

## HONINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Council meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 7.00pm at Honingham Village Hall

Cllrs present:

David Bishop – Chair (DB), Linda Human (LH) – Vice Chair, Sam Steggles (SS), Michael Eales (ME), Tony Roberts (TR), Richard Kirkham (RK),

Cllrs absent:

Cllr Greg Peck (GP)

Other:

Jordana Wheeler (Clerk), Cllr Peter Bulman (PB), 7 members of the public were present.

1. To receive apologies for absence
  - 1.1. All councillors were present.
2. To receive any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation
  - 2.1. There were no declarations of interest.
3. To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021
  - 3.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were received and read by Councillors prior to the meeting. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.
4. Opportunity for Public Participation
  - 4.1 Nothing to report.
5. To report on progress of matters arising from previous meetings – Information only
  - 5.1. The Clerk noted the resignation of Roger Human as Councillor. The vacancy will be advertised with the view to co-opt at the next meeting.
  - 5.2. It was suggested that LH will vacate her role as vice chair to allow for a transition to a new vice chair before she leaves the Council.
  - 5.3. TR presented LH and RH with a gift to thank them for their contribution to the Council during their time as Councillors.
  - 5.4. The plaque to commemorate the pandemic has been presented to the Council.
6. Finance
  - 6.1. To review and approve the bank reconciliation for Oct 2021
    - 6.1.1. There were no payments to approve. The Council reviewed the bank reconciliation, no questions were raised.
  - 6.2. To consider amending the second bank signatory
    - 6.2.1. The Clerk recommended changing the second bank signatory as it is expected LH will be leaving the Council soon. The Council **RESOLVED** to replace LH and appoint RK as new bank signatory.
  - 6.3. To receive an update on the Council's CIL money

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6.3.1. Information has been received from Broadland District Council detailing CIL money in relation to the new buildings being constructed at the Food Enterprise Zone. £15137 is due to be received by the Council in April 2022. It was queried if this could be used to repair damaged pavements. The Clerk will seek clarification on this.

**ACTION** – Clerk to share examples of CIL expenditure by other Councils.

6.4. To review the mid-year budget comparison

6.4.1. Current expenditure is at 40% of the budget. This is on target.

6.4.2. The water supply at the bowls club is due to be disconnected mid-December. A refund will be claimed after this.

6.4.3. Village maintenance is expected to go over budget. The unused grass cutting funds can be reallocated to cover this. No queries were raised by the Council.

6.5. To consider the draft budget and precept for 2022-23

6.5.1. The overall precept is suggested at £8830, a slight increase from 2021-22. Estimated CIL income is detailed on the budget but cannot be used for day-to-day costs. Due to the high amount of expected CIL this is likely to change the audit category the Council will be in next year. As a result, the Council may incur additional audit costs (limited assurance review). Therefore, a new category has been added to the budget.

6.5.2. Office costs have been reduced, dog bin emptying has increased. There have been minor increases across some other categories. Due to under usage of the grants scheme due to the pandemic this category has been removed as costs for this can be covered by reserves for 2022-23.

6.5.3. The Clerk recommended that any unused precept at the end of the year be allocated to a new reserve for the replacement of the play equipment as the general reserves do not need any additional funds at present.

6.5.4. TR suggested any unused maintenance money could be used for repairs to village footpaths.

6.5.5. RK proposed increasing the general village maintenance costs from £500 to £1000. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree this increase.

**ACTION** – Clerk to amend budget and update tax base.

7. To consider actions in relation to improvement at the Bowls Club and play area

7.1. DB suggested filling in the bowling green to level the area, this would require a vast amount of soil. SS felt it was important to agree a plan for the whole area before agreeing to any work.

7.2. DB has consulted with the local police Beat Manager regarding safety at the site should it be accessed, the gate is currently locked. Any incident on the site would be a civil matter. The Council has the appropriate insurance. It was recommended that signage was improved with disclaimers.

7.3. SS and ME were keen for the Council to make a final decision as the issue has been discussed for many years. TR noted the land was donated to the village for recreational use and it would be sad for it to be lost or locked up.

7.4. DB noted some of the work required including new fencing, maintenance of the ditch, levelling of the bowling green and associated ongoing maintenance.

7.5. Other suggestions for the area included additional parking for the village hall, an area for football and possible relocation of the play equipment. Councillors also considered whether there was demand for adult exercise equipment.

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**ACTION** – Councillors to hold meeting at the bowling green to consider its future use.

8. To discuss the proposed solar farm on land off Barnham Broom Road, Barnham Broom
  - 8.1. A solar farm is proposed just north of Barnham Broom hotel near Colton. Underground cabling will go from the site to the proposed substation at the Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) to provide power for the FEZ.
  - 8.2. Although the site was needed to provide power to the FEZ for it to operate, there were concerns about the environmental impact and lack of visual mitigations such as extra hedges.
 

**ACTION** – Clerk to liaise with the solar farm organization regarding the Councils concerns.
9. To consider a response to the following planning application;
  - 9.1. Application 20212230 - 132kV substation and associated infrastructure including underground cable between substation and gantry and connection to existing overhead 132kV electricity pylon, Food Hub Site, Dereham Road, Easton
    - 9.1.1. The Council **RESOLVED** to object to application 20212230. Concerns about why the site needed to straddle both sides of the road were raised. The substation will be approx. 9m high and visible from Taverham Road. Concerns around screening were also raised.
10. To receive an update on the A47 DCO application hearings
  - 10.1. RK attended one of the recent hearings, noting the discussions as long, detailed and technical. RK raised the Councils concerns about safety and traffic volumes on Taverham Road. There is a proposal to reduce the speed on Taverham Road from the A47 to the Merryhill crossroads to 30mph.
  - 10.2. Proposals by a local resident were made regarding an alternative junction at Berrys Lane.
  - 10.3. RK summarised discussions on the environmental gain/loss of the project and clarification on some details of the construction schedule. Transcripts and actions from the hearings have been published online by the Planning Inspectorate
  - 10.4. Councillors expressed concerns about the noise and the view of the road from the west of the village. There is dissatisfaction at the current proposed screening for the road. The expected negative impact on local side roads is still a big concern.
  - 10.5. It was noted that there are also suggestions that a new petrol station could also be built at the new junction off Wood Lane. There are no formal plans submitted for this at the moment.
 

**ACTION** – RK to draft a written response to the hearings based on the Councils continued concerns, to be approved by Councillors via email.
11. To receive an update on lighting at the Food Hub
  - 11.1. DB and TR attended a recent meeting on site to view the lighting in the dark, alongside representatives from Broadland District Council. Most of the current lighting is in relation to the construction on site. Some lighting was casting shadows up the buildings, indicating up lighting. All lighting should be angled downwards, this will be investigated. A further meeting will be held on site in early spring to reassess the lighting.
  - 11.2. TR offered to visit local residents impacted by the lighting to view it from their properties. Residents noted the view across from Taverham Road was worse in winter

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due to the leaves not being on the trees making the site more visible at night. PB has previously suggested motion sensitive lighting and will continue to address the concerns with Broadland District Council.

12. To consider information from Latimer regarding the concept for a new settlement at Honingham Thorpe

12.1. The Clerk explained the proposals for c.4000 homes at Honingham Thorpe. This site was fought by the Council and local residents as part of the Greater Norwich Local Plan. The developer Latimer hope to put the site forward again in the next local plan. A consultation will take place in November to gauge local views.

12.2. Councillors felt the site had to be fought again, and that awareness needed to be raised amongst residents. There is very little information available at this time.

**ACTION** – Clerk to arrange meeting between Latimer and the Council to discuss the proposed new settlement.

13. Correspondance

13.1. Offshore Transmission Network Review project newsletter – available on the Council website

13.2. Broadland and South Norfolk Business Awards 2022 – Nominations can be made via Broadland District Council website

14. To confirm details of the next meeting

14.1. The next Parish Council meeting will take place at Honingham village hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 7.00pm. The press and public are welcome to attend. Please note there is no meeting scheduled for January 2022

The public meeting closed at 8.45pm.