

HILGAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Hilgay Village Hall

on

09 January 2020 at 1900

Present: P Bates, G Carter, P Carter, A Greening, A Charlesworth, E Hall, G Harris, J Heatrick, R Houghton, R Coogan, A Holmes (Chair and acting Clerk)

In attendance: No members of public in attendance; Clerk absent.

The Chair opened the meeting. Emergency evacuation procedures were announced.

Accepted apologies for absence (LGA 1972, s85(1)(2)) P Dornan

Declarations of interest None.

Declarations of recording and social media use None declared.

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2019: Approved

Public participation Mr C Wills speaking as a member of public thanked the Council on behalf of the residents of Ten Mile Bank for the Christmas Tree; it had been very much appreciated. He also said the plot next to the TMB Village Hall has had fencing removed and felt that this was now a hazard. Chair said that the we would make enquires with the Borough and NCC. **ACTION**

Reports

Chair's Report. The Chair explained that because he had circulated an agenda in the incorrect form the meeting was unable to make voted decision. The meeting could still transact much business. He apologised. The Chair said that he had spent a lot of time dealing with matters during the Christmas /New Year period, more than usual. He thanked Cllrs Heatrick and Carter for their work on both the Christmas Tree. Both had been very successful and the event in Hilgay despite the weather.

Maintenance Report Mr Wills reported the pheasants had been removed from the street in Ten Mile Bank. The seat on the quay in Hilgay needed attention. He would make good but it may need further work. And the seat on the Riverfield had been repaired, final work to be carried out in the Spring. He described the outcome of our review of the play equipment at the Hilgay Playing field. The most pressing repair was to the shackles on the big swing, though there was no immediate danger. There was minor water damage to the large climbing wood frame which he would monitor and several handholds on the climbing wall had been replaced. He would also be replacing the Hilgay bus stop facias.

Clerk's Report. Delivered by Chair.

There would be a meeting with NCC Highways 0900 16 January at Hilgay Allotments.

Members of the public had ask about the signs on the A10 indicating that Welney causeway was closed were not in use. Another noted on the Welney end there was an electronic depth indicator; could one be provided on this side? **To pass both these on to Highways.**

The entrance to the allotments needs some attention. Maintenance would investigate.

A branch had fallen off a tree in the Avenue Hilgay. **Need to write more firmly to Diocese. PPC will also write in support.**

Chair said he was alarmed to report that despite our many interventions about Willow House in Hilgay, the Freebridge was proposing to demolish it. There had been no consultation by Freebridge. The demolition had not happened because a rare breed of bat had been found on the site. We would take this up with Freebridge and the Borough.

Clerk had obtained a quote for a computer accounts package developed specifically for small council use. Council generally in favour. Further information to be circulated.

Pumphouse bin found again to be unlocked on Wednesday 08 January 2020.

Riverfield toilet work to be arranged when weather improves for access.

Finance: To consider authorisation of payments, to note receipts, and to sign cheques

Schedule was considered. There were no questions. The Chair signed the schedule.

Initial Discussion about 2020-21 precept

The Chair suggested 3%; the Parish Council had not increased for several years. The Parish Council had paid for several large capital items in that time and running costs continue to rise. Although it should be noted that the Parish Council has reduced the cost of street lighting. Cllr Coogan felt that our record of carrying out work for no rise in the precept was a policy worth continuing. Cllr Harris agreed but felt a modest rise was necessary. Cllr Carter (G) agreed. Chair will circulate summary note for meeting on 23 Jan.

Playground report: covered under maintenance report.

Planning applications

19/02200/CU: Church Road Ten Mile Banks. Extension of gardens to four properties being built: No action

19/02091/RM: New build to rear of Reed House High Street Hilgay. Previous application. Same reply as before raising concern about access.

Cronin's Dog Care allowed for year on condition of improvement to noise prevention. Noted that prior to and since Planning application no one had complained.

Riverfield issues covered above.

Parking and Speeding through both villages

Cllr Heatrick said parking was a problem in Hilgay outside the school, on Ely Road near the bus stop and by Stocks Hill on the High Street. And despite SAM II, speeding continued to be of concern. Others confirmed parking and speeding on Station Road Ten Mile Bank were of concern too. Outside Hilgay school this causes access problems for the Church and other properties. Cllr Carter (P) also mentioned parking at the end of Bridge Street which made difficulties for buses. Limitations of Police action were noted. Cllrs felt the school had a responsibility to the community to reduce parking outside it; the Chair would write to express concerns and ask for parking to be provided on the school/diocese site. We would again try to set up a speed watch (article for Riverside News). The Chair would also write to the

local police commander about our concerns. And make a concerted attempt to get the readouts from our SAM machines by getting a local resident to help with setting up information downloads. The chair will will discuss with NCC Highways whether there are actions they can take to help.

Councillors Questions

Christmas tree in Hilgay was great success. Should write to Baytree/Lighthouse/Choir and School to thank for their help. Next year could be earlier.

Pringle lane flooded. Need to write to landowner. Flooding is getting worse; should we make our concerns known, not just for public access but in general? Request NCC environment to visit. Raise with our local Internal Drainage Board.

Allotment number 9 was being given up. No further action. New occupant can be found.

Confidential Items to be discussed under: Standing Order 3D, that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, Human Resources matter, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw' Agreed

Chair called for the press and public to withdraw, and Cllr Coogan for the Confidential section of the meeting.

Cllr Coogan left.

Cllr Houghton left.

Confidential Section of meeting recorded separately.

Next meeting Hilgay Village Hall 1900 hrs 16 January 2020.

Meeting closed 2045

.....
Chair

.....
Date