



OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: David McLeod

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH OF MAY 2022 FROM 6.00PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr. David McLeod (DM), Cllr Nick Eastwell (NE), Cllr Stephen Rimmer (SR), Cllr Eileen Clark (EC), Parish Clerk Caroline Boyden
Borough Councillor Bob Lawton (BL)
Two members of the public.

WELCOME TO ALL FROM THE CHAIR

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – County Councillor Andrew Jamieson, Cllrs Torry, Perry, Baisbrown and Markillie.
- 2. Minutes of the APM held on the 20th of May 2021 Annual Parish Meeting to be approved**
Proposed DM, Seconded SR and all in favour.
- 3. Chairmans Report:**

OLD HUNSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

This is the report on the work of the Old Hunstanton Parish Council covering the previous 12 months. It is a mandatory element of the Annual Parish Meeting, which is a public meeting. It is not a Parish Council meeting, although the Parish Council has made the arrangements for the meeting and provides a Chairman and Clerk.

I welcome all Parishioners to this meeting, and it is my intention in this report to cover major issues which the Parish Council has dealt with over the past municipal year. It does not cover everything we have done, but those seeking detailed information on all our activities can find it recorded in our monthly Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes, which are available on the Parish Council website.

We have a new Clerk since the last report, Caroline Boyden, who has settled in very quickly and efficiently and brought the PC kicking and screaming into the 21st Century, with the introduction of Internet banking.

Cllr Markillie, who joined the PC just before the last report, has taken on the responsibility of the inspection and maintenance of the Children's Playground. Under his stewardship he has implemented the recommendations of last year's ROSPA report and replaced the domed nuts that disappeared during the pandemic.

Over the last few years, we have had several traffic and parking issues which we addressed with the Highways Department. I have reported the issues in the Link and Town & Around as well as on the PC website so I will not bore you with the long list we amassed in this report. The Highways Department have a plan which, we hoped would have been implemented in time for the 2022 holiday season. However, because of a number of reasons, the pandemic, staff

shortages etc., this has not come to pass but, we anticipate that it will be implemented in time for the 2023 holiday season. Meanwhile, residents living north of the A149 will have seen the cones reappear and redeployed in and around Sea Lane, Waterworks Road, Wodehouse Road etc. This has been done under the direction of the County Council and Norfolk Police. We were berated by both the CC and the police for deploying them in Hamilton Road and were ordered to remove them immediately and threatened with the removal of all the cones if we didn't comply.

The Village Hall has continued to grow and they have a varied events calendar including, Pilates, Zumba and Kettlercise with Suzie Povey, Bridge with Hunstanton Bridge Club and Sewing classes with Angela Pickering. There have been a number of one-off events, for example, Children's Birthday parties, a monthly meeting of the U3a and a presentation by the Norfolk Coastal Partnership regarding ongoing and planned projects that have a bearing on Old Hunstanton Parish and neighbouring parishes. One of the requests from OHPC is for the expansion of the AONB to include the whole of the parish instead of the existing arrangement, to the west of Waterworks Road and encompassing the Hall and its environs. This has been ongoing since 2007 when Old Hunstanton split from Hunstanton and became a parish in its own right.

There is a proposal for an observatory to be built on land in Hunstanton adjoining Old Hunstanton. The site has been identified on the mini golf course where it meets Kelsey Close. Cllr Markillie is our liaison with the proposers, but the project is in its infancy and planning permission has not yet been applied for. We will keep you updated through the OHPC website.

Dark Skies is another project gaining ground and there was a presentation in the village hall recently attended by representatives from the parish councils that make up the Saxon Shore Forum. It was warmly received, pointing out the benefits ecologically and economically to the community.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been delayed because of the upheaval at the planning department of the BCKLWN. Staffing has been hit by the departure of a number of personnel and the incoming personnel have differing views on what should be in a Neighbourhood Plan and what should not. What was agreed by previous incumbents of the planning department is not the view of the new incumbents. We have amended and resubmitted the NP before, hopefully, it is sent out to the residents for consultation later this year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Parish Councillors who have generously given of their time and expertise over the last 12 months. It has been a hard time for us all in the village so a thank you to all residents for their forbearance and understanding. It was heartening to see the community come together during the pandemic and the thoughtfulness of everyone for their neighbours and the village.

David McLeod
Chairman OHPC

- 4. Borough Councillor Bob Lawton** reported that it had been a very rough two years and a number of Borough staff were still working from home, making contact often difficult, and he will be reporting this at the next Council Meeting.

The planning department has also been hard hit with staff shortages and senior staff leaving which has left inexperienced young staff struggling with the workload. There are still rumours that a contractor will take over planning but Cllr Lawton advised that this was not a good idea at all. This leaves the remaining senior planners pushed with the workload.

Interviews to replace Sally Bettinson had taken place earlier this week but no notification as yet to her successor.

NE advised that it seems that planning are not listening or working with us which is a shame as previously we had a good relationship.

The situation with having to "call in" key planning applications that are not supported by OHPC was explained.

The problems recently encountered with submitting the NDP were raised and the fact that the new team appear to have different responses to the former team. The fact that we were asked for a report on Coal mining and railways is concerning.

The parking issue was discussed, and the cones are out again in line with authority from Highways and the police. The Saxon Shore pc's had a lot of cones given out last year for parking issues and these, in general, work well. It was confirmed that they are "advisory" only. The TRO is in place and funded, so we are hopeful that it will be implemented in time for the 2023 holiday period.

The issue of parking on Golf Course Road was raised as homeowners are now putting large carrstones outside their properties. As this is a private road, there is nothing the Highways can do but it is understood that they have a resident's association who could be contacted.

Meeting ended at 18.28

Caroline Boyden. Parish Clerk

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