

FLEMPTON CUM HENGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the Flempton cum Hengrave Annual General Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30pm at The Stables, Bury Road, IP28 6EG

Present: Councillors Dave Bambury, Andrew Speed, Gill Martin, David Hudson, Janet Davies, Tony Tooth.

In attendance: Cllr Susan Glossop, Christine Mason (Clerk), six members of the public.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Speed put himself forward for the position of Chairman, seconded by Cllr Bambury - unanimously approved that Cllr Speed be elected Chairman for the forthcoming year. On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Speed thanked Cllr Bambury for his tremendous stint as Chairman over a fifteen year period. Some form of further recognition at the next meeting. Cllr Speed continued by saying he felt FCH needs encouragement and bolstering to ensure it does not become just a through road between Bury and Mildenhall. Without changing the nature of the village, achievable by assisting with some of the infrastructure, supporting events or working in partnership with other charity and volunteer groups. The Parish Council must be seen as an open forum where opinions can be expressed, people can debate and discuss given issues, democratically decide what is needed and amicably move on. On a separate constitutional matter, a fixed tenure role for Chairman and Vice Chairman to be an agenda point at the next meeting.

2. Apologies

Cllr Jean Lindsay, Cllr Rebeca Hopfensperger.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

Proposed by Cllr Bambury, seconded by Cllr Martin that Cllr Davies be elected Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

4. Declaration of Interest

a) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda, and their nature. None declared.

b) To declare any other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda, and their nature.

5. Minutes of the meeting

Cllr Bambury asked that it be minuted he voted against the yellow painted road markings adjacent to the gates of Hengrave Hall being removed. With conflicting opinions on councillor reports and minutes being put on the notice board, it was proposed by Cllr Speed, seconded by Cllr Bambury that a notice informing residents if sight of minutes, reports, and further information are required, the clerk to be contacted direct.

Proposed by Cllr Bambury, seconded by Cllr Hudson that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th March 2022 were a true record and the Chair authorised to sign them as such on behalf of the Council – agreed.

District Councillor Glossop left the meeting at 7.50pm.

6. Public Forum

An item was brought to the attention of the Parish Council by residents living in the cottages at the Hengrave Hall site: Planning Application DC/21/1611/FUL Single Storey detached bedroom wing as amended by plans received 4 March 2022, The Barn, Hengrave Hall. Concerns were expressed if approved by West Suffolk Council, this would result in additional noise and disturbance issues already endured by residents. The applicant, David Harris, who was also in attendance was invited to respond. He felt objections relating to noise and disturbance at Hengrave Hall were groundless as there has been no formal environmental noise issues on file at WSC in the entire 15 year operating period. Comments were noted and assurance was given that all points made will be considered when discussed by the parish council later in the meeting.

7. Finance

It was confirmed the sum of £340.20 has been transferred to FAS Parish Council, the balance of £104.80 remains in the FCH bank account. The outstanding bus stop invoice and the unrepresented cheque for £40 payable to the PCC to be shown on the next finance report. The combined end of year balances for the Treasurers and Instant Savers Accounts stands at £17,337.04. Over the course of the year, consideration is to be given on how surplus funds can be applied for the benefit of residents. Subject to identified amendments, the finance reports were unanimously approved.

8. Planning Application DC/21/1611/FUL Single Storey detached bedroom wing as amended by plans received 4 March 2022 – The Barn, Hengrave Hall

Following detailed and full discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council objects to the application on the basis of potential loss of amenity and potential exacerbation of claimed breaches of environmental health and licence issues. Furthermore, the Parish Council requests that the application be called into delegation committee where all aspects of the application can be assessed.

9. Flempton Bus Stop

Cllr Speed declared a non-pecuniary interest in this agenda item.

An email has been received quoting an estimated £5000 - £6000 for a hard standing area. Price made up of £1000 to cover drawings, the remainder for lifting the pavement for a kerb and painting yellow road markings. Cllr Davies was certain the £1000 was to cover the designs for all four proposals, emails to be found and forwarded to Cllr Bambury. It was proposed and seconded that subject to acceptable drawings, the sum of £6000 be set aside to complete the Flempton bus stop - all in favour. Cllr Martin and Cllr Bambury to lead the project and keep councillors informed on progress.

10. Grass cutting

For the calendar year, it was confirmed Adam Rushworth continues cutting The Green and West Suffolk Council continues to cut the Hengrave Triangle – all agreed. To be minuted that the Parish Council are not happy with the cutting of the Triangle and will continue to monitor this closely. WSC to be contacted to see whether an invoice has been issued.

11. VAS device to repair or purchase

Two choices, either purchase a new sign or repair the old one.

- a) Cost of purchasing a new VAS sign similar to Flempton £2516.91.
- b) Refurbish old sign, replace batteries £400.

Following positive comments by Cllr Tooth, it was proposed and seconded that a new VAS device is ordered for Hengrave – 4 in favour and 1 abstention. Motion carried. Cllr Tooth to order, Cllr Davies and Cllr Tooth to liaise on installation, Cllr Bambury to remove the old sign.

12. Queen's Jubilee Event – Tree / Bench

Proposal from Cllr Speed that the Parish Council install a tree and a bench on The Green. Advice to be taken on types of suitable trees and location - all in favour. Cllr Glossop to be contacted for possible Locality Budget Funding. Details to be firmed up. Cllr Speed to action.

13. Flempton Church / Churchyard

No further forward with the Treasurer on grass cutting. Noted, that Cllr Bambury would like to take on the church and churchyard. Prior to an invitation to attend a Parish Council meeting, a conversation between Cllr Bambury and the new Rector to be organised. Cllr Bambury to action.

14. Cottage Fire Hengrave

- a) As a gesture of good will, a proposal was put forward by Cllr Davies that the Parish Council contributes the sum of £100 to the Fire Benevolent Fund. By majority vote this was not supported, but a letter from the Parish Council thanking the fire service for their diligence and attentive efforts was unanimously approved.
- b) A comprehensive letter from Cllr Davies advising parishioners in both villages on fire safety was submitted for consideration. Once read in detail, Cllr Speed to get back to Cllr Davies with any comments. Councillors to be invited to approve by email.

15. Update on the River Lark and Environmental issues

Charlie Browne has cleared the fallen trees at Duck's Sluice, he has also indicated he will be clearing seven more trees from that area. There is still a lot of rubbish in the river, mainly plastic. RLPC may be asked to carry out a litter pick to remove the plastic from the river and transport it away. Another tree in Mill Stream, Charlie Browne to be contacted. The footpath area at the Anglian Water Treatment Works, West Stow is leaning over at 40 degrees and is extremely dangerous. Heated debate between WSC planners and Anglian Water as to who actually owns that section of the footpath, now gone legal. Footpath from Flempton Bridge to the Staunch, SCC Rights of Way are waiting for quotations from contractors for preventative works along the bank as the footpath is going into the river. Flempton Bridge to Hengrave

Bridge, negotiations are ongoing with the landowners. Met with Fornham All Saints representatives regarding the Hengrave to Fornham footpath. Charlie Browne has said he would allow a permissible footpath from Hengrave to Fornham All Saints inside of his hedge line but with caveats (he would like to build houses and a business unit). Outcome will be determined by the Strategic Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment going through at the moment. Attended a Byways meeting at Icklingham PC relating to the Sunday timed motor bikes run. Considered as anti-social behaviour, the police recommended people should complain on 101.

16. Update on The Links

No movement to date. Cllr Speed and Cllr Tooth to liaise outside the meeting.

17. Date of next meeting

Agreed as Monday 18th July 2022 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.00pm.