

HALVERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Halvergate Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2020, 7.30 pm at Halvergate Village Hall.

Present: Charles Reader Chairman
Tom Carter
Stuart Hannant
Carol Hannant
Jessica Jennings Clerk
Brian Iles County Councillor
Grant Nurden District Councillor

1. To Consider Apologies for Absence:

Carol Simpson / Robert More / Michael Mallett

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest on the Agenda:

None

3. To Adjourn the Meeting to allow Public Participation:

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

3.1 Brian Iles, County Councillor

Brian reported that the budget had been approved at the beginning of February and 10 amendments put forward had all been rejected. There was a 1.99% increase in Council Tax and a 2% increase for Adult Social Services. Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) was a big issue as there have been cuts of approximately £10 per week which is difficult for low income families. Unfortunately, NCC is unable to change its position on this as it had opted to adhere to Government guidelines, although it is offering the help of advisors to help people deal with their finances and to assess them and to make sure all grants and benefits are being claimed. One other big issue is that of Devolution as opposed to Unitary. Unitary was rejected and Devolution will be implemented, with Norfolk and Suffolk being linked together, with a Mayor lobbying the Government on their behalf. Each county would still be in charge of its own finances.

3.2 Grant Nurden, District Councillor

Grant reminded the Parish Council that the GNLP Consultation would be closing on 16th March and the importance of all views being logged. The Council's budget for 2020/21 was approved at a meeting on 20th February. Council Tax will increase by £4.38 for Band D properties but there will be no increase in charges for garden waste brown bins. The Council Tax Assistance Scheme replaces the Reduction Scheme and will take account of fluctuations in household income for those receiving Universal Credit and will simplify the administration process.

4. To Approve the Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting:

Resolved to accept the Minutes of January 23rd as a true account

4.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes: - None

4.1.1 Clerk's Report:

Clerk reported that the extra pole for the SAM2 had been ordered and was now in place on Mill Road, with 2 sets of brackets/clips. Invoice received and cheque to be signed at meeting. Clerk also reported that she, Charles Reader, Michael Mallett and Robert More would be attending the meeting for Councillors & Clerks with Jerome Mayhew MP at Acle on 6th March. Clerk had received a complaint from a Parishioner on the track between Squires Road and Chapel Road about the potholes at the end of the track where it meets Chapel Road. As the road is unadopted, this does not fall under the remit of Highways, although Clerk did ask then but, instead, the responsibility for repair lies with all residents along the unadopted track or, alternatively, the land owner, which could be found out via the Land Registry. As this is not a Parish Council issue, Clerk to inform parishioner of this. Clerk reported that phone box in Halvergate has had ivy

removed and new panes of glass fitted. It has also been added to BT's repaint list. Clerk has ordered a pack of 2 glow-in-the-dark stickers for the Defibrillator cabinet – one to go on the actual cabinet and another to go on telegraph pole (Bakers Road) directing people to it. Invoice received and cheque to be signed at meeting. Clerk had been in contact with the Conservation Officer at BDC regarding Stone Cottage and its listing status with regards to its repair. Conservation Officer stated that repair works would be expected to be carried out on a like for like basis with traditional materials and with the external appearance to remain the same as before.

5. Correspondence of Note:

GNLPC Consultation – this had been forwarded to Councillors for consideration of the PC's response. Feedback from the Public Consultation event held in Acle was that the event was not helpful as staff present knew little to nothing about Halvergate's situation and said there was no clustering scheme for Halvergate. Grant Nurden addressed the meeting and confirmed that Halvergate was definitely part of a cluster with Freethorpe and Wickhampton. He also confirmed that no sites had been put forward in Halvergate for 10 or more houses. Without the benefit of clustering, the only houses being built under the current system are affordable homes but with the clustering system, it would enable housing growth that doesn't have to be affordable. Concerns over the impact on the sewage treatment works at Halvergate were raised in relation to new building, given that it's already above its design capacity. Also, to the issue of rural residents needing to rely on cars which contradicts the Government's Green Agenda. It was agreed that the PC would respond to the Consultation to say that the PC has no difficulty with the Cluster System but would like to see the Conservation Area upheld but that there is major concern over the ability of water and sewage systems in the County as a whole to cope with excessive new building. Having the infrastructure in place first to support any building is paramount. Chairman and Clerk to compose a letter and send.

Meeting with Jerome Mayhew MP – forwarded to Councillors and covered in Clerk's Report.

6. Finance:

Balance as at 31.12.19		£15,109.01
<u>Payments:</u>		
NALC	Website Host Fee	£ 42.00
Jessica Jennings	Expenses – Printer Toner	£ 52.79
Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Fees (Dec/Jan)	£ 503.68
Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Expenses	£ 121.91
Halvergate Village Hall	Meeting Hire x 2	£ 20.00
	Total:	£ 740.38
Balance as at 07.02.20		£ 14,368.63
Value of Outstanding Cheques		£ 730.70
Projected Balance		£ 13,637.93

7. Planning Applications:

None

8. Items for Discussion:

8.1 Litter Pick (Official Spring Clean v Village Organised)

The Great British Spring Clean is due to take place from 20th March to 13th April, with Parish Councils across the country being encouraged to take part. Broadland District Council supports this but is also supportive of litter picks at any time of year and provides high viz jackets and litter picking tools. Councillors agreed that there wasn't enough of a litter problem within Halvergate to warrant organising an official litter pick. Also, when there are pockets of litter, a lot of people pick it up and dispose of it anyway. Agreed not to do the official Spring Clean and also not to arrange a village pick.

8.2 Jerome Mayhew MP – date to invite to PC Meeting

Councillors agreed that it would be a good idea to invite JM to a Parish Council meeting but decided to arrange a date via e-mail as need everyone's input as to their availability. It was also decided that, if and when a date could be arranged with JM, that Parishioners should be invited along too.

8.3 AGM/Village Open Meeting

It was agreed to hold the AGM and Village Open Meeting on Thursday 16th April, which is earlier than usual. This was to allow the Chairman to be in attendance. The AGM will be held first at 6.00pm and the Village Open Meeting at 7.00pm, followed by wine and nibbles. The venue this year will be the Village Hall. A vote was taken to accept the Minutes of last year's Village Open Meeting as read when they are referred to in the meeting – all Councillors agreed unanimously.

8.4 Section 106 Money

Carol Hannant, on behalf of the Playing Field Association, is looking at the costs of buying plastic picket fencing for the picnic area at the Playing Field. She will send Clerk the details to pass on to Bob Fell at BDC to see if Section 106 Money could be applied to this project.

8.5 Village Volunteer List

Councillors considered the viability of compiling a list of volunteers in the village who would be willing to help with various tasks etc. After discussion it was decided not to do so.

9. Items for Next Agenda / Items of Interest:

9.1 Oak Tree on Corner of Squires Road/Marsh Road – there is a broken branch hanging down and branches overhanging the bus shelter that could do with being trimmed back. Also, the hedge behind the wooden bench on the corner of Chapel Road with Marsh Road is also in need of being trimmed back. Clerk to contact landowner.

9.2 Crash Barrier on Marsh Road, just out of village, is in the dyke. Needs repairing. Clerk to contact Highways.

10. Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Thursday 16th April: AGM at 6.00pm, followed by Village Open Meeting 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 or on 701901

Signed: _____ Charles Reader, Chairman

Signed: _____ Jessica Jennings, Clerk