

FLEMPTON CUM HENGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES

Of the Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2023
at The Stables, Bury Road, IP28 6EG

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

In attendance: Councillor Susan Glossop, Christine Mason (Clerk) and one member of the
public.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

Non agenda items: With maintenance in both Flempton & Hengrave thin on the ground, the
Operations Team at West Suffolk have been requested to try and give both villages extra
TLC in terms of General Highways maintenance. Further topics raised included inviting Cllr
Hopfensperger to walk around the villages with the Chairman to identify areas needing
attention i.e cleaning of signs, overgrown footpaths etc; a blown fuse within the Flempton
VAS box to be replaced. Downloaded data to be available at the next meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hopfensperger.

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

Amendment to minutes: Lackford Bridge corrected to Flempton Bridge. It was proposed and
seconded that the amended minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th
June 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Reports from County & District Councillors

The General Parish Report from Cllr Hopfensperger was previously circulated.

Cllr Glossop's report: Very quiet at present with a Full Council meeting in September. As
reported at a previous meeting, alteration to the number of waste bins allowed has been
put back to next year. Update on the burnt-out cottages 3-6 Bury Road, Hengrave - there is
a shortfall in the insurance money which is different for each owner, as costs would be less
expensive to rebuild rather than repair, Christine Leverson has requested the cottages are
delisted. Cottages at 13-16 Bury Road and 10 Mill Road - a surveyor has been officially
appointed to assist in the delisting of the properties and to prepare documents to
accompany the delisting application. With concerns raised by councillors, and the impact of
the delays on residents, Cllr Glossop to request a meeting with the Director of Planning and

Christine Levenson. Action point: To engage with WSC and to invite them to a parish meeting and/or for several councillors to attend council to meet with them.

6. Public Forum

A resident reiterated all points raised in relation to the burnt-out cottages in Hengrave, and furthermore the unacceptable noise created by ripped plastic covering the properties. Action point: On behalf of residents, WSC to be asked to 'step up'. See action point in agenda item five. Also raised the misinterpretation of points made in the public forum of the meeting. If a resident feels there has been an error of what was said, this must be flagged up in the public section of the next meeting.

7. Finance

The Treasurers Account balance as of 19th July stood at £22,7679, minus cheques outstanding of £2,762.96, leaving a balance of £20,004.83.

Instant Savers balance as of 9th May stood at £2403.44, plus interest of £3.16, balance as of 10th July £2406.60.

8. CARRIED FORWARD ITEMS FROM THE LAST MEETING

a) Defibrillators: As power is taken from the street lighting junction box, the ideal location for a defibrillator is within the bus stops. Cost per unit is £1325 + vat. Prior to a decision being made, ongoing annual supplier power costs, replacement of parts and batteries to be obtained for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr Hudson to lead on the project.

b) Churchyard and grass cutting/ flint wall survey: An email from Mark Prina was previously circulated. In summary, the Chairman felt a lot of effort to help and find a solution in terms of the curtilage of the church has been mainly rebuffed. To be monitored and assistance offered if required. Volunteer Day to take place on the 23rd of September, Mark Prina to host. Survey of the wall ongoing, further flints are falling onto the pavement, Cllr Linday to chase. Cllr Hudson to research the viability of a mobile phone booster mast being located within the churchyard.

c) Volunteer Day: Discussion within the previous item.

d) Training for working safely on the Highways: To be progressed, licence has been applied for.

e) Flempton bus stop: No date yet confirmed.

f) The Links: With no progress, communication between all parties is essential to move the matter forward. Cllr Hopfensperger to be contacted.

g) Cottages at Bury Road and Mill Road: Dealt with previously on the agenda.

h) Pruning of trees on The Green: To be reactivated in the autumn.

i) Commemorative Coronation bench: Location has been agreed, just waiting on the concrete plinth to be laid, Larkbridge will cover the cost. To identify the exact position, Cllr Hudson to spray the spot to scale. A revised insurance quotation for all current assets, two VAS, two bus shelters, a war memorial, a village sign, two notice boards and a new bench to be requested.

j) Memorial bench to be sited alongside the river: Although verbal permission has been given written consent is still required. Cllr Hudson to draft a letter for the Chairman to send to the family

k) Entrance gates survey/quotation: Quotation received for eight of the white durable plastic twin bar horizontal gates amounts to £6435.46 including vat. The original village signs are not reusable and will require replacing. After a site survey, it was agreed the proposed locations for the gates were appropriate. To cover all gates, signage, and installation it was proposed by Cllr Speed that a budget of up to £8000 be agreed and the purchase progressed – approved. Cllr Hudson to ascertain which village signs need to be disposed of and what are to remain.

l) Permissive footpath meeting: No further meetings until September, to get the momentum going again assistance from Cllrs Glossop and Hopfensperger will be needed. On behalf of the parish council, it was agreed Cllr Hudson attend further meetings with the ROW Officer. As part of the Active Travel Plan, discussion is continuing in relation to the footpath between Hengrave and Fornham All Saints, however, there is not a lot of available funding. Cllr Hudson to attend the forthcoming Forum meeting.

9. Condition of the thatched bus shelter in Hengrave

Action: A volunteer working party to be set up for tidying the bus stop and general clearing up in the village i.e moss/weeds building up on the footpaths/hedges cut.

10. Phasing out of old oil boilers for off grid properties

With a high concentration of period/off grid homes and the phasing out of old oil boilers by 2026, a very clear mandate at every level should be made. Cllr Glossop to email the WSC lead on this matter. To be minuted that ‘the significant concern and reservations that the parish would represent to the local council’.

11. Pavement skirting for the path between Flempton and Hengrave

Currently in hand, further work next week.

12. River Lark pollution

There has been a meeting in the Cathedral with the Technical Director for Anglian Water, a site meeting requested to be held at the Fornham Treatment Works is now scheduled for November. As Jo Churchill is already engaged with the pollution issue, the matter to be brought to the attention of Nick Timothy. Moreover, Anglian Water are intending to spend £7 million pounds on river restoration work but none is coming upstream from Lackford Bridge to Bury St Edmunds. Due to it being already spent downstream, an application for a

grant of £200,000 to clear a large section of reed has been rejected. A fresh application for £6000 to allow a test piece to be cut and monitored has been submitted. The testing report is due in the next month or two.

13. Date of next meeting

Date agreed 13th November 2023.