

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Emneth that took place on Tuesday 30th June 2009 in the Central Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

- 098/09** **PRESENT** were Councillors Mr R Waterfield (Chairman), Mr M Wiles, Mr S Curtis, Mr N Terrington, Mr R Towler, Mr F Blake, Mr M White, Mrs O Graham, Mrs G Harper, Mr J McCourt, Mr A Green, the Clerk Mrs M Sawyer, and 3 members of the public.
- 099/09** **APOLOGIES** for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Y Howard, County/Borough Councillor Mr H Humphrey and Borough Councillor Mr C Crofts. Members were informed that Councillor Mrs Y Howard had been involved in an accident and suffered a broken leg and was bed-ridden. Councillor Mrs O Graham agreed to visit her.
- 100/09** **COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AS REQUIRED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT 2007**
Councillor A Green declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8/2 (Minute Number 109/1/a). He signed the Register and left the room whilst the item was discussed and determined.
- 101/09** **MINUTES** of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2009 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 after making amendments to Minute Number 085/09 and Minute Number 094/09 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 102/09** At 7.05pm the Chairman suspended Standing Orders and introduced Mr Peter Morris of West Norfolk VCA who spoke to the Council about the organisation and its role in the community and his ability to put community groups in touch with funding bodies. The Chairman thanked him for coming and Mr Morris left the meeting at 7.20pm
- 103/09** Before re-instating Standing Orders the Chairman permitted Mr Ryan, a parishioner, to address the council about a retrospective planning application that he had submitted. The Chairman advised him that because the application was not before the council for consideration at the moment, members would listen to his proposals but could not comment.
The Chairman then asked Mr Lee, a parishioner present, if he wished to speak about a planning application submitted by JPL Motors that was on the Agenda for discussion. Mr Lee outlined his proposals and answered questions from councillors.
- 104/09** At 7.46pm the Chairman reinstated Standing Orders and Members considered and determined the following planning application:
09/00905/F - 44 Gaultree Square - construction of five dwellings following demolition of existing buildings - JPL Motors. The application was supported.
- 105/09** **REPORT OF PARISH/POLICE LIAISON OFFICER & OTHER POLICE MATTERS.**
Reports and circulars on various matters were circulated for information purposes only.
A report showing the results of recent speed monitoring on roads in the parish was circulated. Members were concerned to note that many motorists were blatantly disregarding the speed limit along Hungate Road. The Chairman reported that he had already asked the SNT about the possibility of further checks followed by enforcement action where necessary.
Current priorities for the SNT in Emneth include misuse of vehicles and possible drugs activity.

106/09 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**The following items were dealt with at the meeting:**

- The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the CAB to thank Council for its continuing financial support so by helping to ensure that parishioners have access to whatever help is available.
- The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Youth Club to thank Council for agreeing to meet the Central Hall hire costs for another year.
- **Rural Community Network.** Members were asked if they wished to receive the Network newsletters directly to their email address. General feeling is that they are happy with the present arrangement whereby information is forwarded to them by the Clerk as and when necessary.
- **Norfolk County Council** telephone numbers - a list of new numbers distributed to all members.
- **Gas Booster Station.** Members were advised that British Gas had been alerted to children playing on the roof of the building off Betsys Pad and an engineer had attended to check for damage.

The following documents are in circulation:

- CAG/LAG Minutes of meetings
- Standards Committee Minutes
- Community Development leaflets
- Norfolk Link 171
- Funding opportunities
- NRCC Signpost June 2009
- CPRE Fieldwork
- NCC Managing Your Finances leaflets
- Various reports and advertising literature.

107/09 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Members were advised that the balance of all accounts at 30th June 2009 was £78,070.44, of which £59,611.84 was the Claude Coates Fund
- b) **Cash received since the last Meeting:**
- i) A Clingo - Interment fees in respect of the late Mr Douglas A Woodrow - £320.00
 - ii) Richard King Memorials - Fees to Set a Memorial in respect of the late Jean Thompson - £80.00
 - iii) BCKLWN - to help off-set cost of displaying posters for recent elections - £6.00
 - iv) HMR&C - repayment of VAT 2008/2009 - £2505.15
- c) **The following invoices were approved for payment:**
- i) MHB Services Ltd - footway lights maintenance contract - June/July - £82.24
 - ii) CGM Ltd - grass cutting and extra work in the cemetery - £380.54
 - iii) E.On - unmetered supply - May 2009 - £129.17
 - iv) Norse Commercial Services - playing field maintenance - £2511.92
 - v) Royal Marquees - hire of marquee for football gala - S137 grant - £419.75
 - vi) Emneth Central Hall Committee - hire of hall for Youth Club - S137 grant - £200.00
 - vii) Mrs M Sawyer - salary & expenses - June - £520.73
 - viii) T J Groom - bus shelter repairs - £190.00
 - ix) Tamar Computers - projector & screen - £433.00
 - x) Mrs J Eady - salary & expenses - June 2009 - £161.00
 - xi) Mr D Melton - salary & expenses - June - £57.50

108/09 FINANCIAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2009

Members agreed the Statement of Assurance and the Annual Return. It was agreed that this be approved and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer. The Clerk explained that the next step was Internal Audit before submission to the external auditor in August.

109/09 PLANNING MATTERS

1 The following Planning Applications were discussed & determined:

- a) **09/00956/F** – west of 84 Church Road – 2 storey dwelling with integral garage and car port – Mr A J Green – application supported,
- b) **09/01046/F** – Old Hungate Inn, 180 Hungate Road – extension to dwelling – Mr R Maryon – application supported

2 The following Decisions by the Planning Authority were noted:

- a) **09/0567/RM** – 129 Church Road – construction of 2 dwellings – Fenland Construction – approval granted.
- b) **09/0597/O** – land north east of 7 Outwell Road – construction of dwelling – Mr C Matthews – outline permission refused.

3 E-Consultation

The Chairman confirmed that a projector and screen had been purchased and he will familiarise himself with its operation by the next meeting. It was noted from previous correspondence from Borough Planning that the e-consultation project will be launched on 1st July 2009.

110/09 HIGHWAY MATTERS

It was confirmed that all matters reported at the last meeting have been dealt with as appropriate. Members were informed that then Highways Officer had telephoned to say that he would inspect the trees/hedge along Hawthorn Road to see if there was anything he could do. It was reported that nothing had yet been done. The Clerk to chase.

New matters reported:

The Wroe and Elmside – overgrown hedges. Once identified the owners of the properties concerned will be requested to take appropriate action.

Betsys Pad Drain

Members were advised that the IDB were aware of the alleged in-filling of the drain and were taking appropriate action.

Hollycroft Road

A tree growing in the dyke is again giving cause for concern. The Chairman confirmed that the Highways Officer was well aware of the problem. The Clerk to remind him once again.

111/09 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

The representative member was not present.

The Chairman reported that he had been informed by the Playing Field Committee that the field was infested by a rigorous weed that could only be destroyed by spraying with chemicals at a cost of £600 plus. He asked members to consider an additional grant to help with this cost. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to add £300 to the next quarter grant.

SKATE

The Chairman reported that a grant of £15,000.00 had been awarded from BCKLWN funds. It was proposed and agreed that the Chairman should sign the Agreement previously approved, if he was happy with the content and satisfied with insurance indemnity implications.

112/09 FOOTWAY LIGHTING MATTERS

Outages

None reported.

113/09 AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS MATTERS

Councillor N Terrington voiced concern that the External Auditor might question the fall in income from the agricultural land. He suggested that the reason should be minuted. Past Minutes will be checked before the next meeting to determine if there has been sufficient explanation.

114/09 CEMETERY MATTERS

Cemetery Extension

Members were advised that Mr Nash had at last responded that the matter was in hand.

Grounds Maintenance

A letter from a parishioner was read out. This claimed that the grounds were in a neglected condition with thistles and long grass. Councillor Mrs O Graham said that she agreed with the complaint in part. The situation is to be monitored and if necessary the contractor will be asked to carry out extra work. The Clerk will write to all Funeral Directors to ask that they make sure grave diggers are aware of where to dispose of surplus soil.

Old Cemetery

It was reported that weeds and thistles are taking a hold between graves and on pathways. It was agreed that the contractor be asked to spray the affected areas.

Damage to Church Gates

The Chairman informed members that there had been an accident outside the church and he believed the gates had been damaged at that time. He said that the policeman who had attended had claimed that blue paint on the gate did not match the vehicle involved. The Chairman said that subsequently he had realised that the blue paint was from the wheelie-bin but he was sure that the gates had been damaged at the time of the accident. He further stated that he was in possession of details about the driver of the vehicle and the matter would be pursued. It was confirmed that although the parish council maintains the churchyard and wall, it is the property of the church and is not covered by the parish council's insurance.

115/09 MEETINGS, TRAINING, SEMINARS ETC

Norfolk Planning Conference – 18th June 2009 at Swaffham. Councillor Mrs Y Howard had been unable to attend due to her injury. The Clerk advised members that the £20.00 Delegate's Fees will be credited against a future event.

Local Government Re-Organisation Briefing and Update – King's Court – 15th July commencing at 6.00pm. The Chairman and Councillor Mrs O Graham will attend.

Details of various other meetings and events were circulated.

116/09 MAYOR'S VISIT – 20th July 2009

The Chairman outlined the programme for the day.

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117/09 RE-ENACTMENT EVENTS

Members were advised that the public hearing to discuss the Premises Licence for 175 Outwell Road would be held in the Church Hall on 7th August 2009. The Chairman advised Members that the Parish Council, although on the list of bodies to be notified of the application, was not a consultee and neither did it, as a body, satisfy the criteria for lodging an objection.

118/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as being Tuesday 28th July 2009, commencing at 7.00pm in the Emneth Central Hall.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

CHAIRMAN

Dated 28th July 2009