

DRAFT Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council of Emneth that took place on Tuesday 30th September 2008 in the Central Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

157/08 PRESENT were Councillors Mr R Waterfield (Chairman), Mrs O Graham, Mrs Y Howard, Mr M Wiles, Mr S Curtis, Mr R Towler. Mrs G Harper, Mr N Terrington, Mr F Blake, Mr M White, Mr A Green, Mr J McCourt and the Clerk Mrs M Sawyer. Two PCSO's and one parishioner were present for part of the meeting.

158/08 APOLOGIES for absence were received from Borough Councillor Mr C Crofts and Borough/County Councillor Mr H Humphrey.

159/08 COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AS REQUIRED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT 2001

Councillor N Terrington declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8/i/ii (Minute Number 165/08/i/b) and Agenda Item 8/i/iii (Minute Number 165/08/i/c). He left the room whilst these items were discussed and determined. Councillor A Green declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8/i/ii (Minute Number 165/08/i/b) and Agenda Item 8/i/iii (Minute Number 165/08/i/c).

160/08 MINUTES of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 26th August 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.

161/08 REPORT OF PARISH/POLICE LIAISON OFFICER & OTHER POLICE MATTERS.

PCSO S Cockrell updated the council on the latest Crime Statistics and measures being taken in the parish to combat anti-social behaviour. He advised members that there will be a police presence in the village over Halloween and on bonfire night. A report on the proceedings at the last CAG/LAG meetings was received.

Members noted a list of logged telephone calls received by the police regarding nuisance at Hagbeach Hall Close during July 2008.

At 7.22pm the Chairman suspended the meeting to allow a parishioner to speak to the council regarding the recent sale of agricultural land off Fendyke Road. The parishioner expressed concern that the sale had not been widely advertised. She stated that she had expressed an interest to a parish councillor but had heard nothing more until learning the land had been sold. Councillor N Terrington expressed concern that her interest in the land had not been made known to the council.

The Chairman advised her that he was satisfied that details of the proposed sale had been widely passed around verbally. He apologised for the fact that council had not been made aware of her interest prior to the sale.

The parishioner then asked if something could be done about the condition of Fendyke Road, the surface of which was badly broken. The Chairman assured her that the matter would be reported to the Highways Authority.

Standing Orders were re-instated at approximately 7.35pm.

162/08 CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

Survey of Facilities in the Parish - Chairman to complete and return to Borough Council.

Let's Talk - the Chairman reminded members of the workshop session in the Central hall on Tuesday 14th October 2008. Details were distributed to all councillors present.

Press Reports - A councillor asked what progress had been made with the local press. The Clerk reported that the Wisbech Standard had refused to print reports of meetings of Norfolk parish councils. It was suggested that the Fenland Citizen be approached.

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MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The following items were dealt with at the meeting:

- **Borough Standards Committee** – advertising a vacancy for a parish council representative – details circulated.

The following items are in circulation:

- Downham Market LAG Meeting Minutes
- Norfolk Matters Issue September 08
- Standards Board Bulletin 40
- CPRE Fieldwork
- Clerks & Councils Direct Issue 59
- The Playing Field
- NPFA Annual report
- NCAPTC Minutes of Meetings
- Norfolk Link Issue 167
- Various advertising leaflets

164/08

FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Balance of Accounts

Members were advised that the balance on all accounts at today's date was £68,007.29. Bank Statements were made available for perusal.

b) Cash received since last meeting:

- i) M J Coates – memorial fees – Walter William Strickle - £80.00

c) The following invoices were approved for payment:

- i) MHB Services Ltd – footway lights maintenance contract – September/October - £84.02 per month
- ii) CGM – grass cutting - £282.60
- iii) Eon – unmetered supply – August - £131.74
- iv) Mrs M Sawyer – salary & expenses – September - £495.47
- v) Mrs E Bateman – Internal Audit Fees - £35.00
- vi) Emneth Central Hall – hire fees for Youth Club S137 payment - £200.00.
- vii) Emneth Playing Field Committee – quarter grant - £650.00
- viii) NCS - playing field maintenance - £2412.13
- ix) Mr D Melton – playing field groundsman salary – September - £57.50
- x) Mrs J Eady – salary – September - £172.50

165/08

PLANNING MATTERS

1 The following Planning Applications were discussed and determined:

- a) **08/01986/O** - land east of 81 Church Road - construction of two dwellings - Mr J Lock – application supported.
- b) **08/02072/F** - 2 Orchard Gardens – conversion of existing double garage into self-contained living accommodation – Mr B Wicklen – application supported
- c) **08/02073/F** - 2 Orchard Gardens – retrospective application for recently erected conservatory – Mr B Wicklen – application supported.
- d) **08/02156/O** - 37 Church Road – construction of two single storey dwellings – Mr A Meek – application supported.

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165/08 **PLANNING MATTERS (contd)**

2 The following decisions by the Planning Authority on applications previously determined were noted:

- a) **08/01345/O** - land south of Meadowgate House, Meadowgate Lane - construction of dwelling - Mrs V B Brundle - permission refused.
- b) **08/01638/O** - Barton Nursery, 51 The Wroe - residential development of five 2 storey houses including road widening, lay-by and landscaping of existing pond including demolition of redundant farm sheds - Mr J Goodale - permission refused.
- c) **08/01805/F** - land rear of plot 2 Hawthorn Road - construction of 4 loose boxes and tack room and paddock fencing with gates - Mr W Harris - permission granted.
- d) **08/01835/F & 08/01837/LB** - The Great Barn, Meadowgate Lane - retention of new access drive, gates and walls/fences - Mr N Baines - permission granted.
- e) **08/01977/F** - 58 Gaultree Square - rebuild rear kitchen/diner and utility room with additional bedroom above new dining area - Mr J Goodale - permission granted.

166/08 **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

New matters reported:

- **Potholes & Hedges** - despite several requests to the Highways Department no improvements have been made. The Chairman reported that he had requested a visit by the Highways Officer and had been told that he will be contacted before such visit so that he can accompany him (Highways Officer).
- **Gaultree Square/Church Road Junction.** It was reported that there are a lot of fallen leaves on the footpath. It was suggested that the Road Sweeper might be prepared to clear them away. The Chairman will ask.
- **Betsys Pad** - the Chairman read out a letter received from a resident whose garden backs on to Betsys Pad. She complains that there is a tree over-hanging her garden that she is concerned about. She also reported rubbish had been dumped in an old drain. An inspection will be carried out and reported on at the next meeting.
- **Road Markings** - Council received a report that road markings on the A47 roundabout were causing traffic hold-ups. The Chairman explained the markings had been done by the Highways Authority to put traffic in the correct lanes as it approaches the roundabout.

50mph Speed Limit

A copy of the proposed RTO to impose a 50mph speed limit along the A1101 was circulated. It was noted that Council's request for an extension to the original proposals had been ignored. The Clerk was asked to write again to request the limit be extended to include the junction with Outwell Road.

The Wroe

It was reported that the internally-lit 'Give Way' sign at the junction of Then Wroe and Gaultree Square was flickering. The Clerk will report to the Highways Department.

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167/08 PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

Pest Control

The Chairman reported that Pestforce had attended the playing field and had been successful in reducing the number of moles. The Clerk read out a letter from Pestforce outlining their charges. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to accept a yearly contract at a cost of £900.00 plus vat. The cost of the recent work undertaken would be included in that sum.

Poplar Trees

There was discussion regarding the height of the poplar trees between the two fields. It was agreed that they should be cut down to 15/20 foot maximum height. Councillor McCourt will make enquiries regarding the availability of a Tree Surgeon.

168/08 STRUCTURAL REVIEW OF NORFOLK & SUFFOLK

The Council's response to the Boundary Committee was noted. The Chairman explained that the submission had been prepared jointly with representatives of Marshland St James Parish Council but each council had sent their own submission.

169/08 FOOTWAY LIGHTING MATTERS

Outages - None reported.

170/08 AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS MATTERS

Hungate Road Holdings

Council received a report that Mr Hill had agreed to exchange some of his holdings and move into one section of the field, keeping 6 acres in total. The rest of the field would then be worked by Mr Lankfer for one year. New Leases and 'Notice to Quit' where applicable will be prepared.

The Chairman drew attention to the time (9.30pm) and asked members if they wished to continue the meeting to deal with remaining matters. It was agreed to do so.

171/08 CEMETERY MATTERS

1 Working Party Report

Council received a report that netting had been put back around one memorial stone. After discussion it was decided that this could not be permitted and the Clerk was instructed to contact next-of-kin and ask for it to be removed.

Members received a report from the working party regarding a possible infringement of regulations on the size of a newly-installed memorial. A further inspection will be conducted and action taken as necessary.

There was discussion regarding the length of time between grass cutting as lately the grass had become very long before it had been cut resulting in unsightly clumps of wet grass lying about? CGM will be asked if they have changed their cutting routine.

Cemetery Extension

The Clerk reported that despite chasing letters there had been no further contact from the Borough Council. More attempts will be made to contact the officer concerned.

Interference with Graves

It was reported that on at least one occasion a grave had been tampered with and a flower vase stolen and replaced with an old one. The situation will be monitored.

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172/08 **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**
Progressing.

173/08 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as being Tuesday 28th October 2008, commencing at 7.00pm in the Emneth Central Hall.

There being no other business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.04pm

CHAIRMAN

Dated 28th October 2008