

Minutes of Hardingham Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2019 at 7.00pm at Hardingham Village Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Tim Barrett (TB), Richard Burke (RB), Henry Edwards (HE), Glen Gower (GG), Virginia Lenihan (VL) and Jane Strudwick (JSt)

In attendance: CC Connolly and 3 members of the public

OPEN FORUM

Moved to after item 3.

1) Apologies for absence. Cllr John Sharples (JSh) (Chair)

2) Declarations of Interest. None

3) To discuss the post box having been moved and any action to be taken in response to this.

HE introduced this item and explained that the post box at the road entrance to the Old Station driveway was recently removed with no notification having been given to either the Parish Council or NCC Highways. He reminded people that the Parish Council had heard rumours that the post box was to be relocated and had been informed by Royal Mail that there were no plans to remove or relocate the post box. There have been numerous complaints from residents about the movement of the box and also the lack of consultation with the public or other bodies which are requirements of the Royal Mail relocation process.

Meeting closed at 7.06pm to allow the public to speak

A resident had contacted Wymondham Sorting Office. The employees there stated that the first they knew was when the postman informed them that the post box had moved. A different person informed the resident that Royal Mail are in the process of moving post boxes from private land. He shared photographs of the new site of the post box and expressed his concern about the location as it is situated between two bends on a road with a 40mph limit and no footpath on that side.

A second resident expressed concern that there had been no consultation with local residents and also asked for the reason that the box had been moved to a dangerous location. She asked how the Parish Council heard rumours that the box was potentially being moved. TB explained that Hardingham Station had received a letter from a contractor who was working with Royal Mail informing him that he would receive notification from Royal Mail before any work was undertaken however nothing was received and the box was removed. The land owner had asked Royal Mail to maintain or contribute to maintenance of the land where it was previously situated which is very unlikely to happen.

CC Ed Connolly explained that he had spoken to Wymondham sorting office and was informed that they received an email a few days prior to the box being moved informing them of the intended action. They are also unhappy with the new location and lack of consultation. CC Connolly explained that a risk assessment will be undertaken by Royal Mail and the likelihood is that the post box will be moved to a safer place. He added that NCC Highways have no involvement in the location of post boxes, however they are normally informed as a matter of courtesy, but they were not in this instance.

It was suggested that the Parish Council write to Royal Mail to complain about the lack of consultation, the dangerous new location and inform Royal Mail that the previous location was central to many users from the diverse areas of the village.

CC Connolly informed the meeting that he will contact Royal Mail to add weight to the argument.

It was noted that the previous location served 29 properties, however the new location is close to a reduced number of 15. Safety concerns of vehicles turning around in driveways in Low Street after using the box is adding to the already dangerous situation.

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

The Chairman asked the Clerk to send a strong letter of complaint to the Post Office.

- 4) **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in January 2019** were circulated prior to the meeting. They were initialled and signed by the Chairman.

Two members of the public left the meeting at 7.31pm

- 5) **Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting (not already on the agenda):-**
None

6) **Financial Matters**

Payment of Accounts and precept update

• Clerks Wages (March)	s/o	£154.51
• Clerks Wages (April)	s/o	£154.51
• Norfolk Pension Fund (March)	chq 619	£56.12
• Clerks reimbursements (January / February)	chq 620	£35.98
• HMRC	ch1 621	£115.80

Proposed: TB seconded: RB

7) **To consider the view of the Council about the following planning issues**

- Any time limited planning issues: None
- Consideration of submitting a complaint to Capita about the lack of enforcement of conditions placed on Meadow Barn permission: HE reminded the meeting of the background to this issue and that the Breckland Enforcement Office stated that the 'public amenity is not severely affected by the omission of the cladding'. It was agreed that this is incorrect due to the danger of the reflecting sun blinding drivers which was reported by the Clerk. Enforcement will take no action and it was agreed that the situation be reviewed at the September meeting. **Clerk to add to September agenda.**
- Planning responses by delegated powers: None
- Any Planning Notifications:
 - 3PL/2018/0016/F: Land to the West of 2A Beeches Lane – the appeal lodged with the Planning Inspectorate has been refused.

8) **Correspondence**

- Breckland Council – Notification of Consultation on Main Modification to the Breckland Local Plan. The Clerk shared information about the document and suggested Councillors look on line and submit comments if they wish.
- Email to request support to prevent the termination of the No 17 bus service. The Clerk and CC Connolly reported that the service has been retained with a new supplier and the resident who reported this issue has been informed.

10) **To consider any Highway issues**

There is a pot hole outside The Old Hall. **Clerk to report**

11) **Broadband update**

The remainder of the parish should be able to access fibre broadband by the end of March 2019. Thanks were recorded for the hard work that CC Connolly has undertaken to ensure this is realised.

13) **Date of Next Meetings**

13 May (AGM), 22 May (APM), 8 July, 9 September and 11 November 2019 at 7pm at the Village Hall

13) **Feedback from Councillors and items for the next agenda.**

It was agreed that the current format of the Annual Parish Meeting is successful and should be retained. RB and JSt will provide the catering. The Clerk to contact the local organisations nearer the time.

JSt reported that shelving for the telephone box has been ordered and will be installed in due course.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm