MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE LINCOLN HALL ON TUESDAY 06 FEBRUARY 2024. THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.30pm.

Present

Cllr Amey (Acting) Chair

Cllr Barnard, Cllr Christien, Cllr Dunnett, Cllr Eldridge, Cllr Hardy, Cllr Roberts Clerk – Alison Doe

There were 6 members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Thompson, District Cllr Woolliscroft and County Cllr Dewsbury.

Cllr Foord was absent without apologies.

Cllr Overton had tendered his resignation prior to the meeting (see item 11.5)

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

- 2.1 A member of the public spoke to raise concerns about the safety of the Fairland crossroads following a vehicular near miss incident. The resident requested that speed bumps be considered. The Clerk advised that previously Norfolk County Council had advised that speed bumps would not be supported on the B1108 in Hingham.
- 2.2 Concerns were raised from the public regarding the speed of traffic on the Attleborough Road, making it difficult and dangerous to exit from Low Road onto Attleborough Road.
- 2.3 Members of the public spoke to raise concerns regarding the poor state of Low road. With issues of flowing surface water, blocked culvert, (concern was raised that no one appears to take ownership of the culvert), numerous occasions of burst water mains with no long term preventative measures being taken by Anglian Water, potholes and failing road surface with poor remedial works which fail within a very short time frame . Concern was also raised that during a recent road closure of the Attleborough Road, Low Road was being used as a "cut through", causing severe damage to the road surface, although Norfolk County Council had agreed that "Residents Only" signage should be present, none were placed to try to prevent the excessive use of Low Road.

The Town Council advised that Cllr Thompson had reported all of the issues to Norfolk County Council (NCC had attended to undertake some remedial work), and advised residents to keep reporting issues to NCC and to County Councillor Dewsbury. It was noted that the NCC quoted "budgetary constraints" are a source of frustration when trying to get highway issues resolved.

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

There were no declarations of interest made.

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

Councillor Amey to Chair all agenda items.

5. To agree the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 02 January 2024

The minutes of the meeting of 02 January 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting and were signed as agreed as correct.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting 02 January 2024 (and other updates contained in a written Clerks report circulated prior to the meeting, see Appendix A)

In addition to the written report the Clerk advised that she had contacted a company regarding the installation of safety bollards at the cemetery and was awaiting a response.

7. Working Party Reports

The Highways, Transport and Environment Working Party meeting took place on 23 January 2024.

Correspondence (previously seen by the Council) describing issues with parking at the top of Copper Lane, preventing access by larger vehicles such as the refuse collection lorry and raising concerns that emergency vehicles will be unable to gain access if required was read and noted.

The Working Party discussed recording of highway accidents and incidents in the parish and how to ensure that as many incidents are recorded as possible, and agreed to put an item in the Parish Magazine and on Social Media

A community survey is being produced with regard to highway issues (with a strong focus on parking issues) to go to all households and businesses. The working Party discussed how to get business engagement to assess the impact of parking issues on businesses and agreed to write a letter to the businesses to accompany the survey (letter to include an invitation to discuss parking issues with the Working Party). The Working Party agreed to ask the Town Council to authorise professional printing of surveys.

A written evaluation of the key points of the feasibility study was discussed and highlighted the following points:

Fairland Crossroads improvements:

- More data needed on incidents/accidents, as any works would need to be proven to be value for money
- Could Dereham Road junction onto B1108 become STOP instead of GIVE WAY
- Could carriageway width be reduced to 6m on Church Street to reduce speed
- Could a new flashing sign be installed to warn of APPROACHING JUNCTION (see Barford for example) (AD to contact Barford PC)
- The sightline does not "feel" like the quoted 25m when turning right from Attleborough Road

Parking at Fairlands and Parking at the Market Place:

- A defined areas for timed restrictions and non restricted parking could help to alleviate all day parking congestion
- Concern regarding the size of the parking spaces drawn in the feasibility study
- Could Parking Permits work, concern that the cost for individuals would be prohibitive and that having a permit doesn't guarantee a parking place, concerns that there are not the resources at SNC to enforce. (AD to contact SNC for details of parking permit schemes)
- Disability parking, questions on ratio required if parking spaces are defined

- Could yellow lines be introduced in key areas that should be protected by means of the highway code, i.e junctions, and in areas where parking is of real safety concern such as Dereham Road, Attleborough Road
- Could KEEP CLEAR road painted signage be used (such as on Fairland), in other key areas where double/triple/quadruple parking across the highway occurs)
- A staged introduction of "organised" parking measures would allow implementation of necessary measures without largescale project and costs. CO and TT to do a walk around to better assess and draw up some ideas.

Defined crossing point in the Market Place

- A pedestrian refuge island is not appropriate
- A Puffin or Pelican crossing is desirable
- Concern that the plan drawing (in feasibility study) blocks off one arm of the Market Place (south), this has not been considered in the study IN CONJUNCTION with parking options Further discussion with highway is needed and the Working Party will try to organise a meeting with NCC in April.

Concern was raised that the white edge lines in the Market Place have been worn away. NCC have advised repainting is scheduled (in some areas) but contractor issues means the lining work schedule is very behind (NCC will add these edge lines to the schedule if not already included).

A volunteer member of the Working Party asked for Crossing within the Fairland to be discussed at the next meeting. The next meeting date 20 February 2024

It was noted that as Cllr Overton (Chair of the Working Party) had resigned, Cllr Thompson would attend the next meeting and act as Chair. The Council can appoint a new member of the working party in March, and a new Working Party Chair can then be elected (by the Working Party).

8. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report

There was nothing to report, as the Neighbourhood Plan sign off is on the agenda, (item 19).

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

Hingham Playing Field Association – Cllr Roberts reported that the HPFA accounts are showing that the sports centre is making a loss. The hire rates are not consistent between users of the facility and need updating and standardising. The Agreement between the HPFA and Sports and Social Club also needs updating. The HPFA and Sports and Social Club meet regularly and are organising several events through the year. The HPFA have now registered the use of CCTV with the Information Commissioners Office.

10. General Correspondence (information/circulars etc)

- 10.1 Norfolk County Council Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Notification of Submission
- 10.2 Norfolk County Council Warm welcome for news that contractor appointed for Long Stratton bypass
- 10.3 Norfolk ALC Procurement & Employment Law & S137 Changes, Digital Landlines, Banking and more

(Concern was raised regarding the change over to digital lines, and that personal alarms may not work during a power cut, and losing the current ability to plug in an old style phone which would still work during a power cut).

10.4 South Norfolk Council - Community Outreach Campaign

11. Correspondence (not for public inspection) as addressed directly to Hingham Town Council (from residents etc. and may contain personal information)

- 11.1 Resident Highway issues on Low Road
- 11.2 Resident Parking issues Copper Lane

11.3 Acknowledgement of communication regarding parking issues in Bond Street (described as parking over dropped kerbs and on the junction)

- 11.4 Hingham & District Community Car Scheme 2023 4
- 11.5 Letter of Resignation from Cllr Charlie Overton
- 11.6 Resident Permissive Path

12. To discuss and agree any required responses/actions in relation to any item(s) of correspondence

- 12.1 Noted that all residents correspondence had been replied to.
- 12.2 ref: 11.4 The Clerk will speak with the community car co-ordinator with a view to an agenda item in March regarding funding of the Community Car Scheme.
- 12.3 ref 11.5 Thanks was offered to Charlie Overton for his time and work on the Town Council. The Clerk advised of the procedure to advertise the casual vacancy, which can be filled by co-option if a request for an election is not made withing the prescribed timescale.

13. District Councillor's report

District Cllr Woolliscroft was not present at the meeting.

14. County Councillor's report

County Cllr Dewsbury had sent a written report prior to the meeting which was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. Report as follows:

Support for victims of road accidents

The Chief fire Officer has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Road Victims Trust (RVT) so that Fire fighters at the scene of an accident can signpost people to the charity for help. The RVT offers emotional and practical help and specialist counselling to people impacted by grief or trauma following a road death, serious injury or life changing collision.

Vapes

As part of the plan to tackle the increase in young people taking up vaping the Government plans to ban disposable vapes. The County Council recently developed a vaping toolkit for schools providing self service guidance and resources to help schools implement a whole school approach to discourage non smokers from taking up vaping. Trading Standards is also working to prevent the illegal sale of vapes to children and young people.

Digifest

NCC's Digital Inclusion Strategy supports the Digifest which aims to inspire children to consider a career in a digital industry. Throughout February there will be free events and workshops in libraries for children aged 4 – 14 years. They will be able to try stop-motion animation, 3D printing and basic coding with Lego, plus work with 3D pens and advanced coding with a canine robot. For further information www.norfolk.gov.uk/digifest

Flooding

A delegation led by Kay Mason Billig, Leader of Norfolk County Council and Henry Cator, Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, met with MPs on January 31st to discuss how flooding in Norfolk could be addressed. They also discussed building reservoirs to capture flood water for use in times of drought.

Highways

February 1st marked the opening of the Herring Bridge in Gt Yarmouth which was attended by hundreds of people. Work is about to start on the Long Stratton Bypass. **Museums**

Ancient house, the Museum of Thetford has been awarded a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to celebrate its centenary by telling the story of its benefactors, the Duleep Singh family who provided the original funding for a museum in Thetford. **Local agriculture**

Stephen Barclay, the Secretary of State for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently visited Food Enterprise Hub at Easton to see Fischer Farms vertical farm, which is the largest in the country, and the Club Cultured fermentation facility. The site includes some of the most advanced and innovative farming methods in the UK making Norfolk a leading agri-food location.

15. Planning Decisions

- 15.1 2023/3546 Proposed single storey extension and minor external alterations Mandalay Bears Lane Hingham Norfolk NR9 4LL. Approval with Conditions
- 15.2 2023/3174 Variation of condition 2 of 2022/2079 fenestration pattern to the Garden Pavilions and garden store amended and rear boundary and north boundary treatment changed from masonry to timber fencing. Roof to the garden pavilions amended to green/grey slate. Aluminium sliding doors to the garden room extension changed from 4 No sliders to 3 No. two sliding and one fixed light.

6 Chapel Street Hingham Norfolk NR9 4JH. Approval with Conditions

15.3 2023/2101 - Details of condition 3 and 4 of 2022/2080 - (3) External materials to be agreed (4)
Windows/door details to be agreed
6 Chapel Street Hingham Norfolk NR9 4JH. Approval of details - Approved

16. Planning Applications (as notified by SNC for consultation)

- 16.1 2024/0126-Proposed disabled toilet block and store Three Willows Lakes Low Road Hingham Norfolk
 The Council agreed that the application should be approved.
- 16.2 APPEAL Local Planning Authority Reference : 2023/2339 DCLG Reference APP/K2610/D/23/3331989, Land To The Rear Of 9 Mill Corner Hingham Norfolk The Council agreed that their previous representation that the planning application should not be supported, is still applicable.

17. Information regarding other planning applications where the Town Council is not a consultee, (for information only)

None.

18. To agree a logo for inclusion on signage to accompany the village gates being installed under the Parish Partnership Scheme

The Clerk explained that the proposal for the inclusion of a logo on some signage had been included in the Parish Partnership bid for village gates, the bid was successful, but at the time a logo design had not been agreed. It was also explained that without further discussion with the Highways Engineer it wasn't clear where logo signage could be incorporated in to the overall scheme. The Clerk had prepared a logo design based on the ship weather vane which is on top of the church tower (the ship also echoes the image in the Hingham sign in the Market Place). It was agreed that the ship logo should be used and if possible signage to say "Historic Hingham Please Drive Carefully".

19. To review the Hingham Neighbourhood Plan documents and agree sign off in order that the Hingham Neighbourhood Plan be submitted to South Norfolk Council for examination

The Council agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan documentation should be put forward for examination, however there are many typing errors and references to "parish council" in stead of "town council", that needed to be amended. Cllr Hardy offered to collate a list of the errors she had seen.

The Council asked for feedback to be given to the steering group to thank them for all of their hard work and time in producing the Neighbourhood Plan.

20. To receive a report following a meeting with the Police Safer Neighbourhood Beat Manager, PC Helen Busfield

The Clerk advised that she and Cllr Thompson met with PC Busfield on 11 January. Much of the time was spent discussing the parking congestion and obstruction issues within the town. PC Busfield advised that the police would not attend for parking issues. The vehicle on the Market Place with flat tyres had no insurance and was dealt with, and removed by the owners.

Speeding was also discussed, including non compliance with the 20 MPH speed limit, which the police do not enforce. PC Busfield advised that she was undertaking speed gun training and would visit Hingham to undertake speed enforcement in the 30MPH limit when resources allow.

The Clerk advised PC Busfield that police presence in Hingham to undertake walk abouts or speed checks had not generally been reported through the South Norfolk Police social media, and requested that Hingham be more widely included. P C Busfield was supportive of visits to Hingham and would try to support the Town as much as possible.

21. Considerations for the potential for provision of off road parking and agree any actions

21.1 Update on the Pride In Place application for a feasibility study to assess land for car parking and community uses

The Clerk advised that the Pride in Place application had been submitted on time, with help from the Officer at South Norfolk Council who had been very supportive. The 2 quotations received for the feasibility study were very different in amounts and the application was based on the higher amount n the region of £24,000 (the lower quotations was in the region of £1800, and there was concern that the company had not understood what was required). The Clerk advised that, on the advice of the Officer from South Norfolk Council, the funding application had been made for around £19,000 with a match funding from the Town Council to fulfil the shortfall, if necessary (although the Town Council will need to approve this if the funding application is successful).

21.2 Update on visit to garden of the former Rectory

The Clerk advised that she and Cllr Thompson had visited the former Rectory grounds to assess if there was potential for part of the land to be utilised as a footway from Attleborough Road to The Fairlands (joining the existing footway from Rectory Gardens). Cllr Thompson had prepared a diagram and explanation as to how this could be achieved, although there are the constraints of the Tree Preservation Orders covering the whole of the former Rectory garden.

21.3 Proposal to pursue dialogue with the Diocese regarding potential of land purchase The Director of Property Services, Diocese of Norwich had written to the Clerk to advise that the Diocese are at a stage where they are looking to sell the property. The Council agreed to pursue a conversation with the Diocese regarding the potential to purchase/acquire some land at the former Rectory.

Policy Review ITEMS 22-27

22. To review Standing Orders

A copy of the Standing Orders was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting it was agreed that no changes were required.

23. To Review the Hingham Town Council General Data Protections Regulations Policy A copy of the GDPR policy was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting it was agreed that no changes were required.

24. To Review the Hingham Town Council Privacy Statement

A copy of the Privacy Statement was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting it was agreed that no changes were required.

25. To review the Information Audit

A copy of the Data Audit was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting, the Clerk advised that she had amended it to include any data included in survey responses (any personal data requested or given on a survey response even if it was not requested). The Information Audit document was agreed as amended.

26. To Review the Hingham Town Council Complaints Policy and Procedure

A copy of the Complaints Policy and Procedure was forwarded to all Cllrs prior to the meeting it was agreed that no changes were required.

27. To Review the Hingham Town Council Filming and Recording of Meetings Policy

A copy of the Filming and Recording at Meetings Policy was sent to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised that she had added to the policy by including the 'model statement' from the Norfolk ALC website, which should be on display at public Council meetings. The Filming and Recording at Meetings Policy was agreed as amended.

FINANCE 28 to 31

28. To review the Fees for Hingham Cemetery

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had prepared a spreadsheet comparing the current fees for Hingham cemetery against fees for Attleborough, Mattishall, Watton and Shipdham. It was noted that there is no standardised fee structure, with Mattishall not displaying a separate fee for Exclusive Right of Burial, and Mattishall and Shipdham having no fee structure for non residents. It was noted that the fees for Watton are very high. A spreadsheet of the fees received for Hingham cemetery during 2022/23 was also forwarded to all Cllrs, this included costs for grass cutting and water rates at the cemetery (but not staffing costs). The fee structure was discussed and it was agreed that the current fees provide a suitable level of income, it was also noted that there has

not been an influx of requests from residents in Watton (as was previously raised may be an issue) due to the high fees payable for Watton cemetery.

29. To authorise the Highways Transport and Environment Working Party to have surveys professionally printed

(note 1500 household surveys for the Neighbourhood Plan cost $\pounds475 - A4$ colour 8 page) The cost of the household surveys for the Neighbourhood Plan was noted and it was advised that the Working Party survey would be less pages and therefore cost less. It was agreed that the Working Party have the surveys professionally produced (when the survey is finalised). It is intended that they will be delivered by volunteers.

30. To note the date of the next Finance Committee meeting, scheduled date 19 March 2024 Noted. Cllr Eldridge offered apologies as is unable to attend.

31. To agree and approve the accounts for payment (as below)

The Accounts for payment were agreed as below and the cheques were signed.

					1
REF	PAYEE	DETAILS		AMOUNT	VAT
514	STAFF	WAGES	£1,252.37		
		BINBAGS	£7.16		£1.19
		CLEANING PRODUCTS	£5.00		
			TOTAL	£1,264.53	
515	STAFF	WAGES		£1,551.20	
D	NEST	PENSION		£98.29	
516	COZENS (UK) LIMITED	STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE		£150.00	£25.00
D	SSE	STREET LIGHT ENERGY		£1,160.90	£57.57
517	HINGHAM PCC	CHURCHYARD FOOTWAY LIGHTING		£60.00	
518	UK POWER NETWORK	RECTORY GARDENS EMERGENCY DISCONNECTION		£1,791.60	£298.60
519	AMEY LG LTD	CHURCH STREET LIGHT COLUMN EMERGENCY		£628.66	£104.78
D	SSE	TOILET ELECTRICTY		£141.68	£6.74
D	NORFOLK COPIERS	PRINTER RENTAL		£74.41	£12.40
520	LINCOLN SOCIAL CENTRE	HALL HIRE		£37.50	
	HINGHAM COMMUNITY				
521	CAR SCHEME	CONTRIBUTION		£2,222.00	
		TOTAL FOR ALL PAYMENTS		£9,180.77	
		TOTAL VAT		£506.28	

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm

SIGNEDChair 05 March 2024

Matters arising from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting 02 January 2024

- MIN 11.1 The Councillor Vacancy (following resignation of Louise Sta Ana) can be filled by co-option to be placed on the March agenda.
- MIN 19 New Hingham.gov.uk website and email addresses should be arranged for April
- MIN 21 Parish Precept requirement submitted to South Norfolk Council before the deadline and submission acknowledged.

Other Updates/Outstanding Issues

• Vehicle damage Incidents at the cemetery, awaiting outcome through the insurance company.

Information has been sent to Norfolk County Council with a request for the speed limit to be lowered. The Highways engineer will refer to the safety team (no updates).

- Quotation for tree works to be sought
- Regarding the Hingham History Centre request for the Town Council to take over assets and funds, the Clerk will meet with History Centre representative, hopefully in February regarding the assets, funds have been confirmed as a little over £10,000.
- The clerk has been in touch with SNC and will set up a zoom meeting to discuss what is needed for a Community Emergency Response Plan. The Council will need to make a decision regarding if an Community Emergency Response Plan should be implemented and if so agree responsibilities for its implementation and monitoring/reviewing, and the responsibilities regarding holding of any associated personal data.
- A site visit to be arranged regarding Methodist Church tree planting on The Market Place, During the tree survey it was recommended against a rowan tree but to find an alternative species due to soil conditions
- Norfolk County Council have been advised that the Town Council consent to a survey being undertaken to assess the suitability of the sports centre for an Electric Vehicle charging point, but that the actual installation of such a charging point has not been agreed no further communication from NCC
- Moon Court facility, SNC have now confirmed they will investigate issues raised regarding Moon Court i.e if a change of use was required for the units to be let on the open rental market and issues with the secondary "emergency vehicles only" access track being used by residents/delivery vehicles for vehicular access. No further communication from SNC.
- Awaiting Raddiramps report on defects at the skate park.
- Norfolk ALC to be contacted regarding suitable wording for the Accessibility Statement, with regard to how the template works reply received, Norfolk ALC will be organising soe further information/training on Website Accessibility
- Raised bank between The Hops and Bears Lane no resolve from Norfolk County Council to undertake any action to implement measures to prevent access to the bank.
- "Re-dedication" of the bus shelter to be organised.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission have been invited to install signage at the cemetery
- The Clerk has asked Norfolk County Council if a grit bin for The Hops will be supported, no response.
- A suitable place for a new Town Council notice board to be established.
- The resident who has proposed to plant an Oak tree on the Market Place green has agreed to source an alternative species no further correspondence received.
- Letter to the Chief Constable and the Police Crime Commissioner regarding parking drafted photographs need to be added prior to sending.

- Fairland Oak Tree stumps, advice has been sought regarding hollowing the stumps out, a suggestion has been made that a stump grinder will be required (cost approximately £500-600 per stump).
- Applications for Assets of Community Value to be finalised, plans and ownership details are required.
- Notice boards for the toilets to be purchased.
- 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 bought 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 and Market Place bus shelter, to be ordered

Report prepared 05 February 2024 does not include Matters Arising when the item is on the forthcoming meeting's agenda

Crime Figures – December 2023

https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/norfolk-constabulary/wymondham/?tab=CrimeMap Watton Road - Vehicle Crime 1, Violent and sexual offences 1 Primrose Road - Violent and sexual offences 1 Bell Meadow - Violent and sexual offences 1 Baxter Road – Other theft 1 Admirals Walk – Criminal damage and arson 1 Lincoln Avenue - Violent and sexual offences 2 Ironside Way - Violent and sexual offences 1