

FLEMPTON CUM HENGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES

Of the Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
at The Stables, Bury Road, IP28 6EG

Present: Councillors Andrew Speed (AS), Dave Bambury (DB), Gill Martin (GM), David Hudson (DH), Janet Davies (JD), Ken Borrow (KP)

In attendance: District Cllr Susan Glossop, (SG), County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (RH),  
Christine Mason (Clerk)

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. Not a lot to report except there has been progress in some areas. Data from the Flempton speed camera is being taken and batteries changed over, Hengrave data has yet to be downloaded, DB to liaise with AS.

2. Apologies

None received.

Non-attendance Cllr Jean Lindsay

3. Declarations of Interest

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

b) To declare any other Disclosable Interests in the items on the agenda, and their nature. None received.

4. Minutes

Minutes amended to read.....to the number of **residential** waste bins.... A further paragraph to be added as follows 'The Department of the Environment have delayed the review of a new recycling scheme for glass and food waste until 2024'.

It was proposed and seconded that the amended minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Reports from County & District Councillors

Cllr Glossop's report: a new style WSC newsletter is now being sent through to councillors; clarification needed whether the engraving on the sunken milk churn with memorabilia inside, is still visible. DH to check when pointing the damaged wall; information of a special welfare assistance scheme through SCC has been sent to residents of Hengrave who have had problems with their cottages as funding may be available. Rachel Mann is currently liaising with ARP to reimburse those residents who have been paying council tax over the last two years; review underway of West Suffolk Grounds Maintenance, AS to create feedback for comments and approval, to be circulated to councillors prior to sending to WSC.

6. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

8. Approval was given to discuss an item in agenda eight, Cottages in Mill Road/Bury Road. Owing to the confidential nature of the subject, the minutes to read 'An update was provided on progress of the Mill Road and Bury Road cottages.' It was additionally a) proposed and approved that a grant of £250 be given towards site clearance for all four cottages at site two Mill Lane b) as a gesture of goodwill and on completion of the plans, a grant of £500 be given to stimulate the activities to work towards the idea of demolition and new planning at site two - approved by majority vote.

GM left the meeting prior to the vote being taken.

5. Report from Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger: A report was previously circulated and noted. Other issues included the SCC grounds and verge maintenance review. Flempton and Fornham PC to be put forward for a pilot scheme for grounds work to be carried out i.e. remove all weeds at root level and take skirting back. Once completed, a budget proposal will be put forward and written into the Highways Maintenance Operation; SCC team have agreed to visit The Links to see what can be achieved, Haverbury also to attend, dates to be arranged, RH to action.

#### 7. Finance

a) Payments as per the schedule were approved. Treasurers Account as of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 stood at £18,861.88, minus one outstanding cheque of £227.36 for the clerk's salary, leaving a balance of £18,634. Instant Savers as of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 stood at £2406.00, plus interest of £6.25 giving a balance as at 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 of £2412.85. Reserves - one year running costs against an assumed balance of £13,00 net will provide surplus funds.

b) Discussed earlier in the meeting.

c) A decision to approve the quotation for the installation of two defibrillators was deferred, pending receipt of a unified document showing a breakdown of all costs. To be assessed at the next meeting.

#### 8. Update on items from the last meeting

##### a Defibrillators

Discussed in agenda item 7c).

##### b. Churchyard

No further input from Mark Prina. Even though the parish council have offered assistance both physically, financially and participated in two volunteer days, there has been no correspondence for three to four months. RH to speak with the vicar's wife and DB to contact a Diocese connection concerning the sad condition of the churchyard. In respect of a mobile phone booster being installed on the church tower, no further action to be taken.

##### c. Training for working safely on Highways

Following investigation, it was decided not to pursue training.

##### d. Flempton bus stop

Now in situ but still waiting for a bus timetable and sign, RH to action for both bus stops.

##### e. The Links

A meeting to be arranged between SCC and Haverbury, RH to arrange a date.

f. Cottages at Mill Road and Bury Road

Discussed in length earlier in the meeting.

g. Planned pruning of the trees on The Green

KB to give details of a contractor to AS.

h. Commemorative Coronation bench location

The concrete plinth will be laid this week.

i. Memorial bench to be sited alongside the river

Permission has not been given for the original site, an alternative has been suggested, no further action at present.

j. Entrance gates to both villages

Size of gates revisited as a two-bar gate would not be big enough to put signage on, a three bar gate was agreed. Licence has been submitted, a revised specification to be sent. All information collated by DH to be forwarded to JD. Following discussion, it was proposed three pairs of gates which are sufficient to incorporate the village signs in each are to be purchased, and spare village signs removed where appropriate - approved. Installation costs to be confirmed. In a separate budget for gates, an audit of signage, posts needing replacement, roundels requiring refreshing with new official stickers to be forwarded to RH. DH/AS to assess Flempton, JD/DH Hengrave.

k. Permissive footpath meeting

A Get Active meeting has been held, however, most of the funding will be spent in Bury St Edmunds and not for the villages, this item to be removed from future agendas. Permissive footpaths around the field are down to SCC Footpaths Department organising a meeting with Charlie Browne - work in progress.

l. Condition of thatched bus stop in Hengrave

The bus stop clean-up has been completed, notice board is sorted, hedge trimmed, and the plaque lettering gilded. A thank you to all those involved both in Hengrave and Flempton.

m. Pavement skirting for the path between Flempton and Hengrave

SCC have cleared back some of the skirting, more needs to be done between Hengrave and up to Grange Farm, RH to action and report back.

n. Village clean up in Hengrave

To be carried out on an informal basis, date to be confirmed.

9. The review into the grass cutting and wider grounds maintenance service carried out by West Suffolk Council

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

10. Hengrave village sign restoration

On advice from Harry Stebbings, approval was given for the purchase of a gel which when applied will automatically clean the village sign, JD to action. Work to be carried out in the Spring. When required, the same gel could be used for maintaining the new bench.

#### 11. River Lark Pollution

DH advised the meeting he had received calls on 3 November involving flooding coming down the river and an overwhelming smell of sewage, the Environment Agency were informed and photos taken. Due to flooding, some improvement work is to be carried out near Lackford Bridge. Lackford PC are to put up £1000, Bury Trout Club £500, Anglian Water to match fund. An application for a Community Chest Grant for repairs to the footpath from Flempton Bridge to Culford Stream is to be submitted, DH to action both applications.

#### Additional item: Carols on The Green

An itemised list with a breakdown of costs totally £194.17 has been received from Tony Tooth for approval. Concerns were voiced that questions asked last year have not been answered and a written proposal giving details of what the event is, date of event, parking, toilets, how many would be attending has not been received. Points to be forwarded for next year. AS to contact TT for further clarification, and to ascertain whether there will be a cost of a tree and any other associated expenses. Approval deferred until a response is received.

#### 12. Date of next meeting

Agreed as Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.12pm.