

As a mark of respect to former Hingham Town Councillor Roger Bendle who has recently died, the Council observed a minute's silence prior to the commencement of the meeting. Roger was a Town Councillor for a number of years and was also Secretary and Poppy Appeal collection organiser for the Royal British Legion for 12 years. The Town Council offer their sincere condolences to our District Councillor Yvonne Bendle.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE LINCOLN HALL ON TUESDAY 07 DECEMBER 2021. THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.30pm.

Present

Cllr Eldridge – Chairman

Cllr Foord, Cllr Overton, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Sta Ana and Cllr Thompson

Clerk, Alison Doe

There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amey, Cllr Christien, Cllr Dunnett, District Cllr Bendle and County Cllr Dewsbury.

2. Public participation session - (15 minutes) (Members of the public may make a statement or ask a question of not more than three minutes duration)

There were no members of the public present and no points were raised under public participation.

3. Declarations of interests with regard to items on the agenda and to consider requests for dispensations

Cllr Eldridge and Cllr Sta Ana declared an interest in agenda item 17.1.

Cllr Eldridge advised that he had previously used both companies that had submitted quotes for the bus shelter refurbishment, to be included in the Parish Partnership bid, agenda item 27

4. To agree a Chairman to preside over any agenda items of this meeting, if both the Chairman and Vice Chair are unable to preside due to (agenda item 1) Apologies for absence and /or (agenda item 3) Declarations of interests

Cllr Foord agreed to Chair agenda item 17.1.

5. To consider any applications for co-option on to the Town Council

There were no application for co-option onto the Town Council.

6. To agree the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 02 November 2021

The Clerk advised that a representative of the Hingham Road Safety Campaign group had emailed to request that the minutes be altered to better reflect the submission made at the meeting of 02 November. The Clerk advised that she had written the minutes with reference to a copy of the written submission which was read out by the HRSC group representative, and was confident that the minutes accurately reflect the points raised by the HRSC group.

The minutes were agreed as correct without any amendment and were signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes of 02 November 2021 (and other updates contained in a written Clerks report circulated prior to the meeting, see appendix A)

The Chairman thanked everyone who was involved in the putting up and decorating of the town Christmas Tree.

Cllr Sta Ana advised that she would contact 3 companies for pricing on the Neighbourhood Plan leaflets.

8. Working Party Reports

The Neighbourhood Plan working party had met on 17 November and reported that progress on the leaflet was taking longer than first anticipated but was nearly complete. The leaflet should be ready to deliver in early January, for responses by the end of January.

The new email address has been set up, hinghamplan@gmail.com. All members of the working party had been given the log in details.

The Clerk had contacted Rachel Legget to advise that the Council had agreed to use her for project management of the Neighbourhood Plan project. Rachel had been given an outline of what the working party had done so far. Rachel will provide some costing details to help with the grant applications.

The Clerk confirmed that the designated area had been agreed by South Norfolk Council. This has gone on the Town Council website and needs to be on display in the Market Place notice board.

Cllr Sta Ana will set up and start working on the website using web address Hinghamplan.org.uk. The information in the leaflet can be used to provide some text, and the area designation needs to be included.

The Clerk advised that she did not have enough information to make the funding application as the moment at it required a breakdown of costs and a timeline for the project.

Cllr Thompson and Cllr Sta Ana had been working on artwork from photographs and sketches using digital editing software, which had produced some good results.

The Clerk advised that the google docs facility attached to the email address would work well for storing documents and photographs.

A timeline had been drafted showing it should be feasible to complete the project in 2 years.

9. Reports from representatives on external bodies/ attendees of external meetings/training

9.1 Lincoln Hall

It was reported that a Manager had been appointed for the Sports and Social Club and that the sports centre was now being used for lots of events with recent event such as an afternoon tea for the elderly, music events and a Christmas Fair all being very successful. It was noted that the Manager was doing an excellent job promoting the sports hall.

10. General Correspondence (information/circulars etc)

10.1 Hingham Baby and Toddler Group, Wellbeing Fair Sunday 30 January 2022

10.2 Annette Feeney Programme Officer, Greater Norwich Local Plan Examination

The Clerk advised that updates were published on the GNLP website.

10.3 South Norfolk Council, Lovel Local Christmas Gift Campaign

10.4 Norfolk ALC Bulletin

It was suggested that information regarding Avian Flu should be included in the parish magazine.

10.5 Norfolk County Council, Budget Consultation for 2022/23

Councillors were encouraged to respond to the consultation individually.

10.6 Norfolk County Council, Free school meals to continue this Christmas, as council reveals £6.7m Household Support Fund

10.7 Norfolk County Council, Let's do our bit to prepare for winter rain

10.8 Hingham & Deopham Wards Newsletter from your Local Policing Neighbourhood Team

11. Correspondence (not for public inspection) as addressed directly to Hingham Town Council (from residents etc. and may contain personal information)
 - 11.1 Resident, response to the Hingham Road Safety Campaign report in the Parish Magazine
 It was noted that the HRSC report in the Parish Magazine was not a true reflection of what the Town Council were trying to achieve by working with Norfolk County Council highways to try to bring about improvements, while having to recognise that NCC highways are working under severe budgetary constraints.
 The Clerk had sent a full response to the resident.
 It was noted that the correspondence from the resident was not favourable towards the HRSC group and thanked the Town Council for being realistic in their approach to trying to bring about road safety improvements to the town.
 - 11.2 Visitor, Hingham Toilets (praise for cleanliness)
 The Clerk confirmed that she had passed on the thanks and praise on to the cleaner.
12. To discuss and agree any required responses/actions in relation to any item(s) of correspondence
 No further action/responses required.
13. District Councillor's report
 District Councillor Bendle had sent her apologies and was not present at the meeting.
14. County Councillor's report
 County Councillor Dewsbury had sent her apologies and was not present at the meeting, she had asked for her best wishes to be passed on, hoping that everyone has a happy and healthy Christmas.
15. Planning Decisions
 - 15.1 2021/2082: Pyrus Communis - thin canopy by 15% and raise the crown to give 4-5m clearance, remove deadwood, Salix Caprea - fell to ground level.
 18 Dereham Road Hingham NR9 4HH. Approval with conditions
 - 15.2 2021/2104: Erection of side two storey extension with front dormer and additional front entrance
 The Folly 2 Folly Lane Hingham Norfolk NR9 4JE. Approval with conditions
 - 15.3 2021/2072: Proposed single storey side and rear extensions and demolition of dining room and detached garage
 9A The Fields Hingham Norfolk NR9 4JG. Approval with conditions
 - 15.4 2021/1831: Proposed extensions and alterations
 8 Hall Moor Road Hingham NR9 4LB. Approval with conditions
16. Planning Applications (as notified by SNC for consultation)
 - 16.1 2021/2436: Proposed single storey side extension and alterations
 23 The Glen Norwich Street Hingham Norfolk NR9 4LJ
 The Council agreed to recommend approval
 - 16.2 2021/2305: Single storey rear extension
 27 Dereham Road Hingham NR9 4HH
 The Council agreed to recommend approval

- 16.3 2021/2105: New stabling and feed storage barn with manage (all weather turn out area).
The Barn White Lodge Farm Hardingham Road Hingham NR9 4LY
The Council agreed to recommend approval
- 16.4 2021/2294 Amended Application: Mast and associated supporting apparatus
Grass Verge At Dereham Road Hingham Norfolk
It was noted that Hall Farm had submitted further concerns regarding this application due to the amended location being in the vicinity of/on top of the mains water supply.
The Council raised concerns that the amended application was not a significant improvement on the original application. With the equipment nearer to the ditch concerns were raised that there would be insufficient room for the ditch and the hedge to be adequately cleared and maintained. It was also raised that the verge is a frequently used pedestrian route and that the new location for the equipment would push pedestrians further toward the verge edge and the road, noting that this is a 60MPH limit and the verge is significantly higher than the road. Concerns were raised that the placing of the equipment on the verge would likely remove the future possibility of road widening or the installation of a pavement. It was also noted that the size and scale of equipment would be visually detrimental to the approach to Hingham.

17. Planning Appeal

- 17.1 2021/0258: Location: 8 Pitts Square Hingham NR9 4LD
Proposal: Two-storey side extension, single-storey rear extension, and new entrance porch
The Council had previously agree to recommend that the application be approved. It was noted that this was a planning appeal and the council agreed that they did not wish to submit additional comments.

18 (other planning applications where the Town Council is not a consultee – for information only)

- 18.1 2021/2499: Under an exception of the TPO (TPO234) - Remove deadwood
Hardingham Street Hingham Norfolk NR9 4JB
- 18.2 2021/2409: T1 Sycamore - fell. T3 Common Beech - crown reduction, reduce height from 18m to 15.5m and reduce spread from 9m to approximately 6.5m. T4 Common Horse Chestnut - reduce over highway by 2.5m. T5 Common Horse Chestnut - reduce over highway by 2.5m. T6 Common Lime - reduce height only from 20.6m to 17.1m. T7 Common Horse Chestnut - crown reduction, reduce height from 17.6m to 15.1m and reduce spread from 9, to 6.5m. T8 Common Beech - fell, replace with Copper Beech. T9 Copper Beech - crown reduction, reduce height from 19m to 16.5m and reduce spread from 9 to 6.5m. T10 Sycamore - fell. Open for comment icon
The Rectory Attleborough Road Hingham NR9 4HP

Items 19 to 25 Finance

19. To approve the Accounts for Payment (as listed below)

It was noted that the Community Car Scheme payment was for financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

The accounts for payment were approved and the cheques were signed.

REF NO	TOTAL	PAYEE	DETAILS	VAT
104228	£1,070.49	staff	WAGES (£1065.51)	
			binbags (£4.98)	£0.83

REF NO	TOTAL	PAYEE	DETAILS	VAT
104229	£1,153.62	staff	WAGES (£1,031.86)	
			Signs (£27.96)	
			Craft items Tree decorations (£93.80)	£15.63
d/d	£80.82	NEST	PENSION	
104230	£240.00	COZENS (UK) LTD	STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE	£40.00
104231	£634.90	NPOWER	STREET LIGHT ENERGY	£105.82
104227	£120.00	DIAMON SERVICES (EA) LTD	ELECTRIAL TEST TOILETS	£20.00
104232	£3,087.17	TTSR LTD	GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT	£514.53
104233	£30.00	VUE IT TRAINING	WORD ACCESSIBLE TRAINING	
104234	£600.00	NORFOLK CITIZENS ADVICE	DONATION	
104235	£171.00	SLCC	MEMBERSHIP	
104236	£3,564.45	HINGHAM AND DISTRICT	COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME	
	£10,752.45	Total	Total VAT	£696.81

It was noted that The Lincoln Hall Committee had requested a replacement for cheque number 104226 for £400.00 (hall/storage room hire) as the cheque was accidentally destroyed. A replacement cheque was signed.

20. To receive and discuss the draft minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting of 16 November 2021
The draft minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting were circulated prior to the meeting, it was noted that the minutes will be approved at the next meeting of the Finance Committee.
21. To discuss and agree the budget for 2022/2023
At the Finance Committee meeting of 16 November, the Committee considered the current and previous financial years' income and expenditure figures and agreed a draft 2022/23 budget. The financial information and the draft budget were forwarded to all Cllrs prior to this Town Council meeting. The Council considered the draft budget and agreed the 2022/2023 budget (as recommended by the Finance Committee) (see appendix B).
22. To discuss and agree the parish precept for 2022/23
The Clerk had prepared various options for setting the precept amount. The Council agreed to request a precept of £77,000, noting that the precept for the current financial year is £77,000 but the tax base for 2022/23 had changed, therefore a precept of £77,000 for 2022/23 would result in a small decrease equivalent of £1.62 a year on a band D property.
23. Proposal to invite tenders for an internal auditor for (2021/22) financial year-end audit
It was agreed that tenders should be invited and that this should be advertised in the parish magazine. The Clerk will contact the previous internal auditor.
24. Proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan working party / Clerk to apply to Locality for the Neighbourhood Plan funding (as required)
It was agreed that the Working Party should apply for relevant funding as required.

25. **To acknowledge/agree that the Town Council will provide sufficient funds to cover costs of the Neighbourhood Plan for work undertaken prior to external funding being secured and if external funding is not available/sufficient**
It was agreed that the Town Council would fulfil any external funding shortfall relating to the Hingham Neighbourhood Plan.
26. **To consider/agree the agreement provided by the Neighbourhood plan consultant**
A copy of the agreement was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was raised that there needed to be a mechanism to ensure that the Working Party were confident that each stage had been completed prior to the consultancy payment being requested at a Town Council meeting. Concerns were raised regarding the "additional expenses" clause, the Clerk advised that any additional expenses incurred were not likely to occur without prior knowledge and agreement of the Working Party, for example, the consultant would not attend meetings with the steering group, or undertake work outside scope of the agreement without prior instruction from the Working Party.
It was agreed that the agreement should be signed, and that when written the terms of reference for the steering group include the assurance that staged work was complete before payment is requested.
27. **To approve the details of the Parish Partnership bid to Norfolk County Council (bid to be submitted by 10 December 2021)**
The Clerk had prepared a bid for funding for the renovations of the Market Place bus shelter, which was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The bid included 2 quotations and different options for planters to be included for the outside of the bus shelter. The Clerk advised funding would be on a 50/50 basis and that she had applied for funding based on the higher quotation as this reflected a more substantial refurbishment, however NCC may decide to agree to funding at the lower quotation, in which case the Town Council could fund the shortfall if they considered that the higher quotation offered a more appropriate refurbishment. Having 2 quotations in hand offered a contingency should one company decline the contract. It was noted that NCC would notify of their decision in March/April 2022.
It was agreed to submit the bid as prepared by the Clerk.
28. **To receive and update on and discuss the Norfolk County Council Cycling Racks project**
The officer at NCC had advised that the cycle racks that the Town Council had in storage could be installed as part of the scheme. NCC was querying whether the Town Council wanted new cycle racks in the Market Place (at junction with Bond Street) or if the existing racks could be utilised with better signage. It was noted that the current heritage post and rail style racks are not obvious as cycle racks and are rarely used and that signage would increase the street clutter. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with NCC to see what options would be for signage and from replacement cycle racks.
NCC had confirmed that cycle parking on the Fairland spur road would not be a viable option for resolving the current motor vehicle parking issues.
29. **To receive acknowledgement from Norfolk County Council of the successful application for free trees**
It was noted that a pack of 10 trees were due to be received by 10th December.
30. **Update on highway issues including the meeting with the Norfolk County Council Highways Engineer**
Cllr Thompson, Cllr Roberts and the Clerk met with the Highways Engineer on 25th November 2021. The Clerk had prepared a report on the issues and actions discussed with the engineer and this was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting (see Appendix C). The report will also be forwarded to the Highways Engineer.

It was noted that the Highways engineer had quickly concluded that the Market Place would benefit from a pedestrian priority crossing point, and he would make further investigations into this, he also agreed to investigate what would be feasible in terms of trying to resolve the parking issues on the Fairland.

Cllr Thomson advised that 19 of the 44 requests made in his report had been completed, these were maintenance to existing road markings and signage, with the outstanding issues mainly being propositions for additional measures in the future.

The Clerk advised that she had voiced concerns regarding the lack of communication from NCC in relation to the Fairland Safety feasibility study, and that the Town Council had not been contacted at any point to have an input into the study, the Clerk had advised the Highways Engineer that the study must represent good value for money or the Town Council may decide to request that further work is done or money is refunded if the study when it is finally complete does not fulfil the criteria set upon application for funding.

In reference to Highway matters it was raised that there had recently been a media report of improvements to Harleston with a £776,000 scheme to “reduce traffic and boost shopping” with the project costs being split between Harleston Town Council, SNC and NCC. The Clerk advised that she had made enquiries regarding this some time ago after seeing reports of other towns (in Breckland) receiving improvements. The Clerk advised that the Market Town & Business Development Service Manager at SNC had advised SNC are engaging with Market Towns more widely moving forward, to build up a project pipeline for when funding becomes available as it did in Harleston, and that may well include parking provision. It was suggested that pressure needs to be applied to both the District and County Councillor to ensure that Hingham is included in this Market Town initiative as there are issues that need resolving.

It was queried if the Town Council could part fund highway improvements. The Clerk advised that the Town Council had powers to contribute towards traffic calming and could provide parking facilities that were not on the highway.

31. To consider a request for the placement of a memorial bench in the cemetery.

A family had requested permission to place a memorial bench in the cemetery. It was noted that the family would prefer to install a granite bench. The Clerk advised that a path side location was not available directly at the row end where their family member is interred, there was space nearby, however a granite bench may be better placed on one of the nearby grass pathways in between the rows of grave plots.

It was agreed that the family could place a memorial bench in the cemetery and that granite would be acceptable. The Clerk will liaise with the family for a suitable location for the bench.

32. To discuss the issue of vehicles driving on the town greens

The recent incident of a visitor to the town driving over the Market Place green when requested not to park on the grass was discussed. It was noted that this occurrence was a “one off” and did not represent an ongoing issue in the Market Place and that signage was not appropriate. The details of the incident have been forwarded to the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Beat Manager.

The meeting ended at 9pm

Signed..... Chairman 04 January 2022

Matters Arising/Clerks Report

1. Matters Arising from the minutes of the Meeting of 02 November 2021

- Minute 12: A letter regarding parking issues has been produced and is ready to be delivered to the businesses in the Fairland and Market Place
- Minute 21: A new SAM sign battery to be purchased
- Minute 26: Grass cutting contract tenders to be sought for consideration in February
- Minute 28: A meeting with the Highway Engineer has taken place, update to be given at this (December) Town Council meeting
- Minute 30: Norfolk County Council have advised that they will not install any additional access provision to the Library from the disabled parking bay
- Minute 31: The street lighting contractor has ordered replacement lamp columns/lantern

2. Other Updates/Outstanding Issues

- The Town Christmas Tree is in place and decorated with the decorations made by the children of the primary school, thanks to all who helped with the tree and to the children for the decorations.
- Options for a suitable solution for the skate park are to be sought.
- Applications for Assets of Community Value to be finalised, plans and ownership details are required.
- Parish Archives, the collection of the materials to be arranged.
- Parking, Please do not park on the grass signs received, they require suitable stakes.
- Standing Orders review to be completed at a future meeting.
- Tree Survey, quotations for relevant work to be obtained.
- Trees for planting (Fairland and Market Place permanent Christmas Trees) will be sourced in Jan 2022.
- Notice boards for the toilets to be purchased.
- Both wooden notice boards (Market Place and Fairland) are now becoming difficult to open and lock, they become damp and condensated. The clerk advises considering the purchase of a new purpose built free standing notice board if there is a suitable location in the Market Place. A new notice board for the Fairland is also recommended. To be added to a future agenda.
- Church Clock site visit for quotations for upgrading the clock are to be arranged.
- Street Lighting, the contractor has been asked to undertake the renumbering of the footway lights which has been started. A condition report is awaited on all of the Council's footway lighting, (priority can then be assessed depending on the condition/safety of the light columns, for obtaining quotations for changing lights to LED). With regards to possible solutions to replacing the Tally Alley light, the contractor suggested the use of illuminated bollards, ownership of the alleyway needs to be established.
- Communications Policy, including social media policy is being worked upon. Cllrs are reminded not to comment on public social media pages making reference to themselves as Councillors, in a way that could give inaccurate information or be misleading or misconstrued as the Council having discussed and agreed something, when this is not the case. Staff/Cllr communication/relationship protocol to be drafted.
- The Clerk has been working on an overall Cemetery Fees Policy containing all points relevant to the fee structure including frequency and method of fees reviews. This is to be finalised and brought back to a future Town Council meeting with a review of the cemetery fees and cemetery terms and conditions.
- Extension of Cemetery Driveway and turning circle, the Clerk has spent some time in the cemetery looking at the area that would be required to extend the driveway. The area is very extensive and the clerk is concerned about the application of such a large area of tarmac, (environmental and cost). There may be other more appropriate solutions, including a shorter tarmac extension followed by "matting" under the grass surface (and possibly a tarmac path for better pedestrian/disability access), and leaving the existing grass as a driveway over the old cemetery area. Advice is needed from a funeral director with regard to vehicles used. The use of the driveway (as in frequency) for funerals is minimal therefore the grass should not become too worn from being driven on, this requires a lot of

further thought to ensure the Council have a cost effective but long term solution for the future use of the cemetery .

- 2 steel liners for the Market Place bins to be ordered (liners available at a reasonable price are a slightly different size to the existing ones (by mm's) liners of the same size have not yet been found.
- Commemorative Plaque for the Fairland Bus shelter, to be ordered

Report prepared 06 December 2021, does not include Matters Arising when the item is on the forthcoming meeting's agenda

3. Crime Figures – latest October 2021

<https://www.police.uk/your-area/norfolk-constabulary/wymondham/?tab=CrimeMap>
on or near:

Church Street: Public Order 1

Lonsdale Crescent: Vehicle Crime 1

Primrose Road: Anti social behaviour 1

Bell Meadow: Violence and sexual offences 1

Norwich Street: Criminal damage and arson 1

Lincoln Avenue: Violence and sexual offences 1

2022/23 Budget as Agreed 07 December 2021

1. Income

Precept	£77,000.00
Interest	£20.00
Cemetery charges	£3,500.00
HPFA rent	£100.00
Fee from NCC for grass cutting	£3,989.43
Investment fund	£30.00
TOTAL	£84,639.43

2. Expenditure

CONTINGENCY	£3,000.00
STAFF COSTS	
hmrc/employer contributions	£1,200.00
pension (@3%)	£830.00
wages caretaking/gardening	£8,825.00
wages clerk	£15,100.00
wages toilets	£3,750.00
ADMINISTRATION	
advertising/publicity	£800.00
allowance chairman	£374.00
allowance clerk	£312.00
audit	£600.00
elections	£800.00
hall hire	£450.00
information commission fee	£40.00
insurance	£2,500.00
payroll admin fees	£120.00
printing (lease/metered)	£500.00
stationary/stamps/sundries	£50.00
storage hire	£250.00
training and subscriptions	£710.00
website	£35.00
FOOTWAY LIGHTING	
churtyard lights energy	£60.00
energy	£7,500.00
maintenance	£2,700.00
repairs	£1,000.00
replacements	£3,000.00
TOILETS	
cleaning products/sundries	£400.00
electric	£500.00
holiday cover	£300.00
repairs	£300.00
water	£600.00

OPEN SPACES AND AMENITIES

bus shelters	£2,000.00
cemetery & Fairland standpipes	£150.00
cemetery general maintenance	£100.00
cemetery memorial repairs	£1,000.00
Christmas tree, lights	£300.00
church clock	£600.00
churchyard maintenance	£1,000.00
community car scheme	£2,500.00
dog waste bin emptying	£575.00
grass cutting	£13,000.00
maintenance/equipment and holiday cover	£200.00
replacement bins (dog/litter/grit)	£200.00
signs	£100.00
skatepark (Rospa & maintenance)	£600.00
town sign (repairs/refurb)	£0.00
trees/ditches/planting	£3,000.00

GRANTS/DONATIONS

General	£2,000.00
S137	
Citizens Advice	£600.00
defibrillator	£250.00
general	£100.00

TOTAL

(budget for expenditure 2022/23)	£84,881.00
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Meeting with the Highways Engineer 25th November 2021

Present

Clr Thompson, Cllr Robert, Ali Doe (Town Clerk) and Adam Mayo from NCC

Issues discussed

1. PARKING

Parking at/on Junctions, Hall Lane and Bond Street

These 2 locations that are dangerous with people having to reverse onto the main road (due to parked cars) to avoid oncoming traffic, and also parked vehicles block pedestrian access to dropped kerbs.

The Clerk suggested the use of extended white H markings as a “visual reminder” that the junction should be kept clear. Examples of this are on Station Rd and Church Street at Weybourne.

Market Place

Vehicles blocking the access on the road to the rear of the north green (where the lime trees are). No Solutions suggested by the engineer (noted that there are no parking restrictions).

Advised that the Town Council had made previous requests for a disabled parking bay by the Chemist. Asked the engineer to look into this, but accept that if painted, it would be an unenforceable parking bay. Noted, Currently there is no provision for disabled parking.

Overall

Concerns that Hingham is used as a “Park and Ride”, for people using the bus service. No solutions suggested. (Noted, to resolve would require timed parking bays).

2. FAIRLAND

Parking

It was relatively quiet in terms of parking at the day of the meeting.

The Engineer is aware of the parking issues having been forwarded emails and photographs from the Fairland residents.

Noted that placing parking restrictions on the road would displace the parking issues, difficult to resolve without a formal car park.

Cllr Thompson suggested the blocking off, of one end of the “middle arm” of the Fairland/ re imagining the layout to create parking bays.

The Highways engineer agreed to look into this as a potential solution.

It was also noted that there are no direct pedestrian facilities from Dereham Rd/ Pottles Alley to Church Street , (noted the pathway cutting across the green)

Fairland Safety Feasibility Study

Cllrs and Clerk expressed disappointment that the study had not yet been completed, and that at no point had the Town Council been contacted to discuss the issues around the Fairland, the progress of the study or to have an input into proposing ideas for possible solutions. The engineer advised that he was uncertain if the study would include parking issues, the Clerk advised that she had asked for this to be included, especially with regard to Dereham Road, where vehicles were parking right up to the junction.

The Clerk advised that the cost to each Council of the study was £5000 and therefore the study needed to represent good value for money, or it was likely that the Town Council may require further work on the study before accepting it or require reimbursement of funds.

3. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES

The Clerk advised that the feasibility of a Market Place pedestrian priority crossing point was to be included in the Fairland feasibility study (this was agreed after the bid had been successful). The Clerk advised that the footway on the south Market Place green had been installed by the Town Council in order to facilitate such a crossing point (on the advice of a previous Highways engineer), however a subsequent highways engineer had advised that a crossing point was not possible as it was too close to the chicane.

The Highways Engineer agreed that he would investigate if pedestrian priority crossing point would be feasible and agreed that one was needed.

Also discussed was the poor/dangerous crossing/pedestrian facilities on Norwich Rd, at the Hops/Bears Lane and the concerns of allocating more housing in this vicinity. No solutions were forthcoming. It was noted that the bank on Norwich Rd was encroaching onto the carriageway, between the Hops and Bears Lane, the engineer will look at what can be done to rectify this.

4. SPEEDING

The highways engineer was sent a copy of Cllr Thompsons report as updated to include progress on issues previously reported.

It was explained to the Highways Engineer that the current speed markings signage is not sufficient to effect good levels of compliance to the speed limit.

Areas of concern being noted as:

Norwich Rd, entering Hingham from a 60MPH limit with no prior warning of change to a 30MPH limit

Market Place – 20MPH limit

Fairland 20MPH limit

It was asked what additional speed reduction measures could possibly be implemented. The engineer advised that the lack of NCC budget meant that there was not the appetite to put in additional measures, especially road markings that have to be maintained.

The Clerk asked about the installation of “build outs”, but this would most likely not be appropriate due to the volumes of traffic.

We spoke about the HRSC group report and advised that the Town Council were not in agreement with the proposed solutions, however agreed that the report contained very valuable points regarding the problem of speeding traffic.

With regard to the lack of NCC budget, it was explained that the Town Council needed to know what measures would be acceptable, feasible and appropriate in Hingham to try to gain better compliance to the speed limits. As having the information readily available would help the TC prioritise their bids for funding when it does become available, (for example the new highway improvement funding scheme from NCC in which Hingham falls into year 3), or look for other sources of funding (e.g developers)

It was noted that compliance of the speed limit was much improved when there was a visible police presence.

The Clerk asked if speed data collection could be undertaken to give a better picture of the speed compliance, (noting that some had been undertaken around the Fairland crossroads, although the results were not known, and this was done when the roads were seemingly quieter presumably due to Covid).

5. CHURCH STREET

It was requested that the double yellow lines be refreshed.

6. CATS EYES

Cllr Thompson advised the cats eyes are all missing from Bears Lane to Hackford, the engineer advised that there is no budget to replace them, not even every other cat's eye or partial replacement.

7. SIGNS

It was noted that some signs were not visible because of growth from trees on private land/garden. The engineer advised that NCC were unlikely to pursue the landowners to rectify this and encouraged the TC to contact the landowners/residents to ask for trees/shrubs to be trimmed.

It was also noted that the access (weight) limit signage at Bond St junction with B1108 needs straightening and the "access only" signage at both ends of Greenacre Rd needs replacing.

8. STONE LANE

Following a complaint from a resident who had fallen in Stone Lane due to large stones being placed on the "verges" by a resident, we visited Stone Lane. The footpath section of stone Lane (which should be no less than 1meter wide according to the definitive statement), is in places no more than 1 foot wide, with soil and debris being washed down from the verges. These verges should be grass, but are in places bare earth. Large stones have been places on the verge outside one property and these were falling into the footway.