

Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at St Catherine's Church, Flempton on

Monday 20th March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: David Bambury (Chair), Iris Evans, Christopher Large, Jean Lindsay
Pamela Newborough, Nigel Salmon, Tony Tooth,

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council),
Borough Cllr Susan Glossop and four members of the public.

Appendixes referred to below form part of the authorised minutes.

1. Apologies

All Members were present and so there were no apologies. The Chair welcomed Mrs Jean Lindsay to her first meeting as a Councillor, following her co-option.

2. Declarations of Interest

- a. There were no Pecuniary Interests declared.
- b. There were no Non-Pecuniary Interests declared.

3. Minutes

The minutes of meetings held on 23rd January 2017 were agreed as a true record and so were signed by the Chair as such.

4. County & Borough Council Reports

- a. **County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger** had been detained at another meeting.
- b. **Borough Cllr Susan Glossop gave a verbal report.**

Council Tax bills have now been distributed. The Government has removed its council tax freeze grant and its funding decisions assume local authorities will increase council tax by the maximum level each year. This equates to an extra £3.51 a year (under 30p a month, or 1.96%), taking St Edmundsbury Borough Council's share of the total council tax bill to £182.16 for an average Band D home. There will also be an increase of 3% from Suffolk County Council and 1.97% from the police.

There are to be Farmers' markets in Bury St Edmunds on the second Sunday of each month.

Cupola House has been re-opened and is looking very good, following the restoration.

West Suffolk Operational Hub - The consultation is open, with various events planned and a decision likely to be made in July.

The Brown bin collection service is being well used and the £40 subscription for 2017/18 is now due.

Homelessness has increased but a two-year post has been created to help the homeless.

On-street car parking enforcement is to be transferred to St Edmundsbury Borough Council, from the police. This is subject to approval by the Secretary of State and so may take some time to happen.

The Bury St Edmunds Masterplan is out for consultation, with a series of public events, leaflets and on-line information available for residents.

The blocked footpath has not been reinstated and so enforcement may now be needed.

Storm Doris caused a large tree to block the River Lark path near Flempton bridge. Removal of the tree and improvements to the path are in hand.

5. Presentation from The River Lark Catchment Partnership

Mr James Stephens made a presentation on behalf of the newly established RLCP, in order to bring its work to the attention of the Council.

The partnership was formed with the purpose of achieving a participatory approach to the management and improvement of the river, access to it and its amenity value. The idea is to achieve this by engaging the maximum possible level of public involvement. The Partnership is made up of community and statutory organisations and some commercial concerns that also have an interest in the river.

The partnership is free-standing but is also a sub-section of CAMEO (Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Partnership) which is in turn one of 100 plus DEFRA endorsed catchment partnerships across England and Wales. The aim is for each catchment to form partnerships, such as this one, for each of its tributary groups.

The Environment Agency (EA) actively supports the partnership. Although it is clear that with present funding cuts it can no longer have the direct reach that it once had, the idea is that local partnerships can be helped to develop the capacity to identify projects which can then be financially supported, in part, by the EA and overseen locally. At present arrangements are in transition between the former, more hands-on, approach of the EA and the new participatory model.

The Chair asked how Parish Councils can help. In response Mr Stephens said that the hope was that, rather than getting involved themselves, the Council could serve as a valuable conduit for information and encouragement to stimulate local involvement with river management along the Fornham to Flempton reach of the river Lark. This approach is beginning to work well in the upstream Bury St Edmunds reach, where working groups have been encouraged to improve the river environment and allotment holders neighbouring the river had become actively engaged. The partnership is currently developing its communications structures.

6. Public Forum

No matters were raised by the public.

7. Planning and Environment

- a. The Council considered planning application: *DC/17/0144/HH* - The Meads, 5a Bury Road, Flempton; which was a re-consultation following a change to the proposed re-facing material to render (the previous proposal was for weatherboard). (*Appendix B*). There is no objection to rendering but the Council was keen to ensure that the colour of the render was in keeping with the general character of the village.
- b. Update on matters relating to the Greyhound public house; the Clerk reported that he had had no response to his letter of enquiry to the owners. The application for Community Asset Status is in progress.
- c. The Council considered a protocol for dealing with planning applications that arise between scheduled meetings (*Appendix C*). During discussion a small amendment was

agreed, such that Councillors would have a fixed amount of time in which to respond after which, if no comments were received, the Clerk would make a 'no comments' return to the Planning Authority. Subject to this addition the protocol was agreed unanimously.

8. Clerk's Report

- a. Progress on matters not covered in other parts of the agenda were reported by the Clerk:
 - i. He has ordered the Vehicle Activated Sign and it will be delivered in April.
 - ii. He had met with a representative of Breaking New Ground to discuss the positioning of the interpretation and route sign for the new Churches Heritage Trail, discussed at the last meeting.
- b. Correspondence and other significant matters not covered in other parts of the agenda were reported by the Clerk:
 - i. A fairly new resident to Flempton, Mr Daniel Boughton, had written to the Council offering to run a fund-raising event. The Council was keen to engage and asked that Mr Boughton be invited to the next meeting and that the matter be placed on the agenda for discussion.
 - ii. The quotation for grass-cutting from Bury St Edmunds Council had been received and was in line with the approved budget.

9. Responsible Finance Officer's Business

- a. The schedule of receipts was received by the Council. (*Appendix D i*)
- b. The schedule of payments was received by the Council (*Appendix D ii*) and all payments were approved; the related cheques were signed.
- c. Cllr N A Tooth was identified to replace Phillip Randall as a bank signatory.
- d. The Council agreed the following changes to the bank mandates with Lloyds Bank PLC:
Current A/c:
 - i. To update the contact details and postal address as follows:
Contact: Maximilian Clay, Clerk to the Council
Address: Gate Cottage, Culford, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6TU;
 - ii. To permit the Bank to discuss details of the account and receive any instructions from the Clerk, other than instructions to make payments;
 - iii. To authorise the Clerk to effect transfers of funds between the two accounts;
 - iv. To amend signatories as follows: delete Phillip Randall and add Cllr Tooth
Deposit A/c:
 - v. To change the contact details and postal address as follows:
Contact: Maximilian Clay, Clerk to the Council
Address: Gate Cottage, Culford, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6TU;
 - vi. To permit the Bank to discuss details of the account and receive any instructions from the Clerk, other than instructions to make payments;
 - vii. To authorise the Clerk to effect transfers of funds between the two accounts;
 - viii. To amend signatories as follows: delete Phillip Randall and add Cllr Tooth
- e. The Council received the Register of Assets and noted that a lap top computer, printer and filing cabinet should be added. Subject to those additions the Register was approved. (*Appendix E*)

10. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

- a. There were no reports on meetings attended.
 - b. No forthcoming meetings were notified.
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- c. No additional items for future agendas were suggested.
- d. Cllr Lindsay reminded the Council that historic records and some equipment were still stored at her house and these should be attended to.

The meeting closed at 8.39pm

Signed as an true record by authority of the Council:

Chair

Date

Copies to:

Borough Cllr Susan Glossop

County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger