

**Minutes of Deopham and Hackford Parish Council Meeting
in the Gralix Hall on Wednesday 13th December 2017**

Present :

Councillors : Jackie Phoenix Chris Biggs,
 Chris Coath Jayne Allan

Cllr. M. Dewsbury - Norfolk County Council

Parish Clerk : Rowena Harkness

Parishioners : John Spencer

1. **Apologies** - Martin Skidmore, John Chilvers, Mark Howard,
Cllr. Y.Bendle - South Norfolk District,

2. **Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2017 were agreed as a correct record.
Proposed Chris Coath, seconded Chris Biggs

4. **Matters Arising**

- 4.1 Ivy Bungalow, Victoria Lane, Deopham, NR18 9DU (App.No 2017/1383) – proposed redevelopment of Ivy Farm. Nothing new to report.
- 4.2 The Willows, Low Common, Deopham NR18 9DZ – Single storey extension with wood burner. (App. No. 2017/2415) was approved with conditions including wood burner details.
- 4.3 Martin and Jackie have spoken about updating the Playing Field Lease and Jackie will raise it with the Rix Trust in the New Year and the Parish Clerk has started looking at constitutions for a new organisation

5. **Correspondence**

- 5.1 Correspondence was circulated around the table including consultation from NCC re budgets and services and details of the Highway Rangers visit shortly. The issues raised that the Parish Clerk will ask the Rangers to do :
- groups in Park Lane need clearing and extending to allow water to run into ditch
 - drains/gullies in Attleborough Road (outside Magnum House/South Hill Farm/Mill House) need attention – last done 18 months ago and not maintained since.
- NB – other highway issues raised which the Rangers can't deal with will be sent to Bob West, Highway Engineer – see AOB

6. **Finance**

- 6.1 The account balances as at 18/11/2017 were £963.32 in the current account and £2,543.88 in the deposit. There are two unrepresented cheques and so the reconciled current account balance is £205.82. The deposit balance is as above.
- 6.2 The payment of £360 to South Norfolk Council for the dog bin emptying charges for 2017/18 was approved. Proposed Jayne Allan, seconded Chris Biggs. This is the charge for 3 bins @ £100 per bin + VAT which we were notified about by South Norfolk at the beginning of 2017.
- 6.3 The payment of £15.95 to Anglian Water Business Ltd. for the Playing Field water supply for 19/7/17 to 7/11/17 was approved. Proposed Chris Coath, seconded Chris Biggs. The Parish Clerk pointed out that this is mainly the standing charge as no water is being used.

- 6.4 The transfer of £500 from the deposit to the current account was approved. Proposed Jackie Phoenix, seconded Chris Coath.

7. Planning

- 7.1 No planning applications for comment but notification of an Application for prior determination notification of a proposed change of use of agricultural building to residential dwellings. Barn adjacent to Hill Farm, Morley Road, Deopham, (App. No. 2017/2560)

8. Deopham Playing Field

- 8.1 Water supply to be turned off

9. Any Other Business

- 9.1 Highway Issues raised which will be reported to Bob West, Highway Engineer
- Low Common – the section of road from the bridge to the entrance to Chestnut Farm on the hedge side is dangerous as there is a drop from the road to the verge and if a car pulls over, to allow another vehicle to pass, it drops off the road into the gap. Also the surfacing of the passing places and the road on Deopham Road, from the corner with Low Common, to Ashgrove is in a very poor state – holes and a poor top surface. Needs attention
 - The Footpath sign on the footpath in Vicarage Road has now disappeared completely – needs replacing.
 - Attleborough Road – the drains/gullies in Attleborough Road (outside Magnum House/South Hill Farm/Mill House) need attention (last done 18 months ago and not maintained since). This has also been put through to Highway Rangers but they may not be in position to do.
- 9.2 Pay Rise for County Councillors – John Spencer raised the publicised County Councillor Allowances increase. He said that it was disgraceful that County Councillors, who are about to cut services and raise Council Tax, have voted themselves an increase to the allowances they get paid. This is against the advice of the independent body who recommended no increase and is being justified by saying that councillors in other counties get more than those in Norfolk. Cllr Dewsbury said “Unlike Parish councillors we are not always allowed to vote according to our personal opinion. Our (political) group was informed that our allowance was only 87% of the average allowance for local councils.eg. Suffolk, Cambs, Herts, Essex, and that it ought to be brought in line in order to ensure that younger people with families, mortgages, etc. could afford to take time off work to become councillors and represent their community. This is similar to ensuring that no staff work for less than the minimum wage, consequently, it was a group decision to support this proposal and we were all expected to vote accordingly”
After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council wish to record their disgust at the decision.

- 10. Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 10th January 2018, 7.30pm.

This will be the Precept setting meeting

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.