



Chair: Sandra Clarke

Vice Chair: Angela Lambard

Parish Clerk: Stephen Williamson

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MINUTES OF MEETINGS

2011-12

6th MARCH 2012 – Hickling Methodist Church

PRESENT AT THE MEETING

Councillors: S. Clarke (Chair), A. Lambard (Vice-Chair), P. Berrie, P. Deane, T. Ellis, D. Scott, S. Williamson (Clerk) and 50 members of the public (*including Police*)

The meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m.

PUBLIC SECTION

Mrs Clarke confirmed that mention of the Public Section being left off the Public Notice had simply been an administrative error, also mentioning that technically there was no legal requirement to display this, as no meeting legally required a public section. Much of this section centred around the dispute with the Hickling Barn Trustees and relating matters including the Parish Council newsletter circulated the previous week. Mrs Clarke stated that a Writ had been served upon the Parish Council, pointing out that certain matters could not therefore be discussed within open session. Mrs Clarke also stated that legal representation had been appointed under the resolution of November 2011 to seek legal advice, and that the appointment would be formally confirmed within the closed section of the meeting. The decision to choose solicitors other than Nicholas Hancox was necessary as this firm had no specialist litigation department. County Councillor Mr. Paul Rice spoke, stating that in his opinion too much misinformation had been circulated, and that an independent investigation was now the only course of action.

The main meeting began at 7.31 p.m.

1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. Kris Scott owing to work commitments – accepted unanimously

2: DECLARATIONS

Mr. Berrie declared personal interest as he rented a dry berth. Mrs Clarke declared personal interest as she rented a wet berth, Mrs Lambard declared personal interest as she lives in close proximity to the hall

3: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on February 7th had been prior circulated with certain amendments made. No further amendments were deemed necessary. To accept the Minutes as a true and accurate record – Proposed: Mrs Lambard, Seconded Mrs Scott. Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention (Councillor Deane not at meeting). Carried. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

4:

MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that NNDC had been immediately advised that no further increase to the Precept was being requested (8th February). Letter of acceptance for Staithe contract sent to G & H of Martham with thank you letters declining quotations to other tendering companies. Purchase Order to John Ellis (Acle) to draw up the plans had also been sent shortly after the meeting.

5:

PLANNING

The Clerk advised of a decision notice relating to Beaconsfield Farm, Whinmere Road and of the revised application concerning Hill Common which was being viewed the following day. Other Councillors advised of Heath Farm House (classed as a new build currently not permitted under guidance from NNDC), also Willow Farm (no objections, however planning does not include new gas tank, this decision left to NNDC)

6:

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk stated that time simply did not allow to read in entirety the many e-mails received, however on the subject of the newsletter he did categorically state that communications of criticism and those of praise were of roughly equal number. He promised all would be answered in due course. The Clerk read the resignation letter (District Council) from Mr. Partridge, referred to a recent Freedom of Information request which had been dealt with, referred to a report from Hickling Barn stating that 602 persons had used the centre during February, informed of e-petitions against wind turbines, the recently issued NALC advice concerning prayers at meetings, showed a copy of the Writ recently served upon the Council's legal representation and also read an e-mail from Hickling Barn stating their reasons for not seeking a Parish Council nomination to the Trustees. As members of Norfolk Police were present the Clerk asked them to report – locally this involved theft of an outboard engine, a person had been apprehended with other similar engines found in premises owned by that person.

7:

VILLAGE REPORTS

The Staithe: Mrs Ellis reported and confirmed that G & H (Martham) had gained the tender for coming work, and that Mr. Ellis of Acle would draw up plans. She stated that very few (possibly as few as three) boats would have to be removed or moved, that the narrow slipway would be widened to ten feet. To deal with Health & Safety requirements there would be three by two hour working party sessions and volunteers were required for mainly cleaning up duties, some persons had offered warden assistance, & Visitor launching be would be £5.00.

Adding to this report Mrs Deane stated that new signage, some it temporary had been or would soon be erected, including requesting permission to launch until repairs carried out and that invoices for the 2012-13 berthing fees would be sent out imminently. **Chapel Pit:** Mrs Scott reported that the tree had been dealt with and the lying water by the bus shelter was being examined for a solution, grass cutting arrangements were being progressed. **Parish Surgery:** Mrs Scott reported concerns other than the bus shelter about lack of a 'no dogs' notice at the far end of the field. She also understood that it had been too wet to move the metal storage container, but wished to ask why the toilets were not yet open. **Post Office:** Mrs Lambard confirmed this was now open and being used. **Pleasure Boat Shop:** Mrs Clarke informed that this would now be open daily between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and asked that villagers support the enterprise. **Commemoration:** The Big Lunch arrangements were well under way, Council briefly discussed the idea of commissioning mugs for the children of the village, the Clerk stated that another of the Parish Councils he worked for had already done this and promised to bring an example to the next meeting – cost £3 each.

8:

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Mrs Clarke informed that the Council had agreed unanimously to allow local business advertising on the Parish Council website free of charge.

9:

FINANCIAL MATTERS & PAYMENTS

Following a recommendation the Clerk stated he had held a conversation with Mr. John Gallop of Acle who had agreed in principle to act as Hickling's external auditor for the 2011-12 financial year, a letter of confirmation was required as well as written confirmation from the last auditor that he had been discharged. Approximate fee likely to be in region of £225-£250. Appointment Proposed: Mr. Berrie, Seconded: Mrs Scott. All In Favour. *The Financial Report giving payments and bank balances is appended to & does become part of these Minutes.*

10:

VILLAGE HALL

Mrs Clarke confirmed that a Writ had been issued, also making the point that subjudice conditions now existed on many related matters. The matter of accounts was still a major problem, and that a new set had been produced different to those on the website, in short there were still several anomalies of great concern, also the matter of correct listing of Trustees. Mrs Clarke also repeated that legal advice from more than one source indicated that the £89,000 should continue be withheld for the time being.

11:

COUNCILLORS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

In light of the Parish Clerk's concern about the number of e-mails being received from Parishioners, Mr. Berrie stated that it would be a fairly easy matter to open a page on the Parish Council website. This he felt would provide a forum and satisfy some Parishioner's wishes that their letters were made available to other residents of the village. No decision made on this point.

This section of the meeting finished at 8.15 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The remaining Item on the agenda was held in closed session with members of the public excluded under The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. The Minutes of Item 12 will therefore NOT be published, nor made available to any member of the public in any form until the legal proceedings have been concluded. The Council does undertake to publish this section of said Minutes as soon as practicable after conclusion of said proceedings.

This section of the meeting commenced at 8.30 p.m.

12:

LEGAL MATTERS

[.....]

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

*Signed after agreed amendment and approval by
Council as being a true and accurate record by the
Chair of the meeting or authorised deputy*

Dated:

PAYMENT LIST – 6th MARCH 2012

Stephen Williamson	Salary for February 2012	£318.50
Stephen Williamson	Expenses February (Allowance £13/Mileage £28/Stamps £2.30)	£43.30
Hickling Methodist	Hire of Hall (March meeting)	£24.00
Nicholas Hancox	Legal Fees after deduction (VAT element = £200)	£1,200.00
Century Printing	Newsletter Printing	£45.00
Printware	Replace cheque 102053 for Printerland (Machine out of stock)	£482.78
Mrs P. Deane	Refund costs of mail/stationery/postage Annual Berth Rentals	£64.10
	2 reams paper: £8/Inks: £18/Stationery: £16.50/Postage £21.60	

TOTAL **£2,177.68**

BANK ACCOUNTS:

(As at 1st March 2012 but see note below)

*Please note a transfer from No. 2 Account was made by prior arranged Standing Order
To the Community Account – to service the public loan board payment due today
Assuming this payment was made on time the balance of No. 1 Account
reduces by £5,988.62 To £6,491.56*

Community Account: (60495689)
£12,480.18

No. 2 Account: (33717631)
£11,188.76

Savings Account: (43164527)
£90,193.19