

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF TUESDAY 17th APRIL 2018

Chairman - Cllr Peter Eldridge

Clerk - Mrs Alison Doe

52 members of the public attended the meeting

(Copies of all reports submitted were available at the meeting and have been published on the Hingham Town Council website).

1. Welcome, and to Receive Apologies for Absence

The Chairman opened the meeting, thanking everyone for attending. Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Shaun Conway, PC Andy Read, PC Jim Squires, Barbara Howard (Community Connector), Lindsey Read (Hingham Tennis), Heather Juby (Bereavement Support Group and Methodist Church), Nicki Lazelle (Mill Farm Allotments Tenants Ass.), Carol Harris (History Centre), Vicky Newrick (Hingham Primary School), Cllr Kate Chan, Cllr Pat Dore and David Ryland.

2. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 18th April 2017

The minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 18th April 2017

MIN 6.2 – (speeding) The Clerk confirmed that the Norfolk County Council had installed the signage to complete the extension of the 20mph speed limit through the Fairland.

4. Address by Hingham Town Council Chairman including:

4.1 To receive a summary report from the Chairman on the work of the Town Council during the past year and its plans for the future.

A written report from the Chairman was included in the papers for the meeting. The Chairman gave a verbal address, reiterating the budgetary and legislative constraint that the Town Council works within and spoke of the frustration of the time it can take for other authorities to deal with issues reported to them but advised that it is important for residents report things to the correct authority (be it Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council or the police), who have the power to deal with the issue in question.

The Chairman spoke of the car parking issues in Hingham and advised that this is not easily resolved without a suitable piece of land being available (without being cost prohibitive).

The Town Council's plans for the coming year include replacement of some old street lighting and to continue to put on events for the community.

Draft copies of the 2017/18 accounts were available at the meeting.

4.2 Chairman's Award for Services to the Community

The Chairman had decided this year the award should recognize the work of Melvyn Vincent who has served as a retained Fire Fighter at the Hingham Fire station for 35 years and was now retiring from this role - A certificate was presented to Melvyn. The Chairman added that the award was also in thanks to and in recognition of all of the fire fighters who put their life on the line and give their time to help others. A round of applause was given.

5. Guest Speakers

5.1 Chris Tilley - Clayland Estates Ltd.

Speaking on "Parcel of land (Watton Road) proposed for development in the "Call for Sites" for the Greater Norwich Development Plan"

Chris Tilley was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Tilley spoke of his company's promotion of a piece of land (opposite the Watton Road sports center) for development through the Greater Norwich Local Plan. Mr Tilley explained that he was aware that development within communities is quite often unwanted and therefore wanted to "open the lines of communication" between himself and the community so that should the parcel of land be

allocated for development he can work with the community to ensure that the development is planned taking into account the views of what the community want. The Chairman thanked Mr Tilley for attending and speaking at the meeting.

5.2 Tony Abel and Paul LeGrice- Abel Homes Ltd.

Speaking on “Building ‘The Hops’ development within the Community of Hingham” Tony Abel and Paul LeGrice were welcomed to the meeting. They gave a PowerPoint presentation where Mr Abel spoke about his family’s long standing history, living and working in Hingham, going back to his great, great grandparents through to his parents and himself.

Mr Abel spoke about the development in Hingham by Abel Homes prior to the Hops – (Admiral Gardens, Hardingham Road and Gardeners Green)

Mr LeGrice took to the floor to talk about the Hops development. In designing the development, triangular open spaces were incorporated to reflect the greens in the Market Place and Fairland. The houses include solar panels, air source heating and high levels of insulation to achieve an A rating for energy efficiency. The first residents moved in, in the summer of 2016 and currently there are only 6 properties left to sell. The development has proved very popular with the first opening of a show home seeing people queuing outside to view. The development provides 59 homes for the open market and 29 affordable homes.

Mr LeGrice went on to talk about Abel Homes support to the local community, with the company awarding donations to the Cricket Club, Football Club, Tennis Club, St Andrews Church, Hingham Primary School and Hingham Town Council Events Working Party. The sale of Hops Beer has also generated further funding, with £1 donation per bottle sold, being made to a fund for “good causes” in Hingham, (to be distributed by the Town Council). The Company also funded the installation of outdoor gym equipment at the sports center. Abel Homes have also been working with the Primary School to design much needed extensions and new facilities at the school. The design would cost £2.5million to implement, and Mr Abel expressed disappointment that the primary school hadn’t benefited from the Community Infrastructure Levy funding. Abel Homes will look to promote the land to the east of the Hops for development (through the GNLP) and hope that this will generate significant CIL funding for the community.

A public art installation will be unveiled at the Hops development in May.

Speaking to Mr Abel, District Cllr Bendle advised that £75,000 of CIL funding had been allocated to Hingham Primary School (next year).

A member of the public asked if, should a further development be built, that the community be involved in choosing road names, therefore giving the opportunity to commemorate people (by naming a road after them). It was explained by Mrs Abel (who was seated in the audience) that the company’s previous experience of doing this was that it was very difficult, as permission had to be obtained from every living member of that person’s family. Road name choices also have to be approved by Royal Mail and South Norfolk Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Abel and Mr Legrice for attending and speaking at the meeting.

6. Open Forum to Discuss Matters Raised by the General Public

6.1 A query was raised regarding the progress on the installation of the mobile phone mast in the church, Rev Reed advised that no equipment had been installed as yet. Network Coverage Solutions had assessed the church tower for suitability, and although payments have been made to the church, there was no indication of when the equipment would be installed. Rev Reed reiterated that there would be no visible mast, but transmitters inside the church tower. The equipment would serve the O2 and Vodafone networks.

6.2 A resident advised that several properties on Bond Street had suffered from attempted break-ins, and urged anyone who believes someone may have attempted to break in to their property

to report it to the police. The Police need to be made aware if there are crimes being committed in Hingham to ensure resources are deployed to the town.

7. To Receive Reports from Hingham Clubs, Societies, Charities and Organizations etc. (approximately 5mins each)

Written reports from the following Clubs, Societies, Charities and Organizations were circulated and a verbal overview was given by the Chairman (the reports are appended to these minutes) any additional verbal updates given at the meeting are recorded as below:

7.1. HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

The Chairman thanked Cllr Maltby for all of her hard work on the Events Working Party, setting up the community events in Hingham, helping to put Hingham “on the map”. Cllr Maltby has decided to step down from this role, and the Chairman asked for anyone who wishes to help with events to let the Clerk know. The Clerk advised that the Market in the Market Place would take place on June 16th and all of the clubs are encouraged to take part this year. The Clerk also advised that any community organization holding an event could forward a poster or information to her for inclusion on the Hingham Community Events facebook page, which has over 250 followers.

7.2. COMMUNITY CONNECTOR

7.3. HINGHAM COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The Community Speed Watch are looking for new volunteers, who could spare about an hour a fortnight. So far the speed watch have held 8 road side sessions which has resulted in 24 letters being sent from the police to speeding drivers, if a driver receives a 3rd letter, this is hand delivered by the police. The process is based on re-educating drivers rather than enforcement based. A new light weight radar gun is now available and the road side sessions will only take place if the weather conditions are suitable. Anyone who would like to see what volunteering for the Speed Watch involves would be welcome to join in on a road side session. Thanks were offered to the current Speed Watch volunteers.

7.4. HINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

A representative from the Friends of Hingham Primary School thanked the community for its support and advised that the friends put on many fund raising events though out the year.

7.5. HINGHAM COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

The Community Car Scheme has a new administrator. The Scheme is seeing a higher number of journeys and is trying to improve links with other organizations to reach more residents living alone who may benefit from the service. More volunteer drivers would be most welcome, with the costs being met from the client (50%) and funding from Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council and Hingham Town Council.

7.6. HINGHAM BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The group are looking to function as a safe social place for people, as well as offering more in depth support.

7.7. HINGHAM LUNCHEON CLUB

7.8. HINGHAM GOOD NEIGHBOURS SCHEME

While there isn't a big demand for this scheme it is valued very much by those who do use it.

7.9. LINCOLN SOCIAL CENTRE

The Lincoln Social Centre Committee are looking for a new chairperson.

7.10. HINGHAM CHARITY

7.11. HINGHAM EDUCATION TRUST

The trust continues to support students from all walks of life through university, and many letters of thanks have been received over the years. The trust has a new

secretary following the retirement of Pam Chapman, thanks was offered to Pam for her many years work.

7.12. THE HINGHAM SOCIETY

The year's activities were knocked a little through bereavement and poor weather. Thanks was offered to the land owners for keeping the Right of Way and permissive paths over their land much more open. The Society currently has 542 members and any new members would be welcome, (annual membership costs £1.00). The society hope to undertake a survey to ascertain resident preferred sites for development through the GNLP.

7.13. HINGHAM HISTORY CENTRE

7.14. GARDENING CLUB

7.15. MILL FARM ALLOTMENTS TENANTS ASS.

The tenants association is recently formed and will work with the trustees to enable more people to use the allotments.

7.16. HINGHAM W.I

7.17. HIGNHAM SANTA'S GROTTO

The Grotto has been in Hingham since 2014 and gives a lovely focal point for the town over the Christmas period. An additional building was erected for Christmas 2017.

The Committee would like to hear from anyone wishing to volunteer to help with the grotto (be it on the committee or with the building and dismantling of the grotto).

7.18. HINGHAM AND HARDINGHAM ART GROUP

The Chairman thanked the art group for bringing some of some of their work for a display for the evening.

7.19. ST ANDREWS HERITAGE FUND

The heritage fund holds events to raise money purely for the fabric of the building. Work is needed to the guttering and some flooring and it is estimated that the building costs £150 per day to run. Concerns were raised that some of the concerts held in the church do not attract may Hingham residents. Most attendees come from further afield, and the committee would like to hear any ideas for the type of events/concerts that Hingham people would like to see held in the church.

7.20. HINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

7.21. ST ANDREWS CHURCH

The new heating and lighting has made a huge difference to the church, and has opened up the possibility of the church being used by the community for many more events and activities. Catering inside the church is also possible. Rev. Reed thanked the Chairman for his/the Councils support, and gave apologies for any inconvenience caused by the over run of the Attleborough Road closure while the heating/lighting was being installed.

7.22. HINGHAM RECTORY BOWLS CLUB

Thanks was offered to District Cllr Bendle for the support from SNC. The club building still needs a lot of improvement work for which the club will be fundraising. The building is now hosting a Zumba class on a Thursday.

7.23. HINGHAM BOWMEN ARCHERY CLUB

7.24. HINGHAM CRICKET CLUB

7.25. HINGHAM TENNIS CLUB

7.26. HINGHAM PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

The AGM will be held on 23rd May 2018. The Association is looking for new committee members.

8. To receive Annual Reports from County and District Councillors

Written reports from Cllrs Yvonne Bendle and Margaret Dewsbury were circulated (the reports are appended to these minutes) any additional verbal updates given at the meeting are recorded as below:

8.1 District Councillor Yvonne Bendle

District Cllr Bendle said how nice it was to part of a community with so many activities and societies and she was pleased to be able to help with awarding grants to help fund community projects.

Cllr Bendle reported that South Norfolk Council are trying to be entrepreneurial and innovative as this helps to secure funding from Central Government. For example the Early Help Hub and Community Connectors initiative which brings together 27 different organizations enabling clients to “tell their story once” in order to access the right help and advice, and by working with the NHS to place Community Connectors in Dr’s surgeries helps people to access help locally. South Norfolk Council are also working with the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital to enable people to leave hospital earlier, by talking to patients when they are admitted to hospital and ensuring necessary adjustments have been made to their homes (for example installation of grab rails).

Cllr Bendle explained that the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is collected by South Norfolk Council, 80% of the fees collected from developers go into a pot administered by Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council, Norwich City Council and Broadland Council (as per the Joint Core Strategy), the CIL money goes toward funding major infrastructure projects, such as the NDR and the planned improvements to the Thickthorn Roundabout.

8.2 County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury

County Council Dewsbury gave a verbal overview of her written report, emphasizing the need for more foster carers as more children are going into care.

Cllr Dewsbury also advised that the Highways Parish Partnership scheme would run and applications would be invited later in the year. She also advised that there were 4 vehicles available for filling potholes and encouraged residents to report potholes to Norfolk County Council so they can be added to the schedule for fixing.

Praise was given for the efforts of staff and the firemen during the “Beast from the East”.

Cllr Dewsbury concluded by outlining the County Council’s new vision entitled “Caring for our County”. This together with a new operational plan called Norfolk Futures hopes to find new ways to supply the increasing demand for services. The focus will be on demand management, prevention and early help.

The Chairman thanked both Cllr Bendle and Cllr Dewsbury for their work and the support they give to the town and community.

9. To Discuss Any Other Business

- 9.1 A resident advised of an incident of dog fouling, when the owner of the dog had knocked on her door to ask for a bag, rather than leaving the dog waste in the road.
- 9.2 A resident raised concerns that the bus services would be cut. Cllr Dewsbury confirmed that as a result of a recent consultation, the bus services would not be cut.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.