



Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council

Meeting of Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th November 2018

Public Participation Session:-

The Chair deferred public participation until District Councillor Thomson arrived.

County Councillor's Report:-

County Councillor Barry Stone had tendered his apologies but had not provided a report.

District Councillor's Report:-

District Councillor Vic Thomson arrived after the start of the meeting. He explained to those present details of the Glover Report which considers issues in maintaining the integrity of the National Parks. The report explores how access to National Parks can be improved, the impact on people living and working in those areas and the effect of tourism on the local economy. The Chief Executive of the Broads Authority, together with a small team of officers and members, had already responded to this report without any form of debate or public consultation. Most members of the Broads Authority had not been aware of its existence. In the response it was proposed that where the Broads Authority had a "footprint" in any area they should become the principal planning authority. If the proposal were to be accepted, this would have an impact on Rockland St Mary as some areas fall within the planning jurisdiction of both South Norfolk Council and the Broads Authority.

Discussion took place on whether, if such a proposal was agreed, whether the Broads Authority would have the staff capacity to cope. District Councillor Thomson said it would not. From experience a parishioner present stated that it took forever for an application to go through the Broads Authority and they appeared to be very stringent on what could and could not be done.

District Councillor Thomson urged Councillors and the public to read the Glover Report and make their views known. He said it would be helpful if he was copied into any response made. The closing date for responses was the 18th December 2018.

Councillor Bevington stated that at a recent Rockland Broad Management Committee meeting the issue was raised about how little tuition was given to novice boat hirers. It was felt that there should be a standard compulsory procedure whereby all boat hirers should have to provide literature explaining where the difficult waterways were situated and how these were appropriate only for the more experienced boat hirers. District Councillor Thomson said he would take this matter up with the Broads Authority.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Kate Bevington (Chair), Daphne Howlett, Jane Paterson, Mike Hayward, Ernie Green and Jim Wretham.

Monica Armstrong attended as Clerk and there were fourteen members of the public present at the commencement of the meeting. Two parishioners arrived at 8.00 p.m. and some left at various times during the meeting.

17.733 Apologies for absence: - Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Barry Stone and Councillor Ross-Wagenknecht.

AGREED AND NOTED

17.734 Declarations of interest:- There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

17.735 Minutes:-

Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th October 2018, copies of which had been circulated to all Councillors, were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

APPROVED AND NOTED.

17.736 Matters arising:-

17.736.1 Overgrown hedges - Councillors Hayward and Green had carried out a risk assessment from Rookery Hill to the Staithe and identified those properties where hedges/foliage encroached onto the pavement causing difficulties for pedestrians including those with disabilities and people pushing pushchairs. Councillors, on the advice of District Councillor Thomson, had written to those residents asking them to cut back their hedges. There had been a positive response from most who had subsequently cut their hedges.

A parishioner proposed that those who had cut back their hedges should be thanked by the Council for doing so. ***This was agreed and the Clerk will write an acknowledgment to those residents who had contacted her confirming they had taken appropriate action.***

AGREED AND NOTED

17.736.2 CIL Payment Hellington – Councillor Paterson said the Hellington and Rockland Reserve were looking at alternative benches to purchase as it had been difficult to source a large piece of wood enough to create a bench. ***She will inform the Council of progress.***

NOTED

17.736.3 Local Members Highways Budget – Councillors Hayward and Green had met with Gary Overland, Highways Engineer from Norfolk County Council, and assessed the necessary work to be undertaken regarding re-patching and clearing overgrowth from the pavement from Foxdale to the Staithe. This work had been agreed and would be funded by the Local Members Highways Budget.

NOTED

17.736.4 Path at Wherryman's Way – The Clerk said she had not received any reply to her letter to Norfolk County Council asking for the Council to reinstate the passing spaces for wheelchair users from the entrance of Wherryman's Way to the bird hide. The Chair said it was her understanding that Norfolk County Council would be looking at the main trails in detail and work could therefore commence on the path at Wherryman's Way in around two years' time.

NOTED

17.736.5 30 Bird Hide – The Clerk had emailed Tim Strudwick on four occasions but had not received a reply regarding the current position of the bird hide. ***Councillor Wretham said he was happy to contact Mr. Strudwick on behalf of the Council by telephone.***

AGREED AND NOTED

17.736.6 Replacement Bench at Surlingham Corner – The Clerk had received confirmation from Bailey Street Scene of receipt of the cheque for £614.40 from the Parish Council and the bench was now in the process of being manufactured. The Council will be reimbursed for this sum from the insurance company when the work has been completed.

NOTED

The Clerk will contact Jonathan Scott informing him that the bench had been ordered and should be ready to put in situ in four to six weeks.

AGREED AND NOTED

17.736.7 Parish Newsletter – A favourable response had been received from parishioners to the newsletter. The Chair thanked those who had distributed the newsletter to householders.

NOTED

17.736.8 Commemorative Tree World War 1 - The Chair thanked Councillor Wretham for initiating and taking forward the idea of a commemorative tree and plaque. Councillor Hayward had given a presentation to the pupils at Rockland School and the School Council had been present together with twenty five residents at the planting of the hornbeam on the 6th November 2018. Councillor Wretham said that both Councillor Hayward and the Village

Caretaker had worked very hard to make this occasion so successful. Councillor Hayward and Councillor Green (the Parish Council representative on the Governing Body) added that the school was delighted to have taken part in the project and would like to be involved in any future relevant events organised by the Council. ***Councillor Hayward will forward to all Councillors the letter of thanks received by the School.***

AGREED AND NOTED

17.736.9 Information Board at the Staithe – The Chair of the Poor's Trust, Sebastian Shelton, had discussed this matter with Trustees at a recent meeting of the Trust and it had been agreed he would research the cost of renovating the board together with providing suitable information concerning the history of the Staithe and the Poor's Trust land. It had been suggested that the Parish Council, once the financial cost was known, should approach "Love the Broads" charity and make a grant application towards the refurbishing expenditure.

AGREED AND NOTED

17.737 Planning matters:-

17.737.1 Current applications:-

2018/2209 134A The Street, Rockland St Mary Norfolk NR14 7HL Proposal: Demolish existing porch, brick up doorway and create new. Repair brickwork and pointing on adjacent wall and remove two short sections of brick garden wall.

Councillors had no views or comments to make about this application

AGREED AND NOTED

2018/2282 12 The Street, Rockland St Mary Norfolk NR14 7ER

Proposal: Proposed erection of cart shed

Councillors had no views or comments to make about this application

AGREED AND NOTED

BA2018/0400/HOUSEH 4 Lower Road, Rockland St Mary proposed annexe.

Councillors had no views or comments to make about this application.

AGREED AND NOTED

17.737.2 Decisions

2018/2103 105 The Street Rockland St Mary Norfolk NR14 7HQ Replacement of existing front flat roof to pitched and tiled roof.

NOTED

17.738. Greater Norwich Local Plan – additional sites –

17.739 Community Led Plan:-

The Chair informed those present that a leaflet distributed in the village entitled "Development Threat in Rockland St Mary" had not been produced by the Parish Council. She explained that such a leaflet would not have been produced by the Council as its wording contained a biased view on the call for sites. The Parish Council listens to peoples' views. Councillor Bevington informed the meeting she had attended two recent workshops on Community Led Planning and on both occasions it had been made clear that if there were to be any further development it would be proportionate to the size of the village.

The points made at previous meetings regarding the call for sites and the procedure were reiterated (see minutes **17.642** and **17.725**) District Councillor Thomson suggested it was important to look at what sites had been proposed in neighbouring villages as this could have an impact on the parish itself.

To utilise the time of the meeting most effectively the Chair said she would take each site individually and welcome comments from the public in support of or against each site.

GNLP2070 West of the Oaks - comments made:-

- 1) No footpath to the village
- 2) Access a problem

(The suitability assessment has rag rated this amber)

GNLP2007 South of New Inn Hill – comments made:-

- 1) When the original plans were submitted for the housing currently situated at Eel Catcher Close, Highways had stated that the access road could not be any nearer to where it is situated now. It was felt that probably the existing service road would be utilised for any further development
(The suitability assessment had rag rated access green)
- 2) A parishioner asked whether any properties built would be social housing. The Chair responded that, at this early stage where sites were only being considered, there could be no indication what proportion might be for social housing.
- 3) There had been a significant increase in traffic coming from Chedgrave and Loddon.

GNLP2061 North of The Street – comments made:-

1. There are existing problems with vehicles coming out from Surlingham Lane with poor visibility.
2. It would be difficult to create access to this site (The suitability assessment had rag rated this amber)
3. Development would affect the linear line of the village.

GNLP2063 North of The Street - comments made

- 1) Access would be problematic.(suitability assessment rag rated this amber)
- 2) Cars parked near The Street already cause obstruction and with additional traffic that would create further difficulties.
- 3) The field on which this site is proposed slopes down risking potential flooding to existing gardens.
- 4) The land is presently used as agricultural land and crops grown.
- 5) An abundance of wildlife is seen on this land including foxes and cranes.

GNLP2064 South of The Street – comments made

1. Access would be difficult as this is a private drive with access granted to the doctors surgery.(The suitability assessment had rag rated this amber)
2. The volume of traffic generated by cars parked outside the shop on the road and cars visiting the surgery make visibility already very difficult and this hazard would increase with the inevitable added traffic.

General Conclusion on all sites

Members of the public who spoke at the meeting felt strongly that access was the most significant problem with all of these sites along with an increase in traffic generated by additional development on top of what was already experienced from Norwich and neighbouring villages. Furthermore, the village offered very little employment resulting in people having to travel out of the village. Rockland St Mary was frequently used by cyclists and part of the village is covered by the National Cycle Route.

Councillor Howlett commented that on occasions the pumping station at the Staithe was unable to cope with sewerage going into The Beck. ***District Councillor Thomson said he would report this to The Broads Authority,***

Councillor Bevington said her original understanding was that the numbers of new houses being built at Bee Orchid Way could not be taken into account if submitting an argument against additional housing but information on the GNLP website suggested these could be considered. ***District Councillor Thomson will check the position.***

Councillor Bevington will draft a response to the five additional sites submitted taking account the comments made at the meeting and emails received by parishioners. It will be circulated to Councillors and then checked for accuracy at the meeting on the 12th December to be submitted before the deadline of the 14th December 2018.
AGREED AND NOTED

17.739 Financial matters:-

17.739.1 Payments - There were seven orders for payment - Data Protection Licence £40.00, J Wretham (commemorative tree) £31.19; C. Bevington (printing of newsletter) £56.20; Village Caretaker £137.00; Clerks salary and expenses £358.48; two payments to CGM Landscapes £213.91 and £213.91. In addition £614.40 Bailey Street Scene for bench (see 17.736.6 above). On the proposal of Councillor Paterson seconded by Councillor Howlett these payments were approved.

AGREED AND NOTED

17.739.2 Current balance of accounts – £16,676.09 less payments above. The Clerk confirmed the first instalment of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money in respect of the development at Bee Orchid Way amounting to £8,115.96 had been received. The members' grant to the sum of £110 had been received for the commemorative tree and plaque.

NOTED

17.740. Emergency Plan:-

The Clerk had circulated to Councillors the emergency plan for their comments. **Some amendments were required to the emergency flow chart which the Clerk will check and make the necessary alterations.**

Councillor Green suggested the Emergency Plan should be triggered when any entrance to the village is blocked for a significant period – ie beyond a day. ***A sentence to this effect will be added by the Clerk to the plan.***

AGREED AND NOTED.

17.741 Reports from Councillors on their areas of responsibility: -

17.741.1 Black Horse Dyke Car Park -

Councillor Hayward expressed his concern regarding the frequency with which the Salvation Army clothing bank was becoming full. ***It was agreed that the Clerk should post a notice on the bank asking people not to leave any clothing on the ground if the bank was full.***

Councillor Hayward also reported that Michael Brett, the Village Tree Warden, had removed some dead branches from the site.

Since the planting of the commemorative tree Councillor Hayward had received suggestions regarding creating a memorial garden for the village at the site along with some benches making a tranquil environment. ***It was agreed that the Village Caretaker would liaise with Councillor Hayward to cost some fencing with a gate to section off the grassed area*** that is currently cordoned off with tape.

Councillors reiterated their thanks to Steve Gildersleeve, the Village Caretaker, for his work in preparing the ground for the commemorative tree

AGREED AND NOTED

17.741.2 Footpath report -

Concerns were expressed about an accumulation of mud in places at Star Lane and some overgrown branches. ***It was agreed that Councillor Wretham will speak to the relevant landowner to enquire as to whether this can be remedied.***

AGREED AND NOTED

17.741.3 Rockland St Mary Primary School –

Councillor Green reiterated that good progress was being made at the School and the future of the school was much safer under the umbrella of Sapientia Education Trust.

NOTED

17.741.4 Green Lane Playing Field –

Councillor Wretham reported that he had received a compliment from a parishioner on the display and question and answer information on the proposed play equipment to be installed at Green Lane when the funding is available

The metal posts at Green Lane have yet to be removed.

NOTED

17.741.5 Rockland Broad Management Committee Meeting

Councillor Bevington reported that at the recent meeting a request had been made for the Parish Council to contact South Norfolk to request that the waste bins at the Staithe be emptied on a weekly basis from May to September as they quickly become very full during this period and any overflow of rubbish left alongside the full bins presents a hygiene risk. ***It was agreed that the Clerk would take this action.***

In order to prevent cattle straying onto the path, the Rockland Wildfowlers have erected a permanent electric fence below the footpath.

As they had contractors working in the area, Bam Nuttall agreed as a “one off “ to cut the long grass on the rear face of the bank. However, the company confirmed it was Norfolk County Council's responsibility to maintain access along the footpath.

AGREED AND NOTED

17.742 Correspondence circulated to Councillors via email and to be considered at the Parish Council meeting on the 14th November 2018.

Document	Circulated via email
Email to Councillors re. meeting with Gary Overland re. footpath (Councillors Green and Hayward attended)	15/10/2018
Email from Clerk regarding Councillors Hayward and Green footpath assessment.	17/10/2018
Emails from Councillor Wretham concerning memorial tree and plaque	Various dates
Planning application 2018/2209 134A The Street Rockland St Mary Norfolk NR14 7HL Demolish existing porch, brick up doorway and create new. Repair brickwork and pointing on adjacent wall and remove two short sections of brick garden wall Councillors asked to respond by the 13.11.2018 'No comments' replies from EG; JP; DH;KB;MH;KB	24/10/2018
Planning application 2018/2282 12 The Street Rockland St Mary Norfolk NR14 7ER Proposal: Proposed erection of cart shed. Councillors asked to respond by 9/11/2018 'No comments' replies KB; DH; MH; JW;JP;EG	24/10/2018
Norfolk ALC Newsletter	24/10/2018
Draft letter to Councillor regarding overgrown hedges	24/10/2018
Broadland & South Norfolk CLP workshop “Influencing Design” . Councillor Bevington and one other booked at the present time.	24/10/2018
Broads Authority planning application 4 Lower Road, Rockland St Mary NR14 7HS - proposed annex (planning reference no. BA2018/0400/HOUSEH. Link to the above planning application sent to Councillors	29/10/2018 1/11/2018
Letters from residents in response to the Parish Council letter re. overgrown hedges	30/10/2018
Amended Health and Safety Report	31/10/2018
Newsletter distribution	Various dates

Norfolk County Council Budget Consultation 2019/20	7/11/2018
Norfolk ALC Newsletter - 1st November	7/11/2018
Norfolk ALC AGM on 22 nd November	7/11/2018
Norfolk ALC Newsletter 7 th November 2018	7/11/2018
Broadland & S. Norfolk CLP workshops - 'Assessing & Providing for Housing Need' December events	9/11/2018
South Norfolk Newsletter Norfolk Constabulary	9/11/2018
Email from CPRE Norfolk relating to Greater Norwich Plan	9/11/2018
Emails from parishioners relating to the call for sites	9/11/2018
Email from District Councillor Thomson re. Glover Report	10/11/2018
HARD COPY OF LETTER FROM RESIDENT	
HARD COPY OF LETTER RE. GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME	
CLERKS AND COUNCILS DIRECT	

Any other business

Councillor Paterson enquired as to the frequency of the Parish Council's newsletter. Councillor Bevington envisaged this would be twice a year unless another Councillor wished to take this on.

Following a query from Councillor Paterson asked about the welcome pack, the Clerk responded that she had given hard copies to The Reverend Mandy Ansell to hand out to new residents of the village. She would also print off a copy for Councillors Paterson and Howlett

Agenda items for next meeting

Councillor Hayward asked for the risk assessment in relation to the Staithe Car Park be placed on the agenda for next month

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Next meeting Wednesday 12th December 2018

Monica Armstrong
Parish Clerk

Signed as a correct record on 12th December 2018

..... Chair