

# Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council

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## MINUTES

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

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors: David Bambury (Chair), Iris Evans, Christopher Large, Pamela Newborough, Nigel Salmon,

**In attendance:** Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council), Borough Cllr Susan Glossop, County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensberger and 5 members of the public.

*Appendixes referred to below form part of the authorised minutes.*

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Tooth and were approved.

### 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 28th November 2016 were agreed as true records and were signed by the Chair as such.

### 4. County & Borough Council Reports

#### a. **County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensberger gave a verbal report.**

Budget proposals are about to go to Cabinet and will then go before the Council in February, for ratification. It is planned to use £8m from reserves. The Social Care precept was increased by 2% for the current year and is planned to increase by 3% for 2017/18 (£45 to £52) which will raise c£8.5m into that budget.

Cllr Hopfensberger had also followed up the matter of outstanding footpath repairs in Hengrave and a date has now been scheduled for the work.

#### b. **Borough Cllr Susan Glossop gave a verbal report.**

The report started with information about The Greyhound and this is incorporated within item 6c, below.

Devolution is now off the agenda for the foreseeable future.

The Borough's 2017/18 budget will almost certainly lead to some level of increase in Council Tax but it is not yet clear how much.

Flempton Parochial Church Council has registered interest in hosting a telecoms mast with the infra-structure provider, Phone Plus. If Phone Plus want to expand infra-structure in the area they will be in touch.

### 5. Public Forum

The question of broadband service was raised but there was no further information available.

Grass on the Links is being used for car parking. It is understood that the County Council owns the land (they had confirmed this in correspondence to a resident some 10 to 15 years ago, but now deny this) and so it had been hoped that they would deal with the problem. To date they have been unwilling to act. County Cllr Hopfensberger will take up the matter with County Council officers. If the matter is a parking enforcement issue (e.g. if it is causing access problems of access) the police will need to be involved but it is difficult to solve. Cllr Hopfensberger will also take up the matter with the police.

## **6. Planning and Environment**

- a. Planning Application: There were no planning application consultations to consider.
- b. Repair of the Bus Shelter in Flempton: Comprehensive repairs are needed to the roof and windows. A quote of almost £5,000 had been received and further quotes will be sought.
- c. Update on the Greyhound Public House: Matters relating to the Greyhound were discussed. Information as to the owners' plans is still not available and so it was agreed that the Council would write to the owners asking for an indication of their intentions. It was also agreed to nominate the pub as an Asset of Community Value. Legal action is still being considered by the planning authority, in relation to the unauthorised felling of trees.
- d. Cllr Bambury reported that the Highways department had approved the sites for the poles for the new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and has agreed to fund their installation. The VAS will be bought in the next 2 weeks.

## **7. Proposal from Breaking New Ground for erection of a Footpath Information Board (Appendix A)**

The matter was discussed and the Council agreed to support the proposal and agreed that the best site for the related interpretation board on the green. The wooden, lectern style board was the preferred option.

## **8. Clerk's Report**

- a. The Clerk reported that, despite considerable contact with the bank, no progress had been made on effecting the changes to the banking arrangements (agreed at the November 2016 meeting). The bank had declined to act on the letter of authority and offered conflicting information as to how to effect the change, suggesting that a new mandate may be needed yet refusing to provide the form which has to be completed on line but which is inaccessible there. It may be necessary for the Clerk and Chair (or all signatories) to attend the bank in person.
- b. The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the Mayor of St Edmundsbury Council stating that she (and her successor) are keen to receive invitations to community events such as fayres, festivals and other special occasions.

## **9. Responsible Finance Officer's Business**

- a. Summary Accounts for Quarter 2 and for Quarter 3 of 2016/17 were received by the Council. (*Appendixes B*)
  - b. Bank reconciliations to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and 31st December 2016 were received and were signed as correct by Cllrs Large and Newborough. (*Appendix C*)
  - c. The schedule of receipts was received by the Council. (*Appendix E, Part 1*)
  - d. The schedule of payments was received by the Council (*Appendix E, Part 2*) and two payments added to it (initialled by the cheque signatories). All payments were agreed and the related cheques were signed.
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- e. The draft budget for 2017/18 was presented to the Council for discussion. (*Appendix D*). It was noted that the precept had remained unchanged for at least 12 years and it was felt that, especially in the light of the necessary repairs to the Flempton bus shelter, an increase for 2017/18 had become inevitable.

There was lengthy discussion, mainly focused on expenditure. It was felt that the full works on the bus shelter could go ahead only if some grant income were received against it and so a sum of £1,000 would be added to grant income. The expenditure budget on the sum proposed for the bus shelter works was reduced by £1,000, in the light of the first estimate received. In considering the Precept requirement it was agreed that a 75% increase be applied, increasing the amount to £5,810.00. Although this represents a large percentage increase, the cash impact will be in the order of about £1.50 per month for a Band D house.

**10. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas**

- a. There were no reports on meetings attended.
- b. No forthcoming meetings were notified.
- c. No additional items for future agendas were suggested.
- d. No matters of information were raised.

**The meeting closed at 20.48pm**

Signed as an true record by authority of the Council:

Chair

Date

**Copies to:**

Borough Cllr Susan Glossop

County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger