

FLEMPTON CUM HENGRIVE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th August 2022 at 7.00pm at St Catherine's Church, Bury Road, Flempton

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

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

1. Apologies

All present.

2. Declaration of Interests

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

Cllr Speed declared a pecuniary interest in agenda items 6.

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

Cllr Speed declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9.

As Ward Member, Cllr Glossop declared an interest in agenda item 6.

3. Minutes of the meeting

Proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Hudson that the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 were a true record and the Chair authorised to sign them as such on behalf of the Council – agreed.

4. To receive reports from District Councillor Susan Glossop, County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger

District Councillor Susan Glossop's report

Fire damaged cottages at Hengrave

The rebuilding process is in the early stages with the survey drawings currently being finalised ready for the structural engineers input. The approach being taken is to restore the buildings as close as possible to their original form and appearance. It is expected that applications for Listed building consent and possibly Planning Permission will be submitted in due course.

Local plan

The consultation on the preferred options has finished, all the responses will be recorded and then published on the West Suffolk Council website. Next stage, review the policies and make amendments where required. Site selection will be completed by the Autumn, there will be a final public consultation with an aim for the completed document to be completed and submitted to the inspector early next year.

Cost of living crisis

West Suffolk Council's approach is to increase the Community Chest funds by 10% from £46,673 to £513,406 with the focus on organisations who support vulnerable individual/families particularly considering the current economic crisis. Also, the public

sector leaders which includes West Suffolk Council, police and health have agreed around £1 million to help the hardest hit with the continuation of hardship support services which were set up during COVID.

County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger's report

The General Town and Parish Report will be posted in full on the Flempton cum Hengrave website.

The Links

Apart from No 18, all of the properties that are near this piece of grass are not Havebury owned which means that Havebury would be spending several thousand pounds for the benefit of private residents that we receive no income from. Two options might be available a) speak with the enforcement team and see if enforcement notices can be issued to all those who are illegally parking on the grass and b) subject to funding, that a physical barrier such as a knee-high rail is put around the grass area to stop parking. An initial discussion has been held with the asset manager and SCC does not support the grass being turned into a parking area, plus there are some difficulties with the area such as the telegraph pole and streetlight which would need to be moved further along adding to the cost. AS/RH to liaise on finding a viable solution to the parking issues.

Flempton bus stop

With a request for a 50% contribution towards the cost of the installation of the Flempton bus stop, it is probable that Flempton and Hengrave will not be allocated any further monies from the Highways Budget and only small amounts from the locality budget which will start again next April. To be discussed further in agenda item 9.

Questions to RH included the lateness of the general report; the reason why the skirting of the paths were arbitrarily stopped at Grange Farm, RH to investigate; the need for speed reduction through the village, recommended barrier gates to be applied for and a TRO for 30mph signage added to it. RH to forward criteria information to the Clerk.

Cllr Speed left the meeting at 7.32pm. Vice-Chairman Cllr Davies chaired the meeting for agenda items 5 and 6.

5. Public Forum

Statements giving reasons for their objection to planning application DC/22/1189/OUT were read out by two members of the public. All comments will be taken into consideration when discussed by councillors.

6. Planning application DC/22/1189/OUT

Following full and detailed discussion, it was resolved by majority vote, 5 in favour with 1 abstention, that Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council objects to planning application DC/22/1189/OUT on the basis it is contrary to both Policy DM27 and Policy DM5.

Cllr Speed returned to the meeting at 7.46pm.

7. Finance

The financial report ending 9th May 2022 was unanimously approved, bank balance over the two accounts stands at £21,489.32. With a reasonable reserves surplus, confirmation to be sought on what the level of reserves should be, an agenda item at the next meeting.

Concerning the sum of £6000 for the Hengrave bus stop installation, an email to be sent to

the relevant party requesting verification that the account has been settled from Cllr Hopfensperger's Highways budget. Signatories were confirmed as Cllr Bambury, Cllr Davies, Cllr Tooth.

8. To receive updates from the previous meeting

i. ANPR/VAS

The VAS in Flempton has been taken down and replaced by a trial ANPR sign. Official finish date for collecting data is 26th October. With low running costs, it was suggested the old VAS is located at one of the entrances to the village. Cost of refurbishment and whether the old VAS has a second hand value to be obtained by Cllr Bambury. Further discussion to be carried forward to the next meeting.

ii. Bins for The Green

New bin now installed on The Green, Cllr Tooth to check whether it has been emptied.

iii. Tree/Bench on The Green

A quotation of £645 has been received for a bench to be positioned on The Green, as yet no final figures on the tree (possibly three trees). Cllr Speed to source prices for one, two and three trees/suitable types. A decision to be made at the next meeting.

iv. The Links

The objective is to try to provide alternative parking and create an area that looks pleasing to everyone. Further discussion deferred until the next meeting.

9. Flempton Bus Stop

Quotation received for £10,74.35 inclusive of VAT. Cllr Hopfensperger has agreed to fund 50% of the cost. Comments were noted, and following a show of hands it was unanimously agreed the Parish Council will support 50% of the gross cost.

10. 'Slow' signs on The Green

To extend the life span of the track, Cllr Tooth proposed 'Slow, 10 mph signs' be positioned on the four points of access to The Green. Costs to be obtained and circulated for approval. Improvements to the track to be revisited at a future meeting

11. Tree pruning on The Green

Overhanging branches are in need of pruning. A question was raised whether planning permission was necessary. Cllr Speed to seek advice.

12. Village sign for Flempton

Suggested by a resident that as Hengrave has an attractive feature sign on their triangular area of grass, it would be good to have something similar at Flempton. Cllr Davies to obtain a quotation for future discussion. In addition, Cllr Speed to arrange for the Parish Council notice boards to be refurbished.

13. To invite the Vicar to discuss the future of the Church

Proposed and agreed that the vicar is invited to the next meeting. The Clerk to action.

14. Street furniture scheme update

A quotation for signage stating, 'Welcome to Flempton/Welcome to Hengrave, Please Slow Down' to be obtained and applied for. Cllr Speed and the Clerk to put together the application to Cllr Hopfensperger to have that supported.

15. Fire prevention circular update

A thank you to both Cllr Davies and Cllr Bambury for the Fire Prevention circular that was printed on headed paper and distributed to all residents, all agreed a useful exercise.

16. Footpaths & River Pollution

Endeavouring to put in a footpath from Flempton Bridge to Hengrave Bridge; there is a big movement within the Lark Valley area for a continuous path from Bury St Edmunds to Mildenhall; negotiations are currently taking place between Highways ROW Department and landowners; presently in complex discussions with Charlie Browne concerning a permissive footpath from Hengrave to Fornham All Saints; Quiet Lanes scheme ongoing, a report at the next meeting; results from water sample tests carried out by an independent laboratory has detected high levels of pollution in the River Lark, a whole years' data is to be published. Cllr Tooth reported that signs have appeared restricting access round the field and a petition has been signed by over 60 residents asking for the access to be reinstated. He had met with Peter Browne who indicated that he was happy with this but wants us to use the road in front of the row of houses that includes Susan Glossop's house as she was concerned for her privacy with people walking past her garden. He also indicated that he might apply for a footpath order to move the right of way from its current diagonal route across the field.

17. A meeting to discuss the planning application for the Greyhound Pub agreed as 22nd August 2022 at 7.00 in St Catherine's Church, Flempton. A leaflet drop to be arranged. An extension for comments to be requested from WSC.

Date of next Parish Council meeting agreed as 3rd October 2022 at Larkbridge, Bury Road, Flempton at 7.00pm.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.50pm.