



Helhoughton Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday 11 November 2024.

Parish Councillors present: Tim Harris (Chairman), Sean Millard (Vice Chairman), Paul Flint, Tim Pinkstone, Melvin Lacey Freeman and Tom FitzPatrick (County Councillor). Also in attendance: Jodie Bond (Parish Clerk). There were 3 members of the public present.

1. Welcome and receive apologies for absence

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies received from Cllr Price-Moss and Cllr Housden. Apologies accepted.

2. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations

There were none.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 9 September

The minutes were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting

There were none.

5. To receive reports from NCC Cllr & NNDC Cllr, if attending

County Cllr Fitzpatrick's report will be published on our website which includes information about the 1 million tree project, the County Council budget and consultation, the health and social care committee, rural transport project funding, rough sleeping campaign, better care for mental health patients. Also, the Fakenham swimming pool funding has been approved by Central Government and the old grammar school has been sold and will be developed into residential property, but the Air Cadets unit will remain.

6. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public

There were none.

7. To receive updates from councillors & working group members

7.1 Update from the Friends of Helhoughton Playground

Councillor Lacey-Freeman reported on behalf of the Friends of the Playground that a visual inspection has been carried out, and it was noticed that some signs that were installed approx. 18 months ago have gone missing. More signs have been made which will be put back up. The creepers need cutting back on the wigwam, which will be organised between themselves. The football area is very uneven with mole hills etc which could be dangerous for young children. Clerk to check the insurance cover for mole traps to be installed. Council members agreed to look into the cost of hiring levelling equipment in the spring.

7.2 To receive SAM2 data report

Cllr Harris reported that the team will be changing the SAM2 over on Wednesday this week, now that the battery has been replaced.

7.3 Helhoughton Cemetery & Church yard report

7.3.1 Receive update on churchyard bramble clearing

The first clearance has been completed but a further visit is planned on 17th November. The previous cuttings were left in the ditch, however Cllr Harris spoke with the Estate Manager and they have offered to remove the cuttings, following the second session. It must be communicated to the volunteers that the cuttings must be placed over the fence in the field over the road (Park Lane) so that it is easily accessible for the Estate to collect.

7.4 Church Hall Committee report

Cllr Millard reported that the booking form has now been uploaded on the PC website. There are approx. £22k in reserves. There was some suggestion that some of these funds could be contributed towards the wall repairs.

7.5 Solar Fund Committee report

Cllr Millard reported that an application was successful for a community festive gathering and quotes are still being obtained for repairs to the boundary wall.

8. Open Spaces

8.1 To consider purchase and installation of a new dog bin

Clerk has requested NNDC officers carry out an assessment. Once we have received details of their findings the PC may consider signage and a new dog bin may be reconsidered, however the cost of an additional dog bin is not justified at present, unless the problem increases. This will be monitored.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 To receive results of applications

PF/22/1584 | Site To East Of The Common, North Of Helhoughton Settlement,

Change of use of agricultural building (with extant permission ref. PU/21/3029 to convert to a dwelling) with extensions and external alterations to form a single dwelling

PC comment – NEUTRAL | NNDC decision – PENDING

PF/23/0628 | Raynham Estate , The Lake , Harlands Road

Erection of 9 boathouse/lodges for use as holiday accommodation, access routes and use of existing barn for parking and cycle storage; landscape, woodland and ecological management and landscaping. PC comment –SUPPORT | DC decision - PENDING

PF/24/1122 - Paxfield Farm, Paxfield Road

Erection of agricultural workers dwelling

PC comment – NEUTRAL – DC decision - PENDING

9.2 To receive and consider new applications
There were none.

10. To receive and consider any correspondence

Literature from HugoFox regarding gov.uk email addresses – Councillors may consider in the future.
Barclays Bank – Letter confirming receipt of members details.
Barclays Bank – Letter advising of interest rates decreasing.
SSE Energy – Invoices from June - Oct received in first week of November. Clerk to look into the matter.

11. Financial matters

11.1 To approve the bank reconciliation and payment of accounts list
The Council RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation and payments list (below)

Payments

Clerk	Salary Oct	259.70
Clear Councils	Insurance	635.02
Clerk	Salary Nov	174.31
HMRC	PAYE	17.00
T Harris	Laptop Battery	65.00
EG Care	Grass Cutting	1152.00
K&M Lighting	Street Light Maintenance	22.18

Receipts

NNDC	Precept 2nd Instalment	4308.00
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11.2 To review 6 monthly budget and set the precept for 2025-26
Following consideration, the Council RESOLVED to approve the budget and set the precept at £8788, representing a below inflation 2% increase.

12. To agree Parish Council members to join the Solar Committee as representatives

Following discussion, the Council RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Lacey-Freeman to stand as representative on the Solar Committee together with Cllr Millard. Proposed by Cllr Harris, seconded by Cllr Flint.

13. To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda and to note the date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13 January. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.29pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date:

14. To pass a resolution (under the Public Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the public and press for the following confidential items:

14.1 To consider and approve increase for the Clerk
Following consideration, the Council RESOLVED to approve the national pay award increase back dated to 1st April 2024, and implement a further increase, as discussed, with immediate effect.