

HALVERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Halvergate Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2020, 7.00 pm via Zoom.

Present:	Charles Reader	Chairman
	Robert More	Vice-Chairman
	Stuart Hannant	
	Carol Hannant	
	Carol Simpson	
	Jessica Jennings	Clerk
	Brian Iles	County Councillor
	Grant Nurden	District Councillor

1. To Consider Apologies for Absence:

Michael Mallett (+ Tom Carter, as unable to fully connect to Zoom)

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 there has been a preview of the Budget. Allowing for a general rates increase of 1.99%, savings from various departments including Adult Social Care and Children's Services and other savings, there will still be a £14m shortfall which needs to be resolved by February. Schools have been improving but have had to make a lot of savings in the Budget. Highways has continued to work efficiently. One of the savings proposed is a reduction in grit which, if there is a bad Winter, could be difficult. All meetings are being held virtually which means having the normal kind of voting and discussion process is much harder.

3.2 Grant Nurden, District Councillor

Grant reported that BDC meetings are available either live or on catch-up on YouTube and encouraged watching them. Papers presented to the Place Shaping Panel are on the Website and contains responses to the consultation on changes to the planning system. The contract with Veolia (Waste) expires in 2022 and a working group from SNC and BDC have looked at various options and asked for a business case to be prepared to establish a tekel compliant Local Authority Trading Company to take over the services at both councils. BDC considered the business case and felt the best value for residents would be through a competitive tender process which is now underway.

BDC is involved in the Solar Together scheme which is a solar panel buying scheme which aims to help residents and small businesses generate their own electricity. More details and registration of interest is at www.solartogether.co.uk/broadland Registration closes on 6th October. There is a £500 Member's grant available for equipment needed by community groups. Last year, this was spent on equipment for the Ayurvedic Indian festival in Halvergate and for the Junior Tree Wardens in Freethorpe. Anyone aware of any groups in need of equipment, please contact Grant.

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

Resolved to accept the Minutes of August 5th as a true account

4.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

None

4.2 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported:

- E'mail sent to Highways England detailing reasons why the advisory 40mph speed signs should be reinstated (following up previous similar e'mails dating back to March 2018).
- E'mail sent to BDC Conservation officer to find out current situation at The Mill on Mill Road.
- Has received confirmation from BDC regarding Section 106 money and that it can be used to fund improvements at the Playing Field. Need to pass full pricing figures and details to them when have them.
- Ordered new pads for the Defibrillator – will pass to Ruth Davies, Freethorpe First Responders.
- Highways have confirmed that village can have a second SAM2 via the Parish Partnership Scheme but if the scheme is oversubscribed, NCC may award the money to villages that haven't already got one. Clerk to start process for submitting application.
- Stone Road – overgrown brambles on bend obstructing vision and being a potential danger. Reported to Highways but received reply to say no action will be taken but it will continue to be monitored as it doesn't currently meet their criteria. Clerk to contact them again expressing PC's concerns.
- Stone Road – flytipping. Rubbish that was dumped in the dyke and reported back in August is still there. Clerk sent follow up e'mail to BDC to ask why it was still there and that there was more rubbish further up the dyke. BDC replied that they had contacted the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Board about it and assumed they would pass on the information to the landowner, who is considered responsible for its clearance. They asked for confirmation of landowner. Clerk to inform them.
- Burial Ground – the tree obstructing access for the tractor mounted hedge trimmer, which is a young, 6 or 7 foot tree should probably be moved to allow access. Charles Reader to go and look at it.
- Highways Rangers Visit – had sent list of points raised by PC to Highways. In response from Highways, they mentioned possibly using a future Parish Partnership Scheme to get a new footway/trod along Wickhampton Road. (Future Agenda Item).
- Branch Road – Willows. Clerk had sent e'mail to Highways to ask when next cut is due as they are getting overgrown.
- Village Sign – Paul Pitchers has said work to complete repairs on the village sign should begin within next 2 weeks. If he is unable to do it, the PC will arrange for someone else to do it and have it done before Remembrance Sunday.
- Training – Clerk requested approval for attending 2 training sessions – 'Budget' and 'Word Documents for Website'. Costs to be shared between Halvergate PC and Beighton PC. All Councillors approved.

5. Correspondence of Note:

Consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in NCC	Forwarded to Councillors for information
CPRE Planning White Paper	Forwarded to Councillors for information. (Agenda Item 8.2)
NALC – Neighbourhood Plans and The Planning White Paper	Forwarded to Councillors for information (Agenda Item 8.2)

6. Finance:

Balance as at 31.07.20 **£15,252.83**

Payments:

Mr C. Debbage	Churchyard Grass Cutting	£	250.00
Mr C. Debbage	Churchyard Grass Cutting	£	300.00
ICO	Renewal of Membership	£	40.00
Halvegate Village Hall	Meeting Hire (March 2020)	£	10.00

Total: **£ 600.00**

Balance as at 28.08.20 **£ 14,652.83**

Payments via Bank Transfer:

Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Fees Aug / Sept	£	775.80
Tom Carter	Reimbursement – Hedge Cutting at Burial Ground	£	60.00

Projected Balance **£ 13,817.03**

7. Planning Applications:

None received.

Conservation / Restoration work application at Highs Mill, Stone Road has been approved (Broads Authority).

APP/K2610/A/3245582 - Land North of Marsh Road, Halvegate Residential Development of up to 7 No. Dwellings
Appeal has been dismissed.

Charles Reader had attended the appeal (remotely) and reported the process to the meeting. In discussions following his report, the issue of lack of housing in general in the village was raised and it was agreed that this was an issue, along with the fact that young people in the village are currently priced out. It was reiterated that the Parish Council are not against all development per se but are keen to see any development built in the right places and of the type that would attract and be affordable to young people wishing to stay in the village.

8. Items for Discussion:

8.1 Parish Plan

Section 15, Action Plans (Page 34) of the Parish Plan document was looked at and discussed in order to review the issues raised:

General Environment:

1. *Preserve peace and quiet, attractive countryside and safe environment.* PC felt that the SAM2 contributed to a safer environment and that it remained committed to the Conservation Area principles.

Roads and Traffic:

1. *Safer A47 / Branch Road Junction.* PC continues to communicate to Highways England its concerns about the junction, including requesting the reinstatement of the advisory 40mph speed limit signs and to Highways to report any obstructions to view when turning on to the A47.

2. *Reduce speeding traffic.* The PC has bought a SAM2 (Speed Awareness Messenger) for the village and is currently looking into acquiring another, through the Parish Partnership Scheme. Previous attempts to have speed bumps installed in various places have been flatly refused by Highways as they are only installed at injury accident locations.
3. *Better maintained roads.* The PC continues to lobby Highways over any issues of maintenance including flooding issues, potholes etc. The passing places on Moulton/Halvergate Road have consistently been improved over the last few years since requesting this to be done.
4. *Restrict oversize vehicles and Enforce the weight limit on Branch Road.* The PC recognises this as still being an issue. Heavy vehicles continue to use it. The PC carried out some monitoring of traffic in March 2019 and also got copies of the Legal Orders for the road. There are many exemptions which cover most of the vehicles using the road. Reedham and Freethorpe PC's had agreed to meet with Halvergate PC and discuss it. To go on a future Agenda.

Connections:

1. *Enabled High Speed Broadband.* The PC acknowledged that properties on Mill Road still have very poor Broadband speeds, most likely due to the fact that they are over 1km away from the BT box near the War Memorial. Clerk to follow this up with BT.
2. *A Live and up-to-date Website.* This has been completed, as Halvergate Parish Council now has a new website which is updated regularly.
3. *Encourage car / lift sharing.* A scheme was in place but Covid-19 has likely had an impact on it.

Community:

1. *Maintain Public Footpaths / Dog Fouling.* The PC recognises that dog fouling continues to be an issue in various places around the village. Will request more signs from BDC and will continue to ask people to clear up after their dogs via the Website and Facebook page.

Services:

1. *Expand Neighbourhood Watch.* Although a Neighbourhood Watch scheme was once in the process of being set up, it never became fully functional. To go on a future Agenda to discuss in more detail.

8.2 CPRE / Planning White Paper

Councillors acknowledged receipt and reading of the CPRE's petition and their position on the new Planning White Paper, which they consider would take decision-making powers away from communities and give it to developers and Westminster. The PC acknowledged the points that CPRE made and decided to respond as individuals to the petition if they wished to and also to the Government's consultation on the Planning White Paper, rather than collectively as a Parish Council. (This was partly due to time constraints with Zoom).

The Clerk mentioned that the proposals would have implications for Neighbourhood Plans too (as per document written by Rachel Leggett & Associates, sent from Broadland District Council). Part of the new system would be the digitisation of consultation and no longer displaying notices at sites or displaying plans in libraries. The PC agreed that this was of concern as not everyone uses digital access to get information. It was also felt that Land Banking should be addressed and not allow developers to hold on to land for many years without actually building on it. There was also concern over the automatic granting of outline permission for many sites, based on a database of criteria. Councillors to respond to consultation individually.

8.3 Assets – Annual PC Risk Assessment

Clerk to consult Councillors by e-mail to arrange a date and time to visit and check each asset for risk assessment purposes.

9 Items for Next Agenda / Items of Interest:

- Suggested that Freethorpe and Halvergate hold separate services on Remembrance Sunday to help with social distancing.
- Clerk asked to arrange road closures for Remembrance Sunday as usual and put details on to the website and Facebook page. Clerk has already ordered the 2 wreaths.
- Charles Reader to invite Nick Butcher to play the Last Post
- Mill Road – some of the Local Authority housing gardens appear unkempt – is there a standard set by the housing authority that should be met?
- Burial Ground – no clear guidance / supervision for placing of graves, adornments to graves etc.
- Collapsing road signs in Tunstall – Peter Hardy has very kindly voluntarily repaired these. Clerk to send letter of thanks from the PC.
- Road repairs carried out in Tunstall recently were limited and further repairs are needed. Clerk to contact Highways.

10 Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd December, 7.00 pm – Venue t.b.c but likely to be via Zoom.

The meeting was closed at 8.20 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**