

Minutes of the Hardingham Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present : Cllrs Dudley George (DG), Chair ; Tim Barrett (TB ; Richard Burke (RB ; Henry Edwards (HE) ; Glen Gower (GG) ; Paul Hawkshaw (PH)

OPEN FORUM None

1. **Apologies for absence** Heidi Frary (Clerk) ; Cllr Jane Strudwick, CC Ed Connolly, DC Ian Martin
2. **Declarations of interest** None
3. **Minutes of PC meeting 8 November 2021** were initialled & signed by the Chair
4. **Matters arising from above minutes** Re: Meadow Barn planning enforcement, the Clerk has had no response on this matter from George Freeman MP, and will chase **Clerk to action**
5. **Financial matters** Payments of accounts & receipts: proposed TB, seconded GG.

Precept: the meeting looked at the precept proposal. The proposed expenditure was approved as the PC is being fully reimbursed through NCC allowances. The movement of cash within the PC's accounting system to cover the initial outgoing is slightly complex and it was agreed to ask the Clerk to provide a simple breakdown/balance sheet which will demonstrate this at the next meeting. **DG & Clerk to action.** Proposed TB, seconded HE. DG noted there had been discussion at previous meetings regarding the precept and the history of action/non-action, and reminded the meeting that, due to the impact of more residential properties in the village, the tax base had risen; and that Hardingham is unusual in that while other Norfolk villages of a similar size have income from diverse sources (eg ownership of plots of land rented out) Hardingham had no such benefits. This puts the village out of kilter with similarly sized villages, and at the very low end in terms of surplus. A rise of 5% was agreed by councillors. Proposed HE, seconded GG.

6. **Planning applications etc** In the cases of 30B/2021/0051/OB and 3PL/2021/1490/VAR, the Council has registered its comments previously. In the case of 3PL/2021/1362/F (ie the land adjacent to Plough Lane and High Common), the application has been approved by Breckland. However, the meeting noted that the PC's comments regarding the inappropriate scale of the development on such a small piece of land were ignored by Breckland in its planning approval. It was remarked that there used to be a consistency of approach to planning applications, and this particular approved application has illustrated an unacceptable opposite. DG agreed the Clerk should approach Breckland Planning Dept for guidance on their apparent change of criteria. **Clerk to action.** Re: late arrival of a planning application by Gresham Farm, DG suggested councillors should individually check the details of this application, and HE offered to speak to neighbours about it. The Clerk will then forward councillors' thoughts to Breckland. **HE, Councillors, and the Clerk to action.**
7. **Correspondence** The Clerk has received acknowledgement from George Freeman MP regarding virtual meetings if required. Mr Freeman is consulting the appropriate minister. The Council awaits further government advice. **DG & the Clerk to action.** As for the Regional Transport Strategy, PH suggested the PC should keep a close eye on this since the lack of significant public transport in the village can be given as a reason for refusing planning applications. DG added that the PC needs and values the consistent feedback it receives from both its District and County Councillors.
8. **Village issues** On the subject of Highways, PH would like to see a speed restriction of 40mph (a reduction from the current 60mph) through the Danemoor area of the village. This, he says, would tie in with Low Street. DG reminded the meeting that Highways have

currently under national review, DG will ask the Clerk to contact Highways about a possibility of a change in the Danemoor situation. As a separate topic, the Clerk will also be asked to seek from Highways some enlightenment on remedies for roadmending other than mere surface treatment. **DG and the Clerk to action.** Regarding Footpaths, DG reported that FP3 is clear. He has written to Breckland's Footpath Officer inviting her to discuss his suggestions for sustaining the upkeep of FP3 (and indeed of FP4) at all times. As yet, no reply. **DG to follow up.** Re the village sign's restoration, HE commented that in his opinion the restoration is not urgent, and DG commented that, while currently on hold, it should remain on a 'to action' list. As for an update on the Parish Action plan, Councillors agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

9. **Dates of next meetings** 14 March, 9 May, 12 Sept, 14 Nov 2022, all in the Village Hall at 7pm.

10. **Feedback from Councillors** The Chair, on behalf of the PC, thanked DC Ian Martin for his recent letter explaining his absence for the foreseeable future, and will ask the Clerk to send very best wishes for a speedy recovery. **DG and the Clerk to action.**

The meeting ended at 8.04pm