



Meeting of Rockland St Mary with Hellington Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 in the Parish Room, Rockland St Mary

Public Participation Session

The village caretaker and four parishioners attended the meeting.

County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Kay Mason Billig had sent her apologies for the meeting. She had submitted a report which was circulated to Councillors and which is available on the Parish Council website.

District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Vic Thomson joined the meeting and spoke to his report which the Clerk had circulated to all Councillors. He first referred to the need to stay safe and follow Covid procedures, particularly as cases of the Delta variant were on the rise. He then referred to the South Norfolk Council Village Clusters consultation which would take place from 9.00 am on Monday 7th June 2021 to 5.00 pm on Monday 2nd August 2021. He explained that the public consultation was an opportunity for parishioners to give their views to South Norfolk Council regarding the village sites that have been assessed for possible development. He noted that the "safe route to school" aspect of village life was one of the criteria included in the consultation, as well as the provision of bus services, as many villages had lost their bus routes as children were not using them to travel to school.

District Councillor Thomson explained that of the sites in Rockland St Mary made available for consideration in the call for sites, six had been rejected and two were regarded as possible sites for development. These are: Land south of New Inn Hill and part of Land west of Lower Road, Rockland St Mary (one site) and Land to the south of The Street, Rockland St Mary. Each of the two sites held space for up to 25 dwellings. It was further noted that South Norfolk's desired percentage of affordable housing in any development is 28% (but this is not a government mandatory target).

District Councillor Thomson spoke of a project he was working on to create a Community Broadband Scheme to give parishioners access to the Government's Rural Broadband Connectivity Scheme, which provided rural areas with access to superfast broadband by connecting fibre to households. He explained that the three main broadband routes to a property are via copper to the cabinet (ADSL), fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) and fibre to the house (FTTP), the former being the slowest and the latter being the fastest. This scheme would take properties in the parish from FTTC to FTTP. The Government was providing vouchers of £1,500 for each residential property that signs up to the scheme and £3,500 if that property has a business connected to that address, including self-employment.

District Councillor Thomson urged parishioners to refrain from adding water to their garden waste bin. This causes many problems including making the bin very heavy to lift and empty, splitting the plastic of the bin, damaging the bin lid, and causing a fire risk when the water takes sap and slurry into the gullies and troughs.

Links for information:

Information on the village clusters and sites put forward for Rockland St Mary can be found on the South Norfolk Council website <https://south-norfolk.oc2.uk/>

For a full copy of the County Councillor's and District Councillor's report and any sub-reports, visit the Parish Council website - <http://www.rocklandstmarywithhellington-pc.gov.uk>

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Present: Cllrs Kate Bevington (Chair), Catherine McCormick, Nikki Stone, Paul Francis, Mike Hayward, Ernie Green and Jo Norris. Vanessa Sewell attended as Clerk, and the village caretaker was present throughout the meeting.

18.120 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

NOTED.

18.121 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED.

18.122 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2021, copies of which had been circulated to Councillors, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.123 Matters Arising

18.123.1 Installation of bus shelter on The Street – Councillor Hayward reported that he was still waiting for the local contractor to set a date for the laying of the concrete base. Once this was in place, the Clerk would order the bus shelter.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.123.2 Staithe car park: security options – Councillor Stone reported that she was waiting on EPS to visit and provide options.

NOTED.

18.123.3 Rockland Wildfowlers Association Lease – the Clerk reported that the solicitors for both parties were in communication and that matters were in hand

NOTED.

18.123.4 Green Lane electricity wayleave payment and lease – the Clerk had not yet had a response from the lease department at UK Power Networks but she would continue to contact them regarding a new lease and potential wayleave payment.

NOTED.

18.123.5 Memorial benches for Rockland Staithe – the Clerk reported that two parishioners had offered their very generous support to sponsor a memorial bench at Rockland Staithe. The two benches had been ordered and would be installed once the contractor had removed the existing benches and prepared the ground. Councillor Stone offered to work with the contractor and village caretaker to ensure that the benches and memorial plaques were fitted correctly. It was confirmed that the two benches would be installed in the same places as the existing benches, as the Poors Trust had felt that moving them closer to the jetty and closer together might encourage larger groups to gather and perhaps take picnics, which could result in increased amounts of litter.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.123.6 Hazardous material at land adjacent to Green Lane playing field – the Clerk asked District Councillor Thomson for guidance as to reporting the hazardous items to South Norfolk Council, who had in turn asked the Planning Compliance department for information on the matter. The Planning Compliance Manager had confirmed that the hazardous waste is the responsibility of the landowner, so despite the matter being brought to the attention of the Parish Council, they are not vicariously liable as they have made contact with the landowner and therefore made the landowner aware of the situation. It follows that the landowner is responsible for any injury and for securing the land. It was noted that the Parish Council, as owners of the adjacent land, might be advised to put up signage on the borders of the land advising that the adjacent land is private and that it should not be accessed. To that end, ***it was agreed the Clerk and Councillor Green would prepare some signs to warn people to keep out of the private land adjacent to the playing field.***

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.123.7 One Million Trees initiative – Councillor McCormick reported that she had received a response from Norfolk County Council's project leader advising that an electronic application form would be made available by the end of June.

NOTED.

18.123.8 Ditch maintenance responsibility: response from landowner – the Clerk reported that she had chased the landowner for a response to the request for ditch clearance on the land on Bramerton Lane in-between Applebee and Bramerton but had not received a reply. ***The Clerk would continue to await a response from the landowner.*** On the matter of ditch maintenance, Councillor Francis reported that there had been no action from the Highways Department to carry out the flood-relief work on Low Common. If this has not been carried out by the end of June ***he will inform the Clerk who will then contact Gary Overland.***

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.123.9 Parish Partnership funding for 20mph signs – the Clerk reported that funding had been granted and that the amount of £3,027 (50% of the cost of installation) was now payable. Following receipt of this amount, the County Council would place an order for the work.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.123.10 Correspondence with Sapientia Trust regarding Primary School – on behalf of the Parish Council the Chair had written to Jonathan Taylor, CEO of Sapientia Education Trust & NLE to express concern regarding the resignation of the current Head Teacher and the fact that she was the 10th Head Teacher the School had had within a period of seven years. Mr Taylor had responded that he was in discussion with colleagues about the next steps for the appointment of a new Head Teacher.

NOTED.

18.123.11 Village gateway signs – the Clerk reported that Gary Overland from the Highways Department had advised that unfortunately there had been a mix-up in the design process of the signs which had resulted in an incorrect order. Mr Overland had reallocated the sign work to another designer and hoped that the sign could be ordered within the next two weeks with the anticipation that the signs would be installed in early to mid-September.

NOTED.

18.124 South Norfolk village clusters plan

Four parishioners had joined the meeting for this item. The Chair explained that notices regarding the consultation would be put onto the village noticeboards and the Parish Council website and inviting parishioners to send their comments to the parish council for consideration. At the next Parish Council meeting time would be allocated for parishioners to attend and share their views. (Note: Numbers will be very strictly limited due to Covid restrictions.) The Parish Council would compile a response to South Norfolk Council taking into account the views expressed by parishioners on this matter but the Chair stressed that comments must be based on material considerations only, so for example stating an objection to development based on not wanting any more housing in the village is not a material consideration.

The Chair then asked the four parishioners for their views; these were all objections to development on the two sites and the reasons given were as follows:

- Current road network is not able to take the extra traffic
- The doctor's surgery does not have the capacity for additional patients
- The proposed sites are outside the linear line of the village
- The proposed sites would interfere with wildlife and spoil the rural look, feel and character of the village
- Further development will set a precedent for future development
- Parishioners had been promised that no further development would take place after the recent Bee Orchid Way development was built
- The village infrastructure cannot cope with an additional 25-50 new homes
- The proposed development would have a significant impact on the historic environment
- The view from and to parts of the village would alter significantly and detrimentally
- Development would have a huge impact on the landscape
- Development would affect tourism to the area – walkers, visitors to the Broads come to see the beautiful views and enjoy peace and tranquillity
- Concern as to whether the current sewage system would support further housing

Suggestions were offered by a parishioner regarding the process of objecting to development on the proposed sites. This parishioner had taken advice from an independent planning

consultant. Councillor McCormick asked the parishioners present for their views on residents' feelings regarding development on the two proposed sites. It was generally felt that there was a deep concern that development would set a precedent for greater development of the village.

It was noted that parishioners who do not have access to the internet or who are not comfortable with using the online response facility must be provided with details of alternative ways to share their views on the proposed development sites. ***The Clerk would contact District Councillor Thomson to ask for his views on this.***

The Chair wished to encourage all parishioners with views on the two proposed development sites to contact the Parish Council and, if they were able to, to visit the South Norfolk Council planning consultation online platform <https://south-norfolk.oc2.uk/>

Three parishioners left the meeting and one parishioner stayed for the remainder of the meeting.
AGREED AND NOTED.

18.125 Planning matters

18.125.1 New applications

Application Number: 2021/0771

Application Type: Works to TPO trees

Grid Ref: 632191 304541

Location: 124 The Street Rockland St Mary NR14 7HL

Proposal: Pine - fell to ground level

NOTED.

18.125.2 Decisions

Application Type: PD Change from Barn to Dwelling

Location: Store Hellington Hill Hellington Norfolk NR14 7BU

Proposal: Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use and associated building works of an agricultural building to a 1 no dwelling house (QA and QB)

Decision: Approval of details - Approved

Date of decision: 12 May 2021

NOTED.

18.126 Financial matters

18.126.1 Orders for payment – there were four orders for payment: Clerk's salary and expenses £344.86; Village Caretaker £225; HMRC Employer's Tax & NIC £14; Norfolk County Council/Parish Partnership for 20mph signs £3,027. On the proposal of Councillor Stone, seconded by Councillor Norris, these payments were approved.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.126.2 Current balance of accounts – the Clerk reported that the current balance at the bank was £29,648.21.

NOTED.

18.126.3 Provision for additional bank account for CIL money – Councillor Green had contacted the bank to ask whether a separate account could be set up for CIL money. The bank had said that this could be set up if required.

NOTED.

18.126.4 Accounts software – Councillor Green had trialled the software for the Parish Council accounts and had found it to be satisfactory for the accounting needs of the Parish Council. Once the three-month free trial period had expired the subscription cost would be £5 per month. It was agreed that this software would be beneficial to the accounting process and Councillors therefore agreed to sign up to the package on that basis.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.127 Correspondence

18.127.1 Feedback from previous correspondence – there was no feedback from previous correspondence.

NOTED.

18.127.2 Correspondence circulated prior to the meeting – listed below.

Weekly list of planning applications and decisions for week ending 7 May 2021	10.05.21
Covid recovery report from District Councillor	11.05.21
Report from County Councillor	11.05.21
Report from District Councillor	16.05.21
Email re No Cold Calling Zone	16.05.21
Email re CPRE Norfolk's Annual Lecture	19.05.21
Report from County Councillor	19.05.21
Weekly list of planning applications and decisions for week ending 14 May 2021	19.05.21
Draft minutes of May PC meeting	20.05.21
Draft minutes of April APM	20.05.21
Email re hazardous items at Green Lane	25.05.21
Email re signage at Rookery Cottages	01.06.21
BHIB Local Councils Insurance Renewal Confirmation	01.06.21
Email re Parish Councils webinar: South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan consultation	01.06.21
Guidelines for community events from South Norfolk Council	02.06.21
Email re new Broadland and South Norfolk Council website	02.06.21
Email re Norwich Western Link project update	02.06.21
Email re Vattenfall - Norfolk Projects' Community Benefit Fund	02.06.21
Letter from the Chairman of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance	02.06.21
Invitation from Norfolk ALC Wellbeing - webinar to meet the High Sheriff	05.06.21
Email from Norfolk ALC Wellbeing re follow-up to the GreenWays to Green Spaces webinar	05.06.21

- The matter relating to concerns about cold-calling had been resolved.
- A request from a parishioner to the Parish Council to install signage at a private dwelling would be referred back to the parishioner as this did not fall under the Parish Council's remit.
- The Chair would be attending the Parish Councils Zoom webinar: South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan consultation on 10th June.

NOTED.

18.128 Review of Policies

18.128.1 Financial Regulations – the Clerk had circulated the policy to all Councillors prior to the meeting. There were no amendments and the policy was approved by Councillors.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.128.2 Bullying and Harassment Policy – the Clerk had circulated the policy to all Councillors prior to the meeting. There were no amendments and the policy was approved by Councillors.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.129 Reports from Councillors on their areas of responsibility

18.129.1 Black Horse Dyke & Rockland Staithe car parks – Councillor Hayward had reported to the Clerk that the clothes bank was full, and the Clerk had contacted the Salvation Army to request that it is emptied. This would be carried out in the coming days. It was noted that items had been left on the ground outside the clothes bank; ***the Clerk would arrange for signage to be put up on the clothes bank to request that items are not left on the ground if the clothes bank is full.***

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.129.2 Footpath report – the Chair read out a letter from a parishioner regarding trespassing on the grassland opposite Hellington Church. ***It was agreed that the Clerk would place signage on the village noticeboards and Parish Council website requesting that walkers keep to the public footpaths and refrain from trespassing on private land. She would also write to the parishioner to that effect.*** The Chair also reported that a parishioner had raised concerns about an overgrown hedge backing onto the public footpath which runs adjacent to The Street. The

Clerk had written to the landowner in November 2020 and had been assured that the hedge would be cut back earlier this year. However, the parishioner had recently contacted the Clerk to advise that this work had not been carried out. The Clerk had again contacted the landowner to request that the hedge is cut back; the landowner agreed that they would arrange for the hedge to be cut back but that this would not take place until the end of the bird nesting season. ***It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the landowner again in September if the hedge had not been cut back by then.*** The Chair then reported that a parishioner had informed the Parish Council that Footpath 5 in Hellington was very overgrown and almost impassable, and that Footpath 8 in Claxton (a cross-field path leading to Green Lane) was totally impassable due to oilseed rape growing. ***It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to the landowners concerned to request that the footpaths are cleared.***

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.129.3 Rockland St Mary Primary School – see Matters Arising 18.123.10.

NOTED.

18.129.4 Green Lane playing field – Councillor Stone reported that a bin had been destroyed and thrown into the nettles on Friday 4th June in the afternoon/evening. ***The Clerk would report this matter to the Police.*** Two new bins had been ordered. Councillor Stone reminded Councillors that a safety inspection was due in August/September.

AGREED AND NOTED.

18.129.5 Climate recovery – see Matters Arising 18.123.7. Councillor McCormick noted that Barry Stone, former County Councillor, had also offered trees for the village and therefore ***the Clerk would write to the new County Councillor to request that the trees are made available once the project has begun, to supplement trees from the One Million Trees project.***

AGREED AND NOTED.

Any other business

The Clerk notified Councillors that the Community Foundation Grant (awarded to the Parish Council in April 2020 for Covid support in the parish) had a balance of £690.80 outstanding, which she suggested might be repaid as it was not being used. Councillor Stone suggested that it would be wise to retain the grant money in case it is needed for Covid support, particularly given that the pandemic situation is ever-changing. It was therefore agreed to keep the grant money for Covid-related support as and when required, until such time as the Parish Council is required to refund the grant. Councillor Frances requested that the dog waste bin on Low Common in Hellington be re-sited further down the road to the corner of the footpath. This was agreed. ***Councillor Francis would move the bin and the Clerk would inform South Norfolk Council that this had been done.***

AGREED AND NOTED.

Parishioners' Final Word

The parishioner present asked if the Parish Council knew of details on the work being carried out by UK Power Networks at the end of the month. The village caretaker reported that work would be carried out on the overhead cabling.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Date of next planned meeting – Wednesday 7th July 2021

Vanessa Sewell
Parish Clerk

Signed as a correct record by the Chair.....

Date