

Minutes of the Meeting of Hillington Parish Council held on Wednesday 23rd September 2015, 7.30pm in the Dining Room, Ffolkes Arms, Hillington.

Present: Chairman Jane Hill; Cllrs: Mike Matthews; Terry Kivlin; Jonathan Worsley. Also present: John Dobson (County Councillor), Mike Tilbury (Borough Councillor), The Clerk and fifteen Members of the Public.

1. Apologies for absence and approval of reasons for absence: Cllr. Ben Wallace had sent his apologies and was unable to attend due to being in Scotland. **Resolved to accept the apology.**

2. Declarations of Interest. The Chairman declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 Tapping House.

3. Tapping House. Mark Shea, Commercial Director of Fundraising and Marketing addressed the meeting. He responded to the points raised by the Council in their letter of 16th August 2015. Three **lights** now have louvers fitted but this will be reviewed in the winter months to see if more are required. It was suggested to him that the bulbs were too bright, five lights were still streaming out light and that he should visit West Acre Theatre to see their bollard lights, which were very effective but much dimmer than those at Tapping House. **The bunds** facing Wheatfields are overgrown but Tapping House staff had started that morning to trim them back. They would not be landscaped further since the bunds were too steep to be planted with grass. The Council and members of the public questioned this since they could not understand why the bunds could not be trimmed if they were grassed. Mark Shea said he would raise the issue with staff at Tapping House. **The portacabin** was originally meant to be a separate building called the Garden Lodge, which was not built due to a lack of funds. The fundraising (commercial) department has to be separate from the clinical team in the main building or Tapping House will lose its charitable status and become liable for VAT at a cost of £80,000 per annum. Tapping House could apply for temporary planning permission for the portacabin but does not wish to because of the cost involved.

Mark Shea then spoke generally about Tapping House. A landscaped garden for the central courtyard has been donated by Cranes who are funding site preparation, transportation and installation. In the summer of 2016 Tapping House will be organising a Hillington Open Gardens event. In January 2015 a national charity withdrew support of £1million per year so the plans for 8 residential beds at the hospice have been put on hold until the shortfall in funding can be addressed. Despite this they are offering more day services to more people than ever before. The AGM was held 1 month ago. It was not open to the public but financial information is available on the Charity Commission website. Tapping House could not function without volunteers but is always desperate for more. An Autumn Fair is to hold on Saturday October 10th from 10.00-2.00pm and an event called 'Light up a Life' on Thursday December 10th at 5.30pm. **Cllr. Worsley suggested that a link to the Tapping House website should be put on the Parish Council Website.**

Mark Shea gave an undertaking that when invited to Parish Council meetings Tapping House would endeavour to send a member of the management team. The Chairman thanked him for his attendance and then he left the meeting.

4. Public Forum:

a) Petrol station banners: When the wind is blowing in a certain direction, advertising banners billow outwards towards the A148 and this restricts the vision of motorists turning out of the garage. **Resolved that Cllr. Kivlin will mention this matter to the garage.**

b) Broadband: There was a query regarding broadband speeds. 40Mbps is the maximum speed with fibre optic broadband but speed decreases as you move away from the box. Speeds of 10/11 Mbps without fibre optic broadband were reported but this speed varied according to the time of day.

5. Police S.N.T. Liaison Officer: Apologies had been received from PC Maria Lambert. The Police no longer provide crime reports for parish council meetings but advise people to register with Police Connect, which is the new community messaging service. The Clerk had registered the Council but noted that there were no Alert Subscriptions available for the Hillington area and a general message said the service was running at a reduced capacity due to staff shortages. No crime information was obtained through this route.

6. Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Cllr. Tilbury reported that a Planning Public Inquiry had started in June. Meanwhile a Planning Inspector had ruled against the BCKLWN's 5 year land supply figures so their Local Plan documents were no longer valid. This made it easier for developers and harder for the BCKLWN to challenge them. Cllr. Tilbury then left the meeting.

7. Norfolk County Council. Cllr. Dobson reported that NCC still do not know how much funding they will receive from central government for the next 3 years. Once a comprehensive spending review has been completed, the government will announce the figures. NCC anticipated a reduction in funding and all departments had been instructed to reduce expenditure by 25% over the next 3 years. The exact figures will not be clear until February 2016 when the NCC budget is set. He suggested that West Norfolk County Councillors would be able to trade their support for the NCC Budget for support for local issues.

Medieval Crosses. Cllr. Dobson had made a site visit with a Highways Officer. Maintenance of the crosses was a matter for the Parish Council in consultation with landowners. He suggested funding works from the precept or applying for Heritage Lottery Money. The County Council would continue to provide advice.

Trees overhanging telephone cables on A148. Cllr. Dobson had contacted Karen O’Kane at BT who through various contacts had seen the issue raised with a team at the BT Chairman’s Office. He was awaiting an update.

Village Link Bus Project Cllr. Dobson will chair a meeting at CITB, Bircham Newton on Tuesday October 6th at 7.00pm. CITB are to be a major investor in the project. He requested that the Council were represented at the meeting. **Resolved that Cllr. Kivlin will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.** Cllr. Dobson then left the meeting.

8. Confirmation of the Minutes

Resolved that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th July 2015 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

9. Matters arising from the Minutes: There were no matters arising.

10. Newsletter The Clerk had emailed Dr. Clive Bond regarding an update on the Hillington Archaeological Event for inclusion in the newsletter. To date no reply had been received. The Newsletter meeting had not yet taken place. **Resolved that Cllr. Hill would organise a Newsletter meeting as soon as possible.**

11. Medieval Crosses and Ivy removal See item 7. Cllrs Matthews, Wallace and Worsley had started clearing Ivy from the crosses and treating it with Roundup. They had also removed various plants growing around the crosses and a sycamore that was growing out of one of the pedestals.

12. Vodaphone Rural Open Sure Signal (ROSS) Since this had gone live there had been a remarkable increase in phone signal. Inside the ROSS triangle users could get 3G. The launch had been reported on Norfolk Radio and in the EDP. **Resolved to thank Cllr. Wallace for his hard work on this issue.**

13. Highways. Sally Bettinson, NCC Highway Engineer had been contacted regarding the missing section of double dotted lines at the junction of the B1153 Flitcham Road and the A148. A technician would check them and arrange for them to be refreshed. However, the last lining order for this year has already been made, so it will be Spring 2016 before she can instruct the works.

14. Sewerage Scheme Earlier in the day The Council had met with John Lambert, Anglian Water Customer Relations Engineer and Raf Szmigiel, Technical Delivery Manager. They had outlined a number of options for the sewerage system using both pumped and gravity fed pipes that would require several new pumping stations and possibly the upgrading of the current treatment works near Pasture Close. Water could be discharged into the River Babingley, subject to necessary environmental permissions, or pumped to Dersingham. Water cannot be pumped to Congham because there is not enough headroom at Grimston. All options were still being explored at this stage. Construction was anticipated to begin in September 2017 with connections commencing from spring/summer 2018. Connecting to the sewer is optional but if householders apply to be connected after the initial connection phase, they will be subject to a £800 connection charge in addition to other costs. Costs will vary depending on the distance to get drainage to the boundary of a property. Once a solution has been developed, an open meeting will be held with The Parish Council to present the proposals but this will not be for another year. Following that an Open Day will be held when

Date.....Signed.....
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householders can discuss the costs relating to their own individual connections. Plans of the possible options and photos of examples of pumping stations are held by The Parish Council.

Concerns were expressed regarding the current sewerage treatment works near Pasture Close. It seems the outflow empties into a field before it reaches the outflow pipe that is supposed to take it to the Babingley. Councillors had raised this issue and that of the Worrels at Warren Farm with John Lambert and Raf Szmigiel who agreed to raise them with the Anglian Water Area Treatment Manager.

15. Annual Bulb Planting Suggested sites for bulb planting were the Fritcham and Sandringham entrances to the village. Cllr. Kivlin will circulate photos of the suggested sites. Volunteers not wishing to plant bulbs could help with further clearance of the Ivy on the Medieval Crosses. Cllr. Worsley will purchase the bulbs. Cllr. Hill will make sandwiches with ingredients kindly donated by Mr. Dave Ralston. **Resolved to meet on Sunday October 18th at 11.00am in the lay-by on the way out of the village.** *NB after the meeting this time was changed to 1.00pm due to a clash earlier in the day with the Harvest Festival at the Church.*

16. Trees overhanging telephone cable next to Railway Cottages See item 7.

17. Village Link Bus Project See item 7.

18. Content on Parish Council Noticeboard A request to display information regarding a charity event had been received. However, it was noted that there is a general noticeboard at the Petrol Station. **Resolved that the Parish Council Noticeboard be reserved for Council matters only.**

19. Christmas Party This will be held on Tuesday December 8th at The Ffolkes Arms.

20. Planning Applications/Determinations:

To date no new planning applications have been received.

21. Accounts for Payment: Resolved to approve the following payments:

M. Duggan – Clerk’s Salary 06.07.15 – 05.10.15	£447.88
Norfolk Parishes Training Partnership – CiLCA course fee	£125.00

Resolved to pay the electricity charges for the ROSS boxes at The Ffolkes Arms, Tapping House and 173 Station Road, Eyndelingen.

22. Correspondence: To consider the following correspondence (Circulated to all Councillors)

- a) Letter from L. Carter, Chief Executive, Tapping House, 07.09.15 **Noted**
- b) Email from Jacqui Page, Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide, 07.09.15 **Noted**
- c) Email from Norfolk ALC regarding Autumn Conference, 14.09.15 **Cllr. Hill wishes to attend**
- d) Information from Norse regarding specialist Grounds Maintenance 16.09.15 **Noted**

e) External Auditor’s Report from Mazars 02.09.15.

The External Auditor reported that the information in the annual return for the financial year ending 31st March 2015 was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. The need for the Annual Governance Statement to be completed after the Internal Audit Report had been received was drawn to the Council’s attention as was a detail concerning the Council Tax Support Grant.

23. Date of next meeting: Tuesday November 17th at 7.30pm in the Dining Room, Ffolkes Arms, Hillington.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Date.....Signed.....
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