

# Old Hunstanton Parish Council

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Chair: David McLeod

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## MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 FROM 6.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr David McLeod (DM) Chair, Cllr. Nick Eastwell (NE) Vice Chair, Cllr Nick Torry (NT), Cllr Paul Baisbrown (PB), Cllr Stuart Perry (SP), Cllr Eileen Clark (EC), Cllr Stephen Rimmer (SR), Cllr Robert Markillie (RM) and Caroline Boyden (CB) Clerk.  
Cllr Bob Lawton and 2 members of the public.

A minute's silence held to remember those whom we all wish to keep in our thoughts.

**1. WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIR**

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Lynne Butters**

**3. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none**

**4. Approval of the circulated Minutes from the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2021**  
Proposal for acceptance NE, seconded DM, and all in favour.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

- a. Telephone Box – agreement that the letter drafted by NE was proposed by DM, seconded by SP and all in favour. Clerk to type up and send. ACTION CB
- b. Bench replacement – still awaiting delivery of the bench.
- c. Any other matters that the Councillors or Clerk wish to raise from the last minutes that are not elsewhere on the agenda – Cllr Lawton advised that he was unable to call in the planning application for Diary Cottage as the date had lapsed.

**6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

The 2 members of the public raised the issue at 54 Old Hunstanton Road regarding the wall falling into the main road and considered unsafe. They had called building control out over a number of issues including the wall. The landlord is replacing the wall with bricks rather than carrstone as required for the conservation area. It was agreed that the clerk contact Enforcement and conservation at Borough. Proposed by SP, seconded NT, and all in favour.  
ACTION CB

**7. POLICE CRIME UPDATES:**

Information on the SNAP meeting to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July sent out by the clerk.

**8. REPORTS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:**

**Cllr Bob Lawton – Report as follows:**

We have a new Mayor...

Our council has both a new mayor, Cllr Harry Humphrey, and a new political leader Cllr Stuart Dark MBE.

The previous Mayor, Cllr Geoffery Hipperson, served an exceptional two full terms and deserves enormous gratitude for fulfilling a very long and challenging role for such a

long period. Harry's theme for his year as Mayor is the promotion of the Norfolk Carers' Charter, which focusses on three areas: young carers, carers in work and carers in the community. It aims to raise awareness of schools, employers and communities of the needs and difficulties of unpaid carers and that they should also recognise the personal qualities and value that these selfless and dedicated individuals can bring to their organisations. The new charities the new mayor has chosen to support are West Norfolk Young Carers together with West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association. As you may know the mayor is available to attend public events, such as galas or dinners and you may contact the mayor's office at the Borough Council if you think his attendance will help a particular project.

..and a new broom...

One of the first steps taken by the new leader, Stuart Dark MBE, has been to reverse the previous policy of the development of the " Parkway" site in Kings Lynn and its associated bridge over the sandline, following much public involvement in challenging the destruction of a wild life area in the town. Thus, we hope that this is not merely a case of Tweedledum taking over from Tweedledee. This welcome decision, which seems to introduce a more responsive leadership coincides with the emergence of the Borough's climate change policy which once accepted will start to inform all decisions made by the Council. The new leadership is more sympathetic to the threat of climate change, perhaps influenced by the success of the Greens in the recent County elections in Norwich, and the draft Climate change policy is currently being debated.

#### Climate Change Policy:

Whilst at this stage Kings Lynn is behind the curve in not setting a carbon neutral target, I personally welcome this policy. Naturally, it has attracted criticism for not going far enough and for what some consider omissions ( as opposed to emissions) but these can be made good with time. I urge all those who have an interest in these matters to review the policy and if you please contact me and I will do my utmost to influence the policy as it evolves. Broadly, the policy recognises the obligation on the council to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 ( the Government's target) but does not follow other Norfolk Boroughs who have set themselves more demanding targets ( eg City of Norwich 2030). The Council then considers what it must do to achieve carbon neutrality in its own operations( and recently it has been awarded considerable sums of public money to make owned buildings more efficient) and looks at its areas of operation. It then addresses the unique issues which make carbon neutrality in West Norfolk:

- Industrial and commercial is the largest emitting sector in King's Lynn and West Norfolk district. Our district is home to several large point source emitters and landfill sites, which help contribute towards the high sector emissions
- Our district is home to the largest number of residential properties in Norfolk, with over 70,000 properties within our district boundary. Due to the rural nature of the district many domestic properties do not have access to the main gas line. Therefore, these properties use electric, oil or solid fuel for spatial heating, with little opportunity to engage with other forms of heating. Thus, emissions are relatively high as carbon intensive fuel is often the only option for heating lower band EPC properties. Many of these domestic properties are also relatively old and are thus, energy inefficient.
- As a large rural district, we are very reliant on motor vehicles
- Whilst many districts have a CO2 sink with forestry, King's Lynn, and West Norfolk (like other fen districts) is a net emitter, mainly due to CO2 (and methane) emissions from the fen peat deposits.

#### Town Fund:

Most recently, the government has formally confirmed the eligibility of Kings Lynn as a beneficiary of a grant of up to £25m (the Town Fund), the original announcement being in November 2019, so this isn't really new news. The Council is working with the Town Board to draw up a plan, so expect announcements. Kings Lynn was selected to participate in this £3.6bn Government initiative income due to its adverse scores on criteria in particular

deprivation, and our lot need to come up with a viable way to spend this money. At this stage there are lots of ideas and I am sure there will be major disagreements, in particular in the role of the Guildhall as a centre piece of rejuvenation. See [www.visionkingslynn.co.uk](http://www.visionkingslynn.co.uk) for progress. What can go wrong? This in part compensates the town for its failure to get any funding under the Future High Streets fund. If nothing else it will be the informative to see a battle of the special interest groups.

#### The Local Plan

No Council is complete without its Local plan, and West Norfolk is no exception. The new Local Plan is ready for full council and cabinet approval and of particular interest is the reduction in the number of new dwellings the Borough is required, from in the region of 700 houses pa in 2016 to a new target of 539. Of these, the West Winch area is earmarked for 4,000 new homes in the fullness of time. Those with a particular interest in this work can review the formal presentation on <https://youtu.be/AlH3hFFvb7A>. Suffice to say this will determine development over the next 20 years so is a key document .

#### QEH:

Finally expect to see much discussion of the future of the QEH hospital, which has exceeded its design life and is now plagued with many structural issues. Whilst this is not a Council decision the outcome clearly affects us all and I would expect the ongoing debate to include consideration to a possible relocation of the site to south of Kings Lynn. But that will be for the long term! Methwold Parish Council has passed a motion supporting the Borough as it lobbies its political masters to ensure that King's Lynn is included on the list of 8 Health Authorities that will receive funding for a new hospital of the 16 eligible Trusts. I hope all of us will do our bit to demonstrate our support for a new hospital.

A march will be held in support of a new hospital on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at 12 noon, from the Bandstand on the Walks to the Tuesday Market place. Cllr Lawton gave out postcards for sending to the Minister of Health.

### 9. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

Nothing received from Cllr. Jamieson

### 10. PLANNING:

a. 21/00936/F proposed pedestrian access at 8 Kelsey Close. This was discussed and it was agreed to support this application with concerns that the gate must open inwards and that this will set a precedent for the other properties on each side of this application. Proposed NT, seconded RM, and all in favour. ACTION CB

b. 21/000566/LB amended application for Diary Cottage, Church Road. Concern was raised regarding this property being a holiday let which is against the covenant. Other issues:

- All local residents have objected
- The property is grade 2 and next door is grade 1
- Insufficient parking

Proposal to continue with objections SP, seconded DM, and all in favour. ACTION CB

### 11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The 8 week pre-submission ends on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June and Lynne will update the website accordingly. Historical environment details including medieval earth works etc., to be sent to NT.

## **12. FOOTPATHS/BEACH RUBBISH AND DOG BINS:**

NT has drafted a letter for issue in the Autumn.

## **13. HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

It was agreed that double yellow lines on Woodhouse Road would be unsightly and overkill with seasonal restrictions from Easter to end of October preferred. It was recognised that some home owners did not have off road parking and permits would be available.

Clerk to check on the £10k funding for the TRO.

ACTION CB

It was agreed to invite Highways to attend a zoom meeting to discuss all of the issues – proposed SR, seconded NE. CB to contact Sally Bettinson.

ACTION CB

Parishioners to be encouraged to make comments.

Following emails from the police and highways regarding the cones, they will be removed from Woodhouse Road as the Parish Council are unable to remove every evening. The clerk will send the email trails on cones to NE.

ACTION CB

## **14. SAXON SHORE FORUM:**

The minutes from the last meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June were sent out to all councillors.

## **15. ANOB**

NT advised that Estelle has been promoted and a letter of congratulations to be sent which was proposed by DM, seconded SR.

NE raised the Local Plan review presentation and the Boundary as on slide 7. A review is required by the parish council and Cllr Lawton to give advice and guidance.

ACTION BL

## **16. ENVIRONMENT PANEL:** nothing to add

## **17. WALL REBUILD:**

As previously discussed, Cllr Lawton to follow up regarding the height being over 3ft in places and not in line with the conservation policy. Clerk to find previous correspondence 3-4 months ago.

ACTION CB

## **18. FINANCES:**

- a. Agree the online banking proposal with Unity Trust Banking and Scribe accounting- proposed DM, seconded SP and all approved. Clerk to continue with setting up etc. ACTION CB
- b. Agree a financial working party of the clerk and EC. proposed SP, seconded DM, and approved.
- c. Agreed that the clerk look at updating the Financial Regulations and include online banking. ACTION CB
- d. To approve and sign the AGAR for 20/21, proposed DM, seconded NE and agreed by all. ACTION CB
- e. To approve the bank reconciliations for April and May, proposed DM, seconded PB and agreed by all.
- f. To approve and sign cheques for Internal Auditor and Staff Costs, proposed DM, seconded NE and agreed by all.

## **19. PLAYGROUND:**

DM advised that 3 domed nuts had been stolen and replacements to be sought.

## **20. BEACH CLEAN STATIONS:**

SR advised that no objections had been made by the estate and locations to be agreed.

## **21. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS:**

Discussed under highways re cones.

## **22. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- a. Receive updates on the Local Plan review
- b. Receive update on the Neighbourhood Plan
- c. Receive update on the move to online banking
- d. Receive update on the updated Financial Regulations.

## **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on the 15th of July 2021 from 6.00pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.37pm

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Caroline Boyden, Parish Clerk

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Signature

Date