatives on the Council are beginning to believe that such continuing severity is unsustainable. In particular the Adult Social Services department is always underfunded and it seems impossible for them to meet their budget. There were no apprentices in the Wells Division at the recent awards ceremony, but it is believed that the scooter/moped scheme is still running, making it possible for young people to take jobs in more-urban areas. There are also grants available for the setting-up of rural businesses. The Hazardous Waste Amnesty this year will take place at Hempton on 30 September and 1 October. Libraries are assisting people with long-term health conditions to find suitable reference materials. The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service suggest that people purchasing electrical equipment should always register it with the manufacturer. That way they can be advised of any “recalls”. With regard to the fence and gateway that has appeared on Langham Road, MS is assisting in ascertaining the legality of them.
- 7) **To discuss letter from NNDC re *Local Green Space Designations***
As part of the next local plan, NNDC have written to each Parish, asking for details of any green spaces that they believe should be registered as such in the plan. Binham would like to see all the greens in the centre of the village, the field associated with the Village Hall, and the (wide) footpath between Walsingham Road and Westgate included.

8) To consider the possibility of providing a defibrillator in the village

Following the discussion at the last meeting, the Binham charities had agreed that a defibrillator might be affixed to the wall of the *Chequers*. Clive Brady had undertaken research into possible suppliers and had decided that *The Community Heartbeat Trust* offered the best deal in that they offered training and continued monitoring as well as the supply of the equipment. The likely cost would be in the region of £1850 plus VAT plus an annual cost of approximately £130 plus VAT plus installation cost. It was agreed that the Parish Council could fund the annual costs and half of the capital cost if the rest could be raised by a village event.

9) Financial report and accounts for settlement

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to Councillors with agendas.

The following accounts were approved for settlement:

Cliff & Sue Hudson	Grass Maintenance	485.00
S A Hewitt	Repair/Renovation of bus shelter	965.50

10) Minor Items

In answer to a question, KL confirmed that Highway Rangers will cut back hedging where this is obscuring road signs. He pointed out that it was not necessary for this or other minor highway problems to be reported to the Parish Council, as anybody who can access the Norfolk County Council website can report highway problems via it.

11) To confirm the date of the next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 25 September 2017 **(NB - One week later than usual)**

The meeting closed at 2116