

**Minutes of Deopham and Hackford Annual Parish Council Meeting  
in the Gralix Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Present :**

Councillors :	Martin Skidmore	Jackie Phoenix
	Chris Biggs	John Chilvers
	Chris Coath	Jayne Allen

Cllr. Yvonne Bendle (South Norfolk DC), Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury (Norfolk CC)

Parish Clerk : Rowena Harkness

Parishioner : Jordan Burrell

**1. Apologies - Mark Howard**

**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 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 were agreed as a correct record. Proposed Jackie Phoenix, seconded Chris Coath.

**4. Matters Arising**

4.1 NCC Highways have sent a 'status update' to the Parish Clerk re the Give Way sign at the junction of Pye Lane and Vicarage Road which was first reported on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The update says that 'it has been inspected and they are going to resolve the problem'. Margaret Dewsbury said that Paul Sellick, Highway Inspector, is now back at work. The Parish Clerk will e.mail him with the outstanding issues : a) the poor condition of the road surface from Attleborough Road/Morley Road junction through The Green and down to the Pye Lane/Vicarage Road junction b) the white lining at Morley Road/Attleborough junction and Vicarage Road/Church Road junction.

**5. Correspondence**

5.1 Correspondence for information was circulated around the table.

**6. Finance**

6.1 The account balances as at 18/2/2017 were £546.78 in the current account and £1,771.33 in the deposit. There are no unrepresented cheques and so the reconciled balances are as above.

6.2 The payment of £320.04 to Strictly Tables and Chairs for six folding tables was approved. Proposed Jackie Phoenix, seconded John Chilvers. This is from the Go for It grant of £300 from South Norfolk Council.

6.3 The payment of £213.71 to Jacky Phoenix was approved as she had paid for catering equipment including an urn and kettle and cutlery. Proposed John Chilvers, seconded Chris Coath. This is from the £220 grant from Yvonne Bendle's local ward fund.

**7. Planning**

7.1 3 Church Lane, Hackford, NR18 9HN – proposed extension and alterations to existing dwelling. (App. 2017/0336). The applicant was present and explained the planned alterations. They have spoken to neighbours and apart from the next door neighbour who had some initial concerns everyone is happy with the proposals. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would recommend approval.

7.2 The Parish Clerk said that since the last meeting the proposed application by Richard Long for an anaerobic digestion renewable energy unit on land off Morley Lane, Morley St. Botolph has attracted a lot of objections. The Parish Council were formally consulted and re-submitted the original objections re the traffic issues.

**8. Deopham Playing Field**

8.1 Yvonne Bendle offered to contact Gary (SNC Play Officer) and set up a meeting. She will let Parish Clerk and Jackie Phoenix know a date – both prefer an afternoon.

**9. Any Other Business**

9.1 Rix Trust – The Parish Clerk reported that one of the Parish Council appointed Trustees – Mike Flowerday (who also acts as Clerk to the Trustees) needs replacing as he has served two terms of 4 years. Jackie Phoenix is the other Parish Council appointee and the two churchwardens of St. Andrews church and the Vicar are the other Trustees. A possible replacement will be approached and his appointment confirmed at the next meeting.

9.2 Maria Holloway is asking for people to sign up to an online site called Next Door which allows neighbours to share information re their neighbourhood. The Parish Clerk had received the request from Maria and had signed the Parish Council computer up to it but explained that she does not have a smart phone and is not on Facebook or other social media sites. She puts things on the Parish Council website, using the laptop, as and when needed but does not have the time or inclination to spend time on a phone/computer screen. If the Parish Council wants a Parish Clerk who will get involved in that type of communication then maybe it is time for her to give up being Parish Clerk.

9.3 Fundraising dates – Jackie gave the dates for forthcoming fundraising / social events:  
- Weds. 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Flower arranging demonstration at Gralix Hall  
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> April – easter egg hunt in Deopham churchyard  
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – Music event at Morley  
- May 20<sup>th</sup> – bingo in Gralix Hall  
- Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> – Deopham Fete – to be hosted by Kathleen and Mike Flowerday at Hill Farm.

9.4 Cllr. Bendle mentioned the scheme run by UK Power Networks whereby vulnerable people can register and in an emergency – such as storm Doris – UK Power Networks will help them. The Chairman said that in his experience UK Power Networks didn't care if power cuts were affecting vulnerable people. Alternatively Cllr. Bendle suggested the Parish Council might want to keep a list of vulnerable people so as they could help them in an emergency. It was felt that immediate neighbours tend to know of vulnerable elderly people and would help and assist them in emergencies and therefore no need for the Parish Council to compile a list.

9.5 Cllr. Bendle said that some places are using their adopted Phone boxes as a 'hot spot for Wi fi connections'. There would need to be an initial outlay to install it (which she might be able to help fund) and then people would go to the box to download things quicker than they can at home. The general feeling seemed to be that though the Wi Fi speeds varied through the villages it wasn't felt that people would want to go to the box to download stuff and that any funding would be better spent on getting better Broadband speeds for everyone.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**      Wednesday April 12th 2017, 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.