

POTTER HEIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES February 2024

Minutes of the meeting of Potter Heigham Parish Council held on **Wednesday 10th February 2024** at 7.30pm in Potter Heigham Village Hall.

Present: Sheridan Turner, Chair
Donald Pickering, Vice Chair
Helen Bartlett, Councillor
David Bland, Councillor
Stan Chapman, Councillor
Robin Graves-Morris, Councillor
Mary Haslam, Councillor
Harry May, Councillor
Bev Standen, Councillor

In Attendance: Richard Price, County Councillor
Harry Blathwayt, District Councillor

1) Apologies: Keith Lowes, Councillor
James Stone, Councillor
Laura Bateman, Parish Clerk

2) Public Forum

a) Items from the public - None

b) Items from the County Councillor

Concern was raised about appropriate timing of when the Herbert Woods barrier is closed. Cllr Price has purchased CCTV to monitor the flood barrier to be mounted outside Lathams. Camera direction can be selected by the flood wardens and Cllr Price. It was noted when the barrier is late going up, water that is then supposed to be released slowly is being released too quickly. Cllr Price was thanked for purchasing the CCTV.

Cllr Price noted that he has asked Highways to put more grips into the Causeway in Repps. Recent grips dug into Marsh and Church Roads do not reach the ditches. Exact locations of ineffective grips should be sent to the Cllr Price using What Three Words

ACTION: Cllr Standen and Cllr Haslam to report

c) Items from district Councillor

Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI) has been working on issues facing the broads and there will be decisions to be made in the future by the parish council regarding these matters. Considerations will be needed about dredging the river, which would result in more salt water, verses not dredging which would mean higher fresh water levels. Decisions in where to build and what to protect and what not to protect will be needed. High density areas are receiving preference over rural areas with ideas to build resilience into housing to protect against flooding.

Cllr Blathwayt was lobbying Parliament last week, with the IDB Special Interest Group hosted by Liz Truss, pushing for more funding from the government.

Enforcement officers have visited the garage on Bridge Road for inspection and outcomes will be forthcoming.

d) Items from outside bodies

- i. The Village Hall Management Committee met on 6th February. Salient points were the potential for a table tennis club; the CCTV system is being replaced with better cameras; there is a funding opportunity through the National Lottery Fund to support a Ball wall, but a community interest must first be identified; proposals to replace the outside doors are under review; new internal doors to the hall will be installed shortly; there are continued issues with EON; the Warming Centre Soup and Chatter programme is going well and as per previous minutes, the Village Hall foresees capital repairs that will cost £20-25K. The sewage system constantly needs rodding and Cllr Blathwayt noted unusual occurrences of new springs appearing due to excessive rainfall which could be impacting the system. There will be a public meeting held on 19th March to discuss proposed changes to the Village Hall Constitution to bring it up to date.

3) Declaration of interest

- a) Cllr Pickering, Cllr Chapman, Cllr Graves-Morris, Cllr May, Cllr Turner declared an interest in the village hall as they are trustees.

4) Minutes of the last meeting

The following amendments were agreed to the draft January minutes which will be signed at the March meeting.

- i. Section 8: Remove description of grants line as 'village hall' and leave as generic 'grants' line.
- ii. 2c, 2nd sentence: 6 flood warning areas make up one flood alert area, and spelling error on Wayford Bridge
- iii. 3a: Replace Cllr Haslam with Cllr Chapman

5) Matters Arising

Although the Council at the January meeting determined it had no authority over the Falgate re noise and lighting, Cllr Standen visited them as a member of the Parish Council. It was noted that the council had previously agreed not to do this. Cllr Standen reported the football pitch is being changed into a car park and bright lighting is required by the liability insurance. There has been one event since Christmas and it is believed the noise is coming from a private individual. The letter to be distributed to local residents will have the reference to the Falgate removed, providing generic advice as to how to report issues.

ACTION Clerk

Stickers stating "litter and dog waste only" will be printed.

ACTION Cllr May

There was no update on the changing of the traffic light pattern.

ACTION: Cllr Price to pursue Highways

6) Flooding matters

Cllr Turner requested that councillors email the clerk with their thoughts regarding the flooding so the draft letter regarding flooding can be developed further.

Cllr May stated that farmers are no longer allowed to pump and questioned what provision is being made for storing the extra water. He also questioned what is being programmed into the modelling because the answers are not correct and where are the errors coming from. Cllr Blathwayt stated that it should be discussed at the next Upper Thurne meeting by Broadland Future Initiatives. He stated that the Bure Loop is man made from the 1600-1700's. The 2002 Bessel Scheme was done to stop flooding at Ash farm and to protect A47 and railway line. Great Yarmouth Borough Council do not want any changes to the engineering that might affect A47 or the railway.

Deadline 20th February and to include Andy Buchanan

ACTION Cllr May to contact Andy Buchanan

Cllr Blathwayt stated the National Farmers Union are pushing for the banks to be raised by 50cm so pumping out of flood plains into rivers will not cause them to overflow again. Henry Cator suggested dredging but was wrong about Somerset levels because they've slowed the river and put in more holding devices in the uplands to slow the water reaching to flood plain. Barrages are too expensive for Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft

7) Clerks Report

New Dog bin has been installed but in the wrong place.

ACTION Clerk to follow up

The Boardwalk repair has been done but very poor quality as it is not stable.

ACTION Clerk to follow up

Signs in Market Road are still facing the wrong way

ACTION: Cllr Price follow up with County

The Hedge has been cut on A149 but is now hazardous in that very sharp branches are now prominent.

Trees on Market Road and by Redroofs are hazardous if they fall down will come across the road.

ACTION Clerk to report

A boat is needed to go under Potter Heigham bridge to check if there is damage following reports that it is crumbling.

ACTION Clerk to follow up

8) Planning Matters

- a) An update from Cllr Blathwayt regarding planning enforcement action at Glebe Farm was noted. The Gym has reverted to permitted hours however there are still visitors there on weekends. Enforcement notice has been served. There is a three month compliance period as the refusal to store commercial vehicles on site is not being appealed. The Annex link will be completed by the end of summer.

- b) New applications received

PF/24/0010 1 Green Lane NR29 5LP . There was no objection from the council.

The Planning Inspectorate will hold a virtual hearing on 4th March to discuss the flooding concerns raised in objection to the planning application on the Bridge Hotel site. It was determined there is no need for Potter Heigham to attend and leave with Broads Authority who will be advocating dismissal of the appeal.

- c) Decisions

BA/2023/0408/FUL Nippy Chippy & Amusements, Bridge Road - approved

9) GOVERNANCE MATTERS

- a) To confirm dates of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7.30pm and the Annual Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 8th May at 7.30pm AGREED
- b) To consider invites to speakers for the Annual Parish Meeting: suggested Anglian Water/Env Agency/IDB/BA. Ask for report from BA. **ACTION Clerk**

10) FINANCIAL MATTERS

Current financial balances noted.

Council authorised payment of Clerks wages up to an amount of £600 upon receipt of clerk's submission of hours.

It was confirmed that the amount owed to NNDC will not be paid until the grant has been approved

11) Other items for discussion/decision

a) A virtual meeting was held with Duncan Baker, MP, the police, Cllr. Turner and Cllr Standen to discuss concerns about many complaints received by residents about speeding, unsociable and intimidating behaviours displayed by traffic from Glebe Farm. The MP requested an in-person meeting which occurred on 3rd February. As a result, the MP requested a paper outlining traffic and safety issues, damage to the environment, enforcement of planning refusals and issues at the dead end of Marsh Rd. The paper plus appendices were circulated to the Council for review and received its endorsement. The MP will assist in getting the report to the Assistant Director for Planning at NNDC and other appropriate individuals. Residents to be encouraged to report incidents by calling 111 or via the Police website

ACTION Clerk to include in Gazette

12) Correspondence

a) To note response received from Norfolk Police regarding the parish council's complaint about policing cover in the village in early January

b) To consider email received requesting details of any memorial bench schemes that the parish council may support. It was agreed this would be considered if the applicant funded the memorial bench. A teak bench was preferred and the parish council would choose the location.

ACTION Clerk to reply to applicant

Agreed that Village benches owned by the Parish Council should be reviewed again for condition.

ACTION Cllrs to check benches as done previously

13) REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL LEADS

a) Allotments - Hedge has been cut round allotment

b) The Staithe – Broads Authority are backfilling the quay heading and have filled in the hole that the crane made. Ownership of the Staithe is still not definitive and reason for why mooring posts were cut down unclear. It was noted that Herbert Woods plan to build a new access road near the boats for sale. Cllr Turner to ask Cally Smith of the Broads Authority about the bollards and quay access road.

Action Cllr Turner

c) SAM2 is being returned to Catfield this weekend. It has been sited at the Exchange. Cllr Bland to pass stats to Cllr Turner.

d) It was agreed the clerk would become the liaison lead for the police.

14) REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

A bridge litter-pick is being arranged and Cllr May will share the date once confirmed

ACTION Cllr May

Builders' bags are caught in a tree at Fritton Road/Market Road. Request to be made to clear them once who owns the field is established.

ACTION Cllr Bland to ask Matt Monk

Cllr May queried a new litter bin at the substation belonged to.

15) ITEMS FOR EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The clerk's 3-month appraisal, successful completion of probationary period and continuation of permanent employment was APPROVED

The meeting adjourned at 9:28pm

Chair:

Date:

DRAFT