

HALVERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Halvergate Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th September 2021, 7.00 pm at Halvergate Village Hall.

Present: Charles Reader Chairman
Robert More Vice-Chairman
Stuart Hannant
Tom Carter
Carol Hannant
Jessica Jennings Clerk
Grant Nurden District Councillor

Caroline Laburn, Internal Drainage Board, plus 1 Parishioner

1. To Consider Apologies for Absence:

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 Grant Nurden, District Councillor

- Broadland DC has selected a bidder to take over the waste contract from April 2022. The identity of the bidder has not yet been made known but the selection process was thorough and included the Environment Excellence Panel, the Environment & Scrutiny Committee and it also went to Cabinet in order for a decision to be made.
- The Government would like to roll out a food waste collection across the country. Broadland DC is trying to get one implemented which looks likely to be, at the earliest, from October 2022.

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

Resolved to accept the Minutes of July 28th as a true account

4.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Clerk asked to check with Highways when the next cut of the grass verges is due.

4.2 Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported:

- With regards to Stone Cottage, the Clerk had finally received a reply from Chris Bennett, Senior Heritage Design Officer at BDSNC, to say that he has passed it over to Chris Brownhill who has recently been appointed Heritage Officer for this part of the District. He deals with listed building cases so should be able to give information on progress. Clerk to contact him if does not hear anything soon.
- Clerk has contacted Norfolk County Council regarding descriptive signposts for Halvergate (as discussed at the meeting on 28th July) to ask for more information about how these are acquired and any costs involved. Waiting to hear back and will contact again if necessary.
- Clerk has received the Share Certificate for Halvergate Parish Council from Norfolk ALC to show that the PC owns an equal share of the co-operative that is now the Norfolk ALC, along with other member councils.

5. Correspondence of Note:

Norfolk ALC Wellbeing – invitation to join Norfolk Parish Movement for an Offshore Transmission Network (OTN) Review in relation to Offshore Windfarms and the consequent environmental damage caused by cabling connections.	Forwarded to Councillors for information. Agenda Item 8.2
Norfolk ALC Wellbeing – presentation to Parish Councils of Memorial Token for community spirit in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Parish Councils to respond if they would like one.	Forwarded to Councillors for information and response. Clerk to apply.

6. Finance:

Balance as at 30.07.21 **£16,575.81**

Payments:

Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Fees (August/September)	£ 775.80
Jessica Jennings	Zoom Fee (August)	£ 7.20
Mr Debbage	Churchyard Grass Cutting (Jun/July/Aug)	£ 750.00
Jessica Jennings	Zoom Fee (September)	£ 7.20

Total: £1,540.20

* Mileage to Meetings, July & September

Balance as at 24.09.21 **£15,035.61**

Outstanding Payments:

Halvergate Village Hall	Hire for Meeting (June, July & Sept)	£ 30.00
Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Expenses*	£ 34.20
	Sub Total:	£ 64.20

Projected Balance: **£14,971.41**

7. Planning Applications:

None

8. Items for Discussion:

8.1 Caroline Laburn, Internal Drainage Board

Caroline had been invited to the meeting to explain more about the IDB's work on Halvergate Marshes and to field questions from Councillors. An RSPB representative was also asked to attend but was unable to.

- The IDB is a statutory authority which maintains and enhances SSI's. It works closely with the RSPB in order to try and get high quality water.
- In the early 2000's, at the Stracey Arms, a new inlet structure was built for the first Halvergate Scheme to allow good quality water to get into the marshes.
- The second phase came into being to allow the system to deliver water to the RSPB site and the European Site.
- Graziers will have benefitted from the scheme.
- A third scheme is probable in order to get water further to the East, near Breydon Water.

- Drains are maintained on an annual basis and pumps are maintained by mechanical engineers. They try to supply the water and also drain it off as required.

Councillors made the following points:

- Who paid for Phase II which was for Environmental benefit? Caroline (CL) confirmed that the Environment Agency had whereas Phase III is in conjunction with Highways England.
- She confirmed that last winter was unprecedented in its wetness.
- Are the pumps going all the time or just at night? How often are they checked in person? CL confirmed that they are checked once a week.
- Concerns were raised that the IDB's work was not actually beneficial to graziers but more to the RSPB, who are influencing how the marshes are managed.
- CL responded that IDB is legally responsible for getting water from the Bure to the SSI and that, as a consequence, graziers benefit from water held in the high level carrier. If graziers run out of water it is not the IDB's responsibility to give them water as it has to go the SSI. The IDB is trying to make all the pumps more resilient to Climate Change. Covid had also had an impact on the numbers of staff available to physically check pumps.
- Another point raised was that Winter levels are much higher than they used to be which is of concern to farmers. The Acle Land Spring was highlighted as flooding the Damgate footpath and that the Environment Agency doesn't maintain it very well.
- CL responded that she couldn't confirm the future of the Acle Land Spring and Pump but would find out and come back to the PC.
- There used to be a Halvergate Working Group that would meet regularly – would that be reinstated as it was very useful for local land owners to keep up to date with the situation? CL to find out and come back to PC.

Charles Reader thanked Caroline very much for attending the meeting and for her discussions with the Parish Council.

8.2 Offshore Windfarms – Campaign for Offshore Transmission Network Review – Norfolk Parish Movement.

Councillors had been asked to consider whether or not to support the Norfolk Parish Movement to campaign for an Offshore Transmission Network Review as per the documents sent round to them (as mentioned in 5.1). The campaign objects to the cabling that would connect offshore windfarms to onshore electricity substations as it would involve a huge expanse of underground cables which would cause environmental damage, including to wildlife and increased traffic on the roads. Their proposal is for a much less environmentally detrimental method of bringing the electricity generated ashore, via an Offshore Transmission Network. With as many Parish Councils signed up as possible, this will create a larger voice and greater pressure to do so.

Councillors discussed this and as there was no overall strong feeling either way, a vote was taken as to whether to support it. 3 were in favour, 1 was against and 1 abstained. As a result, it was carried that the Parish Council would offer their support. Clerk to write and inform the Norfolk Parish Movement (Alison Shaw, Oulton Parish Councillor and convener of the Norfolk parish movement for an OTN).

8.3 SAM2 Operator

- It was confirmed that John Collins has volunteered to take over the movement of the SAM2 speed sign around the village and the downloading of data. Clerk to inform Stuart Simpson so that he can contact John.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman resolved that in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, that the public be excluded during consideration of the next item, due to its confidential nature.

8.4 Co-option of Parish Councillor

- Councillors discussed the 3 candidates who had come forward for the role of Councillor and after much discussion it was agreed to co-opt Steve James. Clerk to contact him and confirm.

9 Items for Next Agenda / Items of Interest:

- Charles Reader informed the meeting that some of the Councillors had received scam e-mails purporting to be from him. He has reported this and reminded Councillors to be vigilant of any incoming e-mails.
- Stuart Hannant informed the meeting that the village has now officially lost the Halvergate Cricket team and they have moved to join the Acle team but Acle has agreed to adjoin names so that Halvergate Cricket Club will still be seen as a name in Norfolk cricket. The Acle 1st and 2nd teams will play at Acle and the 3rd and 4th teams will play at Halvergate. The reason for the loss is due to a shortage of players within the right age groups in the village. However, there will still be cricket every Friday, Saturday and Sunday and all villagers are welcome.
- The Village Hall Committee was raised as needing to be discussed to confirm who is on it.
- Robert More raised the hole on Marsh Road at Tunstall and the culvert which should take away flood water is still blocked. Clerk to inform Highways again.
- The boundary hedge and trees on the field along Marsh Road / Squires Road could do with a trim – several parishioners have requested this. Clerk was asked to write to landowner.

10 Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th October, 7.00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.35 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**