HALVERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Halvergate Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th October 2019, 7.00 pm at Halvergate Village Hall.

Present: Mr C. Reader Chairman

Mr R. More Vice-Chairman

Mr T. Carter

Dr C. Simpson

Mr S. Hannant

Mrs. Jessica Jennings Clerk

Mr Brian Iles County Councillor

Mr Grant Nurden District Councillor

1. **To Consider Apologies for Absence:**

Michael Mallet / Carol Hannant

1. **To Receive Declarations of Interest on the Agenda:**

None

1. **To Adjourn the Meeting to allow Public Participation:**

Mr C. Reader adjourned the meeting to allow the following Public Participation:

* 1. Broadland District Council – Richard Squires, presentation on Neighbourhood Plans:

Richard Squires gave an informative overview of the usefulness and process of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan, explaining that once they are approved, they form part of the District Planning Framework and carry weight when determining planning applications.

The process involves consultation with parishioners and the formation of a Steering Group, which the Parish Council oversees. Neighbourhood Plans are a 20 year plan, looking at a vision for the Community based on what residents would like to see it look like in 20 years and includes elements such as Transport and Access, Local Economy, Housing, protection of existing Conservation Area etc. Any policies put into the Plan must be backed up by evidence.

Once the final plan is drawn up, a Referendum is held where the Community votes to either accept or reject the plan. There are grants in place to assist with drawing it up from Locality and Broadland District Council.

The Parish Council will revisit the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan in the future.

* 1. Brian Iles, County Councillor

Brian reported that lack of communication within the new Cabinet system was a problem, evidenced by Steering Groups reporting to Cabinet not being sure they’re being listened to.

A meeting between NCC and the Disabled Community was held, due to concerns about adopting the Government’s policy around disability allowances. NCC will adopt it but anyone who suffers because of the changes should be able to access other allowances. The system will be means-tested.

Brian’s Committee is looking at future projects, including the third river crossing at Yarmouth, the Acle Straight and the dualling of the A47 at Burlingham. Under the new system in order to save money, NORSE are taking over Highways work, which will mean a different way of working. Overall, with all the cutbacks across the board, the general service of NCC has decreased, with too much work and not enough experienced personnel to cope with it.

The Acle Straight will be ‘improved’ by the roundabout systems at Acle and Vauxhall will be changed to improve the flow of traffic and work will take place at the Halvergate turning, although any improvements and works would not go beyond the bridge on Branch Road, as Highways England manage the A47 and NCC manage Branch Road.

* 1. Grant Nurden, District Councillor

Grant explained that BDC are heading for the same problems, service-wise, as NCC because, due to the amalgamation of SNDC and BDC, they have one person dealing with two councils’ worth of jobs, which inevitably leads to inefficiency. However, Members have been informed by the Managing Director that there is no appetite for redundancies in either Council and that savings will be realised through efficiencies generated by the restructure, and also by not filling certain vacant posts.

The GNLP should start its third round of consultation on sites selected for inclusion by the end of November and it’s hoped that disagreement between the four local planning authorities can be resolved in order that the consultation can go ahead.

1. **To Approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting:**

Resolved to accept the Minutes of September 11th as a true account

* 1. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

8.4 CiLCA Qualification, Clerk – Mr R. More asked why this was turned down. Clerk and councillors explained that, given the fact that the course started on the 12th September, there wasn’t really enough information or time to consider it, therefore it was decided to revisit the idea in the future.

* + 1. Clerk’s Report:

Clerk reported that the tanker schedule at the Sewage Treatment works would now be the same as at Acle, i.e. between 06.00 and 20.00 Mon to Sat and none on Sundays and has already been implemented. This should help minimise any nuisance caused to residents.

Branch Road – Reedham Clerk has responded to request for collaboration with Reedham and Halvergate Parish Council to discuss the various issues surrounding Branch Road. Some Councillors from Reedham will be interested in meeting with Halvergate PC. Not had a response from Freethorpe as yet. Clerk has also received from Highways copies of the Legal Orders for Branch Road but there is no evidence of any Bylaws in existence.

Community Speedwatch Team would be able to provide signs asking drivers to slow down but could only be in place during times when Speedwatch Team recording speeds. As Halvergate doesn’t take part in Speedwatch, this is therefore not possible. With regards to displaying homemade posters and the use of cardboard cut-out figures to help reduce speeds, these are allowed but must not be on the Highway or verges as they would be considered as obstructions. Residents can place them within their property boundaries but must not obstruct vision splays at junctions.

1. **Correspondence of Note:**

Village Hall’s Week 20th -26th January 2020 – forwarded to Village Hall Committee.

Legal Orders, Branch Road – circulated to Councillors

Highways Rangers Visit – circulated to Councillors and responded to.

Norfolk ALC Wellbeing Initiative for Town & Parish Councillors – circulated but no uptake.

1. **Finance:**

Balance as at 30.08.19 £13,437.92

Payments:

Jessica Jennings Clerk’s Fees July/Aug/Sept £ 728.52

Mr C.Debbage Churchyard Grass Cutting £ 500.00

Village Hall Meeting Hire x 2 £ 20.00

S.A. Mallett Asset Maintenance £ 250.00

Total: £ 1,498.52

Receipts:

Broadland DC Precept 2nd Installment £ 4,377.00

Balance as at 31.10.19 £16,316.40

Value of Outstanding Cheques £ 430.00

Projected Balance £15,886.40

1. **Planning Applications: None**
2. **Items for Disucssion:**
   1. Churchyard Grass Cutting Quote 2020/21:

Quote for next year’s grass cutting at Halvergate and Tunstall Churches was put forward at £1,750. All agreed to accept.

* 1. Remembrance Sunday Arrangements:

Clerk to arrange purchase of 2 wreaths and to ask Mr Kevin Church and Mr George Kholer to lay the wreaths, both having been in fairly recent active service. Clerk has made arrangements with Highways to close the road. No Police available to help but Clerk will make arrangements in order to close road effectively.

* 1. Shelroy Trust Nominations:

Councillors agreed names to be recipients of the 2 Christmas hampers donated by Shelroy Trust. Clerk to inform the Trust.

* 1. Village Website:

Councillors considered the information provided by the Clerk as to whether to choose a Norfolk ALC supported Website or a Norfolk Parish Training & Support supported website. After consideration of costs and associated benefits of both, plus ease of use for Clerk, it was unanimously decided to use a Norfolk ALC supported website. Clerk to arrange set up, transfer of some data from existing website and closure of existing website. Setting up a new Website will keep Halvergate PC in sync with other Parish Council websites and will allow easier management for Clerk.

* 1. Norfolk Parish Training & Support (NPTS):

Councillors considered whether to take out an annual subscription which would allow for a discount on training and to then consider cancelling subscription to NALC, or whether to continue using NPTS for training on an adhoc basis and paying the full price. It was agreed to continue subscribing to NALC and to use NPTS for training without subscribing.

* 1. Highways Rangers Visit, November:

Confirmed areas that would like Highways to look at:

Squires Road – flooding at bottom, inefficient ditch. Also, near gravel track, get a lot of standing water.

Weight Restriction Sign, Marsh Road – sign by bus stop is visually obstructed by tree branches.

Corner of Mill Road/Freethorpe Road – very deep standing water along front of White House during heavy rain – request for drain check.

Marsh Road / Stone Road – bend in road at this point also prone to flooding.

Marsh Road – opposite The Penny’s – small hole in road.

Wickhampton Road – continued concerns over width and encroaching vegetation.

Councillors requested that also add:

Junction of Marsh Road and Tunstall Road – prone to flooding

Weight Restriction sign near the chevrons by Stone Road / Marsh Road is very faded.

1. **Items for Next Agenda:**

9.1 Additonal pole for SAM2 at end of Mill Road on the hill. Clerk to speak to Highways.

1. **Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 11th December at 7.00pm

The meeting was closed at 8.40 pm

*Any persons wishing to speak at the Public Forum at the beginning of the Meeting, please contact Jessica Jennings, Parish Clerk at* [*pcclerk.halvergate@gmail.com*](mailto:pcclerk.halvergate@gmail.com) *or on 701901*

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. C. Reader, Chairman**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. J. Jennings, Clerk**