

HALVERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Halvergate Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2021, 7.00 pm via Zoom.

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

1. To Consider Apologies for Absence:

Robert More, Carol Simpson, 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 a decision on the Budget proposals for the next Budget would be made next month but it looks likely they will be approved. There will be a 1.99% increase in overall rates and 2% going towards Adult Social Services. Childrens' Services have met their savings target.

Brian reported that one of the reasons why there are so many problems in Norfolk with Adult Social Services is because so many people retire to Norfolk which pushes up the costs. Over the last 4 years, there has been an increase of 25% of money being put into the service but there is a never ending demand.

£46m has been put into Council reserves. There is still a £19m cost pressure that will have to be resolved. £537m is being allocated to roads/other projects. There will be £150m of borrowing, to be paid back over 25 years at a fixed interest rate of 1.3%

3.2 Grant Nurden, District Councillor

Grant reported that there were cases of Coronavirus in Broadland, including in the Acle, Reedham, Freethorpe and Halvergate area. He also reported that there is fresh funding available to local businesses from Broadland DC which will help a lot of local businesses, especially those that haven't yet been able to access grants. Businesses that are home based, premises based, self employed or with staff can all apply. Funding applies to large, small or micro businesses. Most grants are for £2,000 but in exceptional cases there are some for £20,000. All relevant information can be found on the Broadland DC Website.

The Budget will be being looked at next month. The Cabinet's responses to the questions put to them by the Scrutiny Committee can be found on the Broadland DC Website (within the Agenda papers) or by watching on YouTube. Charities and organisations are encouraged to get involved with the Community at Heart Lottery to help raise funds. The draft for the GNLP (Greater Norwich Local Plan) will be published in February to allow representations to be made. The Consultation period runs from 1st February to 15th March.

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

Resolved to accept the Minutes of December 15th as a true account

4.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

None

4.2 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported:

- that she had contacted Highways England about the street lights on the Acle Straight by the Halvergate junction and that some were not working and also about the road sign that had been placed there which was obstructing a clear view for drivers. Received reply that lighting maintenance being carried out along A47 in general and targeting worst affected areas. Could not give a firm date but will try and rectify the problem as soon as possible. In relation to the sign, they have instructed contractors to be reminded of the importance of appropriate placement of signs.
- Stone Road is seeing frequent incidents of fly-tipping, mainly Cannabis plant waste from Cannabis factory production. These dumps are often in the dykes or on the road. Clerk requested that any incidents of this are reported to her, along with photos if possible, so that she can keep a log and report it to Broadland D.C. Councillors can report it independently as well but it is easier for the Clerk to keep up-to-date with the situation if she can report and log them with BDC. Broadland D.C. automatically inform the Police when a fly-tip is drug related.
- Clerk had spoken with Highways to confirm date of next cut of Willows on Branch Road – last cut was Jan/Feb 2019, next cut due Jan/Feb 2022.
- Beighton Builders will carry out the repairs to the Village Hall roof as soon as they can fit it in. They will contact the Clerk and Michael Mallett the day before they can start.
- Clerk informed Councillors that she has upgraded the Zoom package from the 'free' version to a licensed version, costing £14.39 per month. The cost will be shared with Beighton Parish Council, so each council will pay £7.20 per month via Standing Order to the Clerk's personal bank account, as the Zoom account is being paid for from Clerk's personal account, as no debit card for Parish Council account has been issued.

5. Correspondence of Note:

E'mail received from Ursula Brewer asking Parish Council to consider putting up a plaque commemorating American Airmen who lost their lives on the Halvergate Marshes.	Forwarded to Councillors for consideration & information. Councillors agreed to put this on a future Agenda.
Thorpe St Andrew Town Council – proposed meeting between Town/Parish Councils within Broads Executive Area and Broads Society to discuss challenges & issues facing Broads Communities.	Forwarded to Councillors for consideration and information. Councillors felt this would not be of any direct benefit to the Parish.
Water Management Alliance – report on project work carried out on Halvergate Marshes.	Forwarded to Councillors for information. On discussion, concerns arose over the affects on quality of marshes as a grazing resource as a result of the work the RSPB has been carrying out. To go on to a future Agenda for further discussion and to invite a representative from the Internal Drainage Board.

6. Finance:

Balance as at 30.11.20 **£17,071.13**

Payments:

Mr C. Debbage	Churchyard Grass Cutting	£ 500.00
Mrs. J. Jennings	Clerk's Fees (Dec / Jan)	£ 775.80
Mrs. J. Jennings	Zoom Licence Fee (monthly)	£ 7.20

Total: **£ 1,283.00**

Balance as at 19.01.21 **£ 15,788.13**

Outstanding Payments:

Viking Direct	Stationery	£ 169.84
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Projected Balance: **£15,618.29**

7. Planning Applications:

20210030 – Land at Mill View, Pockthorpe, Halvergate
Erection of Bungalow

No Objections – Clerk to inform BDC Planning.

8. Items for Discussion:

8.1 Stone Road

The ongoing issue of fly tipping was discussed and what can be done to address it. Charles Reader has spoken to PC Steve Clark about the problem and he is well aware of the fact that much of the tipping is Cannabis related. Tom Carter said he had found a further (approx.) 70 bags of Cannabis waste this morning. *NB Councillors continued to discuss ideas of prevention but due to matters of confidence, it was agreed to have a closed discussion and not Minute that discussion here.*

8.2 Burial Ground

The Cherry Tree in the Burial Ground is not in a convenient place and is causing problems for cutting the hedge and could eventually cause issues with graves as its roots grow. There don't appear to be any records of who planted or donated the tree and it was proposed that it could be moved (if possible) and replanted elsewhere in the Burial Ground. Not everyone was in agreement and it was suggested also that the brambles and overhanging branches from the Church side should be cut back which may allow more room for cutting machinery in the Burial Ground. To be carried forward to next meeting to get input from Robert More, as he had originally raised the issue.

Charles Reader confirmed that the Parish Council had agreed to adopt the Parochial Church Council's code of practice for burials in the Burial Ground. (This was with reference to a point raised at the last meeting).

8.3 Branch Road

There is ongoing concern over the number of heavy vehicles still using Branch Road, despite the weight restrictions and discounting exemptions. A large lorry from CP Allan Haulage was noted and the Clerk was asked to write a letter to them. Councillors would like the Clerk to contact Reedham and Freethorpe Parish Councils again to organise a meeting to discuss the issues and concerns relating to Branch Road. This was requested to be an in-person meeting, so will have to wait until current restrictions are lifted. It was suggested a press-release be issued once

arrange. It was also suggested that the drainage ditches on both sides of the road also contribute to the problem.

8.4 Dog Fouling

There have been many complaints made about the issue of dog fouling around the village. Clerk to request more anti-dog fouling signs from Broadland D.C. and to put a poster in the Bus Shelter, and more requests to pick up after dogs on the FB page and the Website. Grant Nurden confirmed that Broadland D.C. has enforcement officers who will prosecute and impose fines on people if there is photographic or video evidence of someone not picking up. Clerk to put this warning on FB and the Website.

8.5 Stone Cottage

Councillors expressed their concern at the lack of pace of work being carried out on renovations at Stone Cottage. Several parishioners have also expressed their concern and there are fears it could collapse. Clerk to contact Broadland DC to ask them to contact the owner regarding the situation. It is felt to be a stand-out house in the village and protected.

8.6 Highways Rangers w/c 1st February

Clerk asked Councillors for any Highways maintenance issues to pass on to Highways: Pothole in layby on Moulton Road. Also, asked to draw their attention to Wickhampton Road again.

9 **Items for Next Agenda / Items of Interest:**

- Burial Ground Issues – Cherry Tree / Manner of Burials (check against video)
- Memorial Plaque – to commemorate American Servicemen
- Halvergate Marshes – quality of grazing marsh.

10 **Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 16th March, 7.00 pm – Zoom.
The meeting was closed at 8.25 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**