

21/08

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Emneth that took place on Tuesday 24th June 2008 in the Central Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

- 100/08** **PRESENT** were Councillors Mr R Waterfield (Chairman), Mrs Y Howard, Mr M Wiles, Mr S Curtis, Mr R Towler, Mrs G Harper, Mr N Terrington, Mr J McCourt, Mr F Blake, Mr A Green, Mr M White, the Clerk Mrs M Sawyer and two visiting Parish Councillors from Marshland St James.
- 101/08** **APOLOGIES** for absence were received from Councillor Mrs O Graham.
- 102/08** **COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AS REQUIRED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT 2001**
None declared.
- 103/08** **MINUTES** of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 29th April 2008 had previously been distributed to all councillors with copies being made available for public perusal at the post office and the Central Hall notice board. They were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 104/08** **REPORT OF PARISH/POLICE LIAISON OFFICER & OTHER POLICE MATTERS.**
There was no Police Officer present.
CAG/LAG Meetings
Members were advised that LAG meetings had reverted to the second Friday in the month, the next meeting being 11th July 2008 at 10.00am in Downham Market Fire Station. A presentation on 'Negotiation not Confrontation Project' will be given by a senior lecturer from the Anglia Ruskin University. Emneth had been chosen for the pilot of the project two years ago.
Training In Hand-Held Speed Monitoring Devices
Correspondence was circulated asking for a parish volunteer group to be trained in the use of the equipment. The Chairman will put the matter before the next Homewatch Committee meeting to see if any members are interested.
- 105/08** **CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE**
School Gala
The Chairman advised members that the school gala was on the following Saturday
Bonfires
The Chairman reported that he had received complaints about bonfire smoke and he given advice to the complainant on how to deal with the problem if it persisted.
- 106/08** **MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**
The following items were dealt with at the meeting:
- **Friends of West Norfolk Citizens' Advice Bureau** – details of the inaugural meeting on 22nd July at the Ramada Hotel, King's Lynn were circulated.
- The following items are in circulation:**
- Norfolk Matters May 08 issue
 - S Area Road Safety Minutes
 - LAG Meeting Minutes
 - Standards committee Agenda of meeting
 - Crime Statistics to June 08
 - The Clerk Issue March 2008
 - CPRE Fieldwork
- Feedback from Circulated Mail**
There was some discussion regarding the possible presence of great crested newts in the old Hagbeach Hall Moat as raised in a recent planning application. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries to ascertain if the report was correct and if any action should be taken by the parish council to ensure protection of the colony.

107/08

FINANCIAL MATTERS**a) Received Since Last Meeting:**

- i) A Clingo – Ashes interment fees for the late Peter Ian Chase - £60.00
- ii) Mowton Memorials – memorial fees for the late Mr Thomas Taylor - £160.00
- iii) VAT repayment - £2548.89

b) The following invoices were approved for payment:

- i) MHB Services Ltd – footway lights maintenance contract – June/July - £84.02 per month
- ii) CGM – grass cutting & extra work as agreed - £1237.88
- iii) Eon – unmetered supply – April/May - £263.48
- iv) S & D Jarvis – groundwork – Hungate Road - £986.88
- v) NCS – playing field maintenance - £2412.13
- vi) Royal Marquees – hire of marquee – S137 - £423.00
- vii) Mr D Melton – groundsman salary & expenses June - £46.00
- viii) Mrs J Eady – salary – June - £137.00
- ix) Mr R Waterfield – reimbursement of items purchased from Fenland Hygiene for road sweeper - £15.04

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PRECEPT ERROR

All members received a copy of correspondence received from the Borough Treasurer describing the outcome of a meeting with the Chairman and Mr M Clayton. Although the intended actions of the Borough with regard to the matter are less than was hoped for, the Chairman explained there was no other way than to accept the decision unless the parish council was prepared to risk spend many thousands of pounds on a Judicial Review. He explained that the Borough Treasurer had agreed to write to all Council Tax payers to explain that the error was theirs and to detail how the shortfall in tax paid by each property would be reclaimed. A similar letter will be sent with demands over the next two years until the account is cleared.

109/08

PLANNING MATTERS**1 The following Planning Applications were discussed and determined:**

- a) **08/01345/O** – land south of Meadowgate House, Meadowgate Lane – construction of dwelling – Mrs V Brundle. This application is not supported because the council feels that the site is not of an adequate size to be divided to provide a new plot. It would be over-development not in keeping with the character of the area. There are also concerns about creating additional traffic on a narrow country lane that exits onto a bend which has been the scene of several accidents.
- b) **08/0130/F** – Rose Tree Cottage – Chapel Lane – Mr T Walsh – first floor extension to dwelling. Application supported. No comments.
- c) **08/01555/F** – 14 Gaultree Square – first floor extension to dwelling. Members were advised that although the application was listed on the Borough website, no details were yet available. He said that it might be necessary to call an extra meeting to deal with it. It was, however, proposed, seconded and agreed that if the application was not controversial it should be dealt with by the Chairman as he saw fit.

2 The following Planning Authority decisions were noted:

- a) **08/00285/O** – land north of 16 Elm High Road – construction of dwelling with integral garage – Mr & Mrs C Kinnerman – application permitted.
- b) **08/00933/F** – land east of 33 Lady's Drove – construction of 3 bedroom detached dwelling – Mr W Sutton – permission refused.
- c) **08/01028/F** – 53 Fendyke Road – two storey extension to dwelling – Mr D Barker – permission granted.

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PLANNING MATTERS (contd)

(contd):

- 2 The following Planning Authority decisions were noted
- d) **08/01109/F** – 85 Elm High Road – retention of marquees – Mr M Stratton – application refused.
- 3 **The following application has been withdrawn:**
08/01112/F – land rear of plot 2 Hawthorn Road – construction of stables and tack room – Mr W Harris.
- 4 **The following Appeal has been withdrawn:**
07/01119/O – land north of 16 Elm High Road – construction of two storey dwelling with integral garage – Mr & Mrs C Kinnerman.
- 5 **The following House Name change was noted:**
11 Elm High Road from Beverley to Yew Tree Cottage.

110/08

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Bus Shelters

- **Gaultree Square** – on-going.

New matters reported:

- **Potholes** – all along Elmside
- **Hedges** – overgrown along Hungate Road and The Wroe. The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from a parishioner regarding the state of the hedgerows along Hungate Road. The writer had been advised to also contact Highways directly.
- **Hollycroft Road** – cobbles on verge
- **Church Road** – stake been put back on verge.
- **Mill Road** – 'No Through Road' sign to be requested.

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the Highways Officer to contact the Chairman before his next visit so they can inspect these items together.

Highways Grass Cutting

The Clerk was asked to ascertain the grass cutting schedule, in particular on Tram Station corner.

C4 Forty Foot Engine Bridge No2

Details of a proposal to introduce a 7.5 tonne weight limit on the bridge were circulated. It was decided that the proposals would have no effect on traffic to and from Emneth. No comments submitted.

Fly Posting

A councillor reported a number of advertising posters along both sides of the road between Elm High Road and Elm Low Road. Highways to be asked to investigate.

111/08

PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

The Representative Member confirmed that the official opening of the pavilion had been a successful and well-attended event.

Council's attention was drawn to the condition of the grass on the football fields. It was agreed that, considering the amount spent on field maintenance, the condition was poor.

Yearly Grant

A letter requesting the quarterly payment of the grant was read out. The Chairman reminded members that it had previously been agreed to consider an increase to the grant payable for the current financial year. After some discussion it was decided that it would be beneficial for representatives of the Playing Field Committee to meet with the Council's Finance Committee to discuss future funding. The Chairman agreed to contact the Playing Field Committee Treasurer to arrange a mutually convenient time.. In the meantime it was proposed, seconded and agreed to pay the first quarter grant at the current rate of £625.00.

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112/08 FOOTWAY LIGHTING MATTERS

Outages - None reported.

113/08 AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS MATTERS

Hungate Road Holdings

The Clerk was asked to proceed with issuing an amended 'Notice to Quit' to Mr Hill as previously agreed, to be effective at Michaelmas 2009. In the meantime the Chairman was asked to arrange on-going treatment for the vacant land.

114/08 CEMETERY MATTERS

1 Working Party Report

The Clerk reported that next of kin had been asked to remove netting from some headstones by the end of June after which time it would be removed by the council. To date there has been no communication from any of the next of kin regarding the headstones in question. The situation is being monitored.

115/08 YOUTH CLUB

Councillor Green reported that attendance was still good and members were well behaved.

116/08 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

On-going.

117/08 COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT

On-going. It is hoped that an information flyer will be sent to all households in the parish by the Borough Council together with the letter explaining the Precept error.

118/08 CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/ETC

Members were advised of the following:

- NRCC Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 16th July 2008 at Mileham Village Hall commencing at 5.00pm.
- Norfolk's Local Transport Plan Seminar - Mattishall on 15th July 2008 commencing at 10.00am.
- Housing Strategy 2008/11 - Kilhams Way 17th July 2008

119/08 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

The following Consultation Document is in circulation:

- Housing Strategy 2008/11. In view of the timescale Members were asked to submit any comments directly to the Borough Council.

120/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as being Tuesday 29th July 2008, commencing at 7.00pm in the Emneth Central Hall.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

R Waterfield

CHAIRMAN

Dated 29th July 2008