

HALVERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Halvergate Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th August 2022, 7.00 pm at Halvergate Village Hall.

Present:	Charles Reader	Chairman
	Robert More	Vice Chairman
	Stuart Hannant	
	Carol Hannant	
	Michael Mallett	
	Tom Carter	
	Steve James	
	Jessica Jennings	Clerk
	Lana Hemsall	County Councillor
	Grant Nurden	District Councillor
	Plus 2 Parishioners	Philip Williamson, Billy Frostdick

1. To Consider Apologies for Absence:

None

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest on the Agenda:

None

3. To Adjourn the Meeting to allow Public Participation:

Charles Reader adjourned the meeting to allow the following Public Participation:

3.1 Lana Hemsall, County Councillor

- Norfolk County Council put in a bid to the Bus Service Improvement Plan and have been awarded all the money they bid for.
- Lana will be speaking to Transport East and will discuss the Royal Integration Strategy which will look at connecting more rural areas with larger cities.
- The consultation for the Norwich Western Link is now live and Lana encouraged people to take part in the consultation.

Comments / Questions raised:

- Carol Hannant raised the issue of the Postwick Park and Ride having been closed and how it had been very convenient for the Halvergate area.
- Philip Williamson raised the point that the alternative Park and Rides were much further away than Postwick.
- Lana responded that people's return to the buses since the start of the Pandemic has been very slow, especially in the older population. She expects that with the move of BDC and SNDC to their new accommodation at the Broadland Business Park that the Postwick Park and Ride will have a greater need. She emphasised that the current closure is not permanent.
- Charles Reader also noted that the closure of the Postwick Park and Ride is not a good environmental decision and also stated that with the parking charges at both Acle and Reedham station car parks, more people were being encouraged to use their cars to drive into Norwich.
- Lana answered that NCC has no influence over the stations charging for use of their car parks and suggested that the PC contacts Jerome Mayhew MP instead. Clerk to contact him.

3.2 Grant Nurden, District Councillor's Report

- Grant encouraged Parish Councillors to take part in the Town and Parish Council Forums as they are very informative and a good place to communicate issues.

- There has been a change in the Cabinet at Broadland District Council, with the Housing and Planning Portfolios being combined into one.
- The Community at Hearts Awards are open for nominations and will close on the 12th September.
- BDC are hoping to be in their new accommodation (at Broadland Business Park) by early 2023.
- At the start of October, food waste bins will be rolled out across the District.

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

Resolved to accept the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June as a true account.

4.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Robert More, having sent apologies to the meeting in June, asked what the position was regarding the suggestion of taking out a loan from the Public Loans Board. Steve James explained that it was an initial proposal only and was a potential way to deliver an important local issue. There would need to be an in-depth overview of the project it would be taken out for before any kind of application was put in and would likely involve getting input from Parishioners by way of an open meeting.

5. Correspondence of Note:

Housing Needs Survey – Saffron Housing to distribute survey to Parish on 9 th September. The survey has been drawn up by a specialist company.	Councillors reviewed draft in advance of meeting and had no issues or amendments.
Community at Heart Awards – Nominations open to put forward inspirational people who make a difference to the Community.	Councillors asked to consider any potential nominees in advance of meeting. <i>All Councillors in agreement to put forward 3 nominees from the village: Stephen Utting (for his volunteering with the cricket, and Peter and Sharon Fellowes for their running of the Tunstall Phone Box book exchange).</i>

6. Finance:

Balance as at 31.07.22 **£14,851.99**

Payments:

HMRC	Income Tax (Clerk's Fees, Aug)	£ 6.20
Jessica Jennings	Zoom License Fee (Aug)	£ 7.20
Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Fees (Aug)	£ 402.87
Nick Hindle StoneMason	Deposit for Airmens Memorial	£2,908.80
Sean McKnight	Reimbursement for SAM2 expenses*	£ 17.99
Mr C J Debbage	Churchyard Grass Cutting (3 months)	£ 750.00
Jessica Jennings	Clerk's Fees (Sept)	£ 402.87
HMRC	Income Tax (Clerk's Fees, Sept)	£ 6.20
Jessica Jennings	Zoom License Fee (Sept)	£ 7.20

* Padlocks

Total: £ 4,509.33

Payments Incoming:

Broadland District Council	Precept 2 nd Payment	£4,510.00
Norfolk Community NCF Grant	Ukrainian Refugee Grant*	£ 500.00

Total: £5,010.00

* Not PC Money but Grant therefore earmarked.

Balance as at 30.09.22

£15,352.66

Outstanding Payments:

Halvergate Village Hall	Hire for Meeting (June '21 to August '22)	£	90.00
Finesse Accounting	Internal Audit Fee	£	150.00

Projected Balance:

£15,112.66

7. Planning Applications:

20221113 – Rookery Cottages, 2 Tunstall Road, Halvergate, NR13 3PN
One and two storey side and rear extensions (part replacing existing single storey elements)

NB Circulated in advance of meeting; no objections.

8. Items for Discussion:

8.1 Highways Site Visit, 18th July - Report

Councillors who met with Paul Sellick (Highways) provided the following feedback from the site visit:

Wickhampton Road:

- It had been a productive meeting and Paul Sellick had been very helpful.
- He was able to see that there was tarmac under the encroached soil / vegetation on Wickhampton Road showing that the road should be wider than it currently is.
- He confirmed that putting a path in along the Wickhampton Road would be a significant cost to the Parish Council but he will look at the different types of path options as it doesn't have to be tarmac.
- As a short term fix, he will arrange for an excavator to remove the encroached soil and gain space. He will also arrange for the hedge to be cut back again, as it was a few years ago.

Tunstall Road

- Paul Sellick measured the road and will get some prices for footpath options drawn up.
- He will arrange for the rodding out of the drain that goes into the Sandhole.

Branch Road

- The railings on the bend which are currently bent and broken are in-hand and will be replaced.
- The overgrown brambles on the bridge will be trimmed back.

Lana Hemsall requested that if there had been no movement on any of these points by 1st October to let her know which ones were still outstanding and she can keep an eye on progress.

Michael Mallett asked how the Oak tree on Tunstall Road would be affected by a path running from Oaklands Close to Sandhole Corner. Tom Carter said there would be room enough for the path to go round it.

8.2 Letter to Jerome Mayhew MP

The Clerk had drafted a letter to Jerome Mayhew regarding the junction with the A47 Acle Straight at the Branch Road turn-off. Councillors were asked for their views and for any amendments, additions etc.

- Since the removal of the 40mph signs, getting out of the junction has got harder.
- Accessing statistics of accident numbers at the junction would be useful.
- Add the issue of parking at railway stations which has the effect of putting people off using trains.
- Ask if another visit to Halvergate by Jerome Mayhew could be arranged as no-one was aware of the previous visit which was set up.

8.3 Airmens' Memorial

To confirm the updated quote and agree payment of half the figure in order to secure the order.

- £2,910 is the deposit for the order and a cost for the foundation will be surplus to this.
- Clerk to confirm to Nick Hindle (Stonemason) that the land it will be put on is Parish Council owned land.
- Charles Reader confirmed that getting the Memorial made and in place and arranging a proper 'opening' of it would need to be done next year and should include sending invitations to the countries involved. The PC were in agreement.

8.4 Trees at Churchyard, Halvergate

To agree on quote.

Robert More thanked the Parish Council for agreeing to fund the tree work and gave the 3 quotes he had received for the work.

The cheapest quote was from CrownTrees Service which was £1,675 (excl VAT) or £2,000 (incl VAT). The Parish Council were all in favour of accepting this quote.

Tom Carter confirmed that the Townlands Trust will donate £1,000 to the Parish Council to be used towards the costs of the Airmen's Memorial.

8.5 Ukrainian Refugees – Application to Grant Fund (Norfolk Community Foundation)

To discuss and agree request received from Host families for the Parish Council to apply for a grant on their behalf to assist the refugee families.

All Councillors in favour of applying for the grant. Clerk to action.

8.6 Village Hall Update

Michael Mallett updated the Parish Council as follows:

- No accounts have been done for the last few years as there has been no expenditure or income due to Covid and it having been closed.
- The current bank balance is £13,459.02
- There is no full Committee at present – Michael Mallett and Sharon Fellowes are the only 2 remaining members.
- Michael Mallett will carry on running it until someone else comes forward to take over.

The Parish Council discussed the situation and commented as follows:

- If another Committee can be put in place then there is no reason why the Village Hall cannot continue as a going concern.
- If it proves to be sustainable it should continue as a venue. It is an important village asset and people in the village care about it.
- It was, however, queried as to whether the village can support 2 such venues (the Village Hall and the Playing Field Pavilion) and that both could eventually become unsustainable, as they compete for the same market.
- It was suggested that there may be clubs in Acle who might need a venue. Clerk to contact clubs to say that the Village Hall is available to hire as a possible venue.
- Need to advertise for a Committee: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and 4+ Committee Members. The Constitution needs to be looked at to check this.

- If it becomes the case that it can't be sustained and would need to be sold, there would be substantial legal issues to consider, as the Church may well have a legitimate interest in the money.
- Any decisions made about the Village Hall, will need to be transparent and go before the Village.
- Clerk to put together Hire Charge Rates, Facilities available and advertise it as a venue for hire: Acle Recreation Centre, Facebook and Website.

9 Items for Next Agenda / Items of Interest:

- Michael Mallett – has noticed that dogs are being allowed to run loose in the churchyard and the Burial Ground, which is not appropriate or respectful. Asked if the PC put up a notice about this on the Burial Ground.
- Carol Hannant thanked Tom Carter for repairs done at the Burial Ground.

10 Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th October, 7.00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.50 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**