



BINHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Keith Leesmith
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2020/01

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2020 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Those Present Pennie Alford, Liz Brady (Chairman), Mike Bond, & Helen Owen
Keith Leesmith (Clerk), Richard Kershaw (NNDC), 9 Members of the Public

1b) Apologies received: Liz Brown, Kevin Cooke, Marie Strong (NCC)

2) Declarations of interest: None

3) Minutes: Approved and signed for the meeting of 18 November 2019

4a) Norfolk County Council report

Marie Strong had sent a report which KL read, and it appears on the website. The report contained the following subjects:

Local Government Boundary Commission review of NCC divisions.

Norfolk Fire & rescue service - free home checks for the vulnerable including fitting smoke alarms.

The facilities at Norwich Bus Station to be revamped

4b) North Norfolk District Council report

NNDC intends to plant 110,000 trees in the next four years – one for each resident. A good start has been made with 10,000 trees planted since September, using 40 volunteers. Parish Councils and community groups can apply for free trees to plant in their areas.

Electric vehicle charging points will be made available throughout NNDC car parks thanks to a 50% government grant. The cost to use these will be 30p per kwh.

4c) Parish Clerk report

The North Norfolk Parish and Town Council Forum will meet at Cromer on Wednesday 22nd January. This is basically a conduit for information, problem solving etc. No Binham Councillors wished to attend.

4d) Liaison meetings with the developers of the Walsingham Road/Priory Crescent development

PA, LB, and Liz Brown had attended a meeting on 13 December. The builders had difficulty with the wet weather in the autumn and early winter, but six of the nine affordable houses are now occupied, two of the shared occupancy are occupied and two market houses are occupied. Four people have shown an interest in buying other properties. It is still hoped to complete the estate in the spring. Nos 4 and 13 have been fitted out as show homes. At the moment there is no movement on plot 1. The new noticeboard will be moved so that it is more visible. Broadland will remove all the rubbish from the site and adjacent footpath before they leave. At present they have done everything that we have asked them to do.

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4e) SAM2 Update

There had been a problem with the downloading of data in that if this was not done within 65 days the machine overwrites the previous data and corrupts it. Now that this is known, it should be possible to obtain a better dataset. More volunteers are needed to move the machine around the village. MB provided a small sample of data which had been obtained after the above problem had been discovered and solved. This appeared to show that traffic speeds and amounts on the Hindringham Road had not changed substantially from when it was first sampled. It was still hoped that the “entry gates” would improve matters.

4f) Report from Police Meeting – 21 December

Liz Brady and Liz Brown attended this with representatives from about six other Parishes. Inspector Brown plus the three Police Beat Managers (including Jason Pegden) were also present. Locally, theft and burglary are the biggest problems, but there is also an increase in cybercrime. Local police have access to ANPR cameras which are very helpful. Everyone would like the police to be more visible, but this is difficult with the small numbers that they have in the area. There are various ways to contact the police including social media, email, and an enquiry office in Fakenham.

5) Planning Matters

PA produced a list of those plans which still had not been decided. We had commented on all of these with the exception of a new case which the planning committee would discuss in the near future. With regard to the proposal to build on the site of the Old Reading Room, there would be a site meeting on Thursday 23 January, which LB would attend and give the Council’s views.

6) To discuss the appointment of a new Parish Clerk

Shortly after the November meeting, KL had informed the Councillors that he intended to retire on 31 March 2020. At this point he will have worked for Binham for exactly fifteen years. LB had made enquiries of the Lynx Parishes and had received 5 or 6 replies. She had spoken to the Hindringham Clerk, who already acted for four parishes and therefore did not want to take on Binham permanently. She would, however, be prepared to undertake locum work for a while. It was therefore thought that it would be expedient to take up this offer whilst advertising is carried out, and until a permanent candidate can be found.

7) To discuss Parish Councillor vacancies

Shortly before the meeting, MB had decided that since his circumstances had changed since he became a Councillor, it would be in the Council’s interest for another person to replace him. He would therefore resign immediately after this meeting. LB thanked MB for his help over the years, particularly for his work with the SAM2 equipment. KL would inform NNDC and arrange for the usual notice to be displayed on noticeboards. LB asked the meeting to consider possible replacements for the two vacancies that we now had.

8) Financial report and accounts for settlement

A bank reconciliation was circulated to Councillors.

The following accounts were approved for settlement:

Ground’s Maintenance Contractor	Grass cutting and strimming	95.00
Parish Clerk	4 th quarter salary and expenses contribution	494.84
HMRC	4 th quarter PAYE	116.60

9) Minor Items

The plot next to the bus shelter seems to have been tided. It was not known who had done this, but it was thought that it may have been Stan Hewitt.

Following recent persistent rains, the Langham Road has been flooded near the river. PA has already reported this to Highways, but it is thought that if they clear the gulley yet again, the problem will reoccur as soon as it gets wet again. What is needed is for the ditch to be cleared, that the gulley runs in to. This has been done in the past, but not recently. KL will write to highways and request that they clear the ditch as well as the gulley.

PA had attended a meeting at NNDC to discuss commemoration plans for VE Day (75th anniversary), Battle of Britain (80th Anniversary) and VJ Day (80th Anniversary). As a first step, she would ask the Memorial Hall Committee if they were planning any events. NNDC wants to publicise events throughout the district. As an example, Cromer Church is intending to create a “weeping wall” of ceramic poppies.

Westgate will be closed between 17 and 19 February for work to be carried out on the highway. Dog Patrols have visited the village and found that there is little problem except at the Priory. NNDC think that there should be a dog bin at the Priory. There is a problem there with multiple ownership, but as a first step HO would contact the PCC. It was thought that before notices were placed on litter bins (advising people that they could be used for dog waste if it was “bagged”) the bins themselves would benefit from refurbishment.

10) To confirm the date of the next meeting

Next meeting – Monday 16 March 2020

The meeting closed at 2059