

FLEMPTON CUM HENGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES

Of the Flempton cum Hengrave Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th January 2024 at
The Stables, Bury Road, IP28 6EG

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

In attendance: District Cllr Susan Glossop, County Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger, Christine
Mason (Clerk), Mark Prina.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and announced that due to Business and District Council commitments, he will be stepping down as a Parish Councillor in May 2024. He would, however, continue to support the Parish Council. A thank you was given to Cllr Speed for the work he has carried out during his term of office.

2. Apologies

All present.

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

For future minutes the full name of councillors to be used rather than initials. Under agenda item 8 the wording 'date to be confirmed' to be replaced by 'as and when required'. It was proposed and seconded that the amended minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Reports from County & District Councillors

Cllr Glossop raised concerns that as the Christmas Carol event on The Green was funded by the Parish Council, the correct paperwork for insurance purposes was not in place, to be brought to the attention of Tony Tooth prior to next year's event. Car parking charges, still to be ratified by Full Council are to change. Parking up to 8pm normal charges and thereafter free until 8am. Local Plan Consultation commences on 30th January to 12 March, various drop in events have been planned. Posters to be put on the notice boards, Cllr Speed to action.

Cllr Rebeca Hopfensperger's report included the withdrawal of funding for the Arts and the availability of a pot of monies that projects can bid for; additional budget for statutory care services; difficulty of arranging a meeting with Havebury in relation to The Links, Director of Havebury has been contacted; dangerous state of roads due to potholes, the Dragon Patcher promised at the beginning of the new contact is now being trialled in Suffolk; continually flooding in Campiegn Way.

6. Public Forum

Mark Prina asked a) whether there is a possibility of extending the footpath from Flempton and Hengrave to Fornham All Saints with a permissive footpath alongside of the field; the farmer has been contacted for permission, b) warning signage on West Stow Road to alert motorists of pedestrians and slow down signage on the bridge. Cllr Hopfensperger to speak with Andy Moore, Highways Technician. In relation to the upkeep of the churchyard, a path around the churchyard including the tended graves has been cut with mowing to continue throughout the season, a lot of debris/cuttings from the area has been cleared, just east of the main path is being scythed to allow the meadow to come through. New work party dates to be set. Mark Prina and Cllr Hudson to liaise. Concerning the metal gate that has been pushed over, a conversation regarding the PC sharing the cost to be discussed further. Possible support for tools to be considered at the next meeting.

7. Finance

a) Proposed by Cllr Bambury seconded by Cllr Hudson that the payments as per the schedule are approved – all in favour. Treasurers Account as of 5th December 2024 stands at £18,133.26 minus approved cheques leaving a balance of £16,793.10, Instant Savers as of 11th December 2024 stands at £2418.26.00. Invoice for the Flempton bus stop £3,678.47 still outstanding, Cllr Hopfensperger to be reminded.

b) Defibrillators: A unified quotation to be presented at the next meeting. Financial support from Cllr Glossop deferred to the new financial year.

Discussion on the purchase of the gates was included within this agenda item. Total cost for three sets of gates, £5362.00 after discount, installation costs £900.00. Total cost £6262.00.

Cllr Hopfensperger agreed to fund 50% of the expense out of her Locality Budgets and Cllr Glossop will contribute £800 from her District Council Locality Budget c) The quotation of £240 received from Suffolk Cloud for hosting and updating the website was approved. To be monitored until May for accuracies. Contact details for Suffolk Cloud to be given to Cllr Davies d) The quotation for £339.84 + vat received from WSC for cutting the grass triangle on eight occasions from March to October was approved.

8. Precept

Following discussion, the precept for the financial year 2024-2025 was agreed at £10,000 – all in favour. This equates to a 31.37% increase over the previous year.

9. Update on items from the last meeting

a) Defibrillators – discussed earlier in the meeting.

b) Churchyard and grass cutting around paths/active graves/damaged flint wall – discussed earlier in the meeting.

c) Flempton bus stop – Cllr Speed to chase for timetables. Four required.

d) The Links – discussed earlier in the meeting.

e) Cottages at Bury and Mill Road - an update was provided on progress of the Mill Road and Bury Road cottages.

f) Planned pruning of trees on The Green – quotations to be sought, Cllr Speed to action.

g) Commemorative Coronation bench location – now sited

- h) Entrance gates to both villages – A formal application to be made to both Cllr Hopfensperger and Cllr Glossop for locality budget funding for the new gates. Cllr Speed to send a copy of the quotation to Cllr Hopfensperger.
- i) Pavement skirting for the path between Flempton and Hengrave – completed but further work needs to be carried out near Grange Farm.
- j) Village clear up in Hengrave – to be carried out as and when required.

10. Status of letter to Hengrave Hall relating to the trees

Cllr Speed and the Clerk to compose a letter to Hengrave Hall relating to the overhanging trees along the entire length of their wall. Further suggested a tree survey should be carried out.

11. Current councillor vacancies

At present just one councillor vacancy.

12. Timetables for bus stops

Noted earlier in the meeting.

13. Website updates – ongoing responsibilities

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

14. Format of minutes similar to neighbouring councils

Noted.

15. Feedback from Carols on the Green

With health & safety issues highlighted in Cllr Glossop's report, it was suggested consideration should be given to hold the event in the Church. Ownership of the equipment was also discussed and if it does not go ahead this year, the question of storage was raised. No decision was made regarding the parish council sponsoring this year's Carols on The Green, deferred post May.

16. Proposal for communication on behalf of the Parish Council to include information about bus stops and new bench. Cllr Davies to liaise with the editor of the parish magazine.

17. Track around The Green

Cllr Hudson to obtain a one-off maintenance quotation for the track around The Green. A future agenda item.

18. River Lark pollution / Footpath

There will be a meeting at Anglian Water, Water Treatment Works, Fornham All Saints on the 12th February between the various local Parish Councils, including Flempton cum Hengrave PC and Fornham All Saints PC with senior directors and managers of AW. The footpath adjacent to the Anglian Water Treatment Works at West Stow has been closed for many months as it is in a dangerous state, with the concrete slab tilted at an acute angle.

After 4 years of lobbying for a repair, AW and SCC have finally agreed to repair this section of footpath, date(s) of repair have yet to be specified, hopefully this spring.

Regarding the footpath repair from Flempton Bridge to Culford Stream, which has been fully surveyed, planned and costed by a specialist contractor. Our application for funding

or even part funding from WSC Community Chest Fund was declined. We are investigating other grant funding options for this repair project.

A financial contribution from Lackford Parish Council for water testing has yet to be transferred.

Date of next meeting Monday 18th March 2024 at 6.30pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.