

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10 October 2022 commencing at 7.30pm at Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE.

Present: Parish Cllrs: Chris Ward (Chairman), Keith Bradley, Yvonne Bradley, Pamela Oakes, Callum Smith, Ruth Straughan, John Tonks, Jan Windsor-Luck (Vice Chair). Also present: County/Borough Cllr. Carl Annison, Julie McNair, Officer of the Council and 23 members of the public.

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

1.To welcome new Parish Cllr. Callum Smith and consider apologies for absence.

The Council welcomed Cllr. Callum Smith. Apologies received from Parish Cllrs. Sue Hacon and Jenny Spencer.

2.To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation.

County/Borough Cllr. Annison declared an interest in item 3 and advised he will not take part in any discussion.

3.To welcome Jonathan Stratford and Richard Thorpe, Haven, to the meeting and receive information regarding the proposed changes to the site and neighbour consultation.

The Chairman welcomed Jonathan and Richard to the meeting.

Jonathan provided a brief overview of proposals. In summary:

Haven is about to submit a planning application to GYBC to extend the holiday park by 110 bases, building on the existing golfing area. There will be a loss of golf course to owners.

The development is a long term interest in the business and local community and will generate additional income for the local community in terms of creating more jobs. Haven employs 323 people directly and 60/70 people indirectly. The impact on the village is recognised and discussions are taking place with Highways, Norfolk County Council, in relation to transport, flooding and other matters. Professional submissions will accompany the Planning Application.

4.Public Forum.

Many comments and questions were made by members of the public. In summary:

Q: Blackstone are a multimillion pound investment company that buy businesses, develop them, and sell at a profit. With 110 new bases, split 50/50 between ownership and holiday rentals this will bring a considerable amount of additional traffic through the village. There will also be an impact on mains water and the sewerage system, both of which are affected at present and that will only get worse. There is likely to be an increase of some 10K to 15K vehicle movements on Station Road, based on two changeovers per week in high season.

A: Blackstone's strategy is to build a business up and make it better. They are putting a significant amount of capital into the business. This will address the swimming pool area and an electrical upgrade on the park. A traffic assessment will be carried out and emissions will be mitigated by making provision for electric points. Every new base, with the exception of four, will have a double parking bay. Benefits to the village will be job opportunities for

local residents. Of the 323 employed at present, approximately one third live in Hopton. Haven offers good career progression from the age of 16. Haven invested £15M in holding back beach erosion. Haven understands that people are upset about the loss of golfing facilities. The number of people playing golf each day is 11 at its lowest and 33 per day at its highest. This is out of 720 owners.

Q: Why are rentals being placed at the northern end of the park away from where people spend their money.

A: The park is integrated. Some holidaymakers wish to use the park as a base to explore, others will stay on park. There is more demand, at the present time, from people that just want a base for their holiday. Six members of the team live on the park all year round.

Comment: The infrastructure is not in place to deal with the development. Objections will be submitted to GYBC Planning.

Q: Will the existing copse be protected and well away from caravans to ensure wildlife remains. The water pressure in the village lowers at the weekend and in high season. There is only one small shop on site which is expensive. Change over days will be a nightmare, these are also on refuse collection days and in association with the school run makes Station Road very congested. Could Haven provide a bus service for their holidaymakers to Great Yarmouth rather than using the bus service in the village, which can be full at times.

A: The facilities on site will grow. A woodlands and nature ecological plan will be done to make sure wildlife is not being disturbed. The woodland trail will stay, or part of it. It could be an opportunity for a local business or bus company to put on a separate bus service for holidaymakers. Haven would not be doing this. Q: The problems are traffic, water and sewerage.

A: Arrival times are staggered in terms of when vehicles are entering Hopton. Haven will work with NCC Highways to improve matters.

Q: The Warren Road pumping station does not cope well.

A: There is a pumping station already on site and an application has been submitted in relation to a water tank. The tank would be filled off peak.

Comment: There will be an increased load on the junction onto the A47, at a time when 200 new homes are being built in the village. Another exit onto the A47 would be preferable, possibly via Links Road, north of Haven, across farm land to the A47.

Comment: Station Road south side is not wide enough. There are verges that could be used to widen the road. Could Haven have a word with Highways about this.

Q: When can we expect work to commence and be completed.

A: No planning application has been submitted to GYBC yet. If permission is granted it is unlikely that any development will start next year.

Q: How is this going to benefit the village as a whole.

A: Assurances will be submitted with the planning application.

Comment by the Chairman: The SAM2 camera was facing east on Station Road during the period 31 August to 26 September and some 65,446 vehicles were recorded during that time. Between 1 and 31 August when SAM2 was facing west, 38,196 vehicles went through Station Road, and that was with a week of no data due to a battery malfunction. When Haven's planning application is submitted to GYBC, the Parish Council will look at precise vehicle numbers.

The Chairman thanked Jonathan and Richard for attending and they left the meeting. A number of members of the public also left.

5.To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council meeting held 8 August 2022. It was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Smith to approve the Minute as read. This was unanimously agreed.

6.To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.

County/Borough Cllr. Annison advised complaints about Warren Road footpath and street lighting have been reported to Highways NCC. The footpath at Rackham Close has been resurfaced and white lines on Coast Road/Station Road completed.

7.To receive and consider the Clerk's reports:-

a. Correspondence. As listed and circulated.

The dead seal pup washed up on the beach at Hopton has been removed by GYBC at no cost to the Parish Council. Thank you to C/B Cllr. Annison for his support on this.

The hedges to the right when exiting Noel Close onto the Lowestoft Road have been cut back to enable motorists to see cyclists approaching. The sides of the cycle paths have also been cut back. **b. Planning applications received.**

06/22/0657/HH Proposed two storey side & rear extension at 16 Geneva Gardens Hopton. No objection by the Planning Committee.

c. Finance. To ratify September payments and bank reconciliation statement.

Ten payments and three direct debits from the business current account totalling £7,035.29 It was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Oakes to accept the Bank reconciliation statement and ratify the payments as listed. This was unanimously agreed.

d. To agree October invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement.

Eight payments and two direct debits from the business current account totalling £2,670.93. 29 It was proposed by Cllr. K. Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Windsor-Luck to accept the Bank reconciliation statement and confirm the payments as listed. This was unanimously agreed.

The final half year precept amount has been received from GYBC.

e. External Auditor's Certificate. Notice of conclusion of audit.

A clear Certificate has been received for year ended 31.3.2022. Notice of conclusion of audit has been published.

8.To consider the purchase and installation of a commemorative bench/item in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11. 1926 – 2022.

Following a brief discussion, quotations will be obtained for a bench similar in style to the Remembrance bench in the Ruins.

9. Letter to King Charles 111 sending deepest condolences. The

letter has been sent and a copy archived.

10.To consider putting funds aside for the village to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 111.

It was proposed by Cllr. Oakes and seconded by Cllr. Windsor-Luck to review this item as part of the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee meeting and budgets for 2023/24. This was unanimously agreed.

11.To receive updates and consider matters relating to the Recreation Ground and Pavilion Building:-

a. Water pressure sinks in ladies facility. Mend it Matt has decreased the water pressure using the adjuster already in place. The invoice is awaited. **b. Water usage at the Pavilion Building.**

The current direct debit is £27 per month. Due to high usage, there is now a deficit on the water account of £960. Wave are increasing the direct debit to £178 per month to bring the account up to date.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Smith to pay the £960 in a lump sum to bring the account up to date. This was unanimously agreed.

c. To consider a second quotation from a tree surgeon re: Oak tree east side of the field, Tree Protection Order No. 9 2021. A further quotation has been received in the sum of £1,200 from Burnside Tree Care to crown the tree, remove any dead branches and take waste away from site. Following discussion, as the tree work is not essential and would only make the tree more aesthetically pleasing, it was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Straughan to not make application to GYBC to have this work carried out.

This was unanimously agreed.

d. Progress regarding Lease. Norton Peskett have written to NPLaw to raise a number of enquiries regarding the proposed Lease. The matter is ongoing. **e. Strimming to the front of Recreation Ground.**

Due to complaints of overgrowth, the area has already been strimmed at a cost of £150.00. It was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Oakes to ratify the payment. This was unanimously agreed.

f. Feedback from the Skateboarding, BMX, Scooter event held Saturday 20 August 2022. The event was well attended and feedback has been very positive.

12.To consider community events 2023, including Skateboarding, BMX, Scooter event with a proposed date of Saturday 19 August 2023. Potential sources of funding. It was suggested that an Events Committee be set up by the Parish Council to look at events, such as the skateboarding event for 2023, other potential events and funding. Cllrs. Smith, Oakes and Ward will form the Events Committee.

In view of the success of this year's Skateboarding event, it was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Windsor-Luck to hold the event again on Saturday 19 August 2023, 10am to 4pm, with the addition of a new mobile ramp and a professional scooter person. The Events Committee will meet to discuss the provision of refreshments and sponsorship/grants. This was unanimously agreed.

13.To consider a donation request from Hopton Residents Facebook Events Committee for £500 to hold Carols around the Ruins on Saturday 10 December 2022.

Their Events Committee have public liability insurance in the sum of £5M. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Ward to make a donation of £500. No stalls or events to take place actually inside the walls of the Ruin or within 1 metre of the walls. The sponsorship of the Parish Council to be acknowledged on posters and social media. This was unanimously agreed.

14.To consider a donation request from Hopton Harriers FC for £450 to purchase away football kit for the Under 9 Stingrays Team.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. K. Bradley to make a donation of £450 with the name of Hopton on Sea Parish Council on the football kit by way of sponsorship. This was unanimously agreed.

15.To receive updates/feedback from previous Minutes:-

a. Village Litter Pick – Saturday 24 September, 10am. Beach Litter Pick – Sunday 25 September, 2.30pm.

The Village Litter Pick was the third one this year. Sixteen people attended the village pick and 7 at the beach. More than 20 bags of rubbish were collected.

16.To ratify the purchase of a new SAM2 battery at a cost of £84 plus VAT and delivery.

One of the SAM2 batteries needed replacing urgently. It was proposed by Cllr. WindsorLuck and seconded by Cllr. Y. Bradley to ratify the purchase and payment of £84 plus VAT and delivery. This was unanimously agreed.

17.To receive notes from the SNAP meeting held in August.

It was proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Tonks to accept the notes as read. This was unanimously agreed. Next meeting is Thursday 17 November 2022. These are open to anyone to attend. Website: GtYarmouth-OperationalPartnership@norfolk.police.uk

18.To ratify sponsorship of the boat in the Millennium Garden by Willows Gardening at £150 per annum.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Ward and seconded by Cllr. Smith to ratify the agreement for Willows Gardening to sponsor the boat in the Millennium Garden at £150 per annum with effect from 1 September 2022. The payment has been received. Willows will maintain the boat and planting. This was unanimously agreed.

19.To consider a letter from Greengrass Landscape Gardening regarding maintenance of the Millennium Garden.

The letter advises that the gardener's hourly rate is to be increased by 50p from 1 January 2023. It was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Y. Bradley to accept the new rate. This was unanimously agreed.

20.To consider the purchase of a good size Christmas Tree for the Millennium Garden.

Quotation received to source, supply, transport and plant an 8 - 10ft Christmas Tree at £48. The exact location to be agreed, but near the school boundary so that the electricity supply can be used. It was proposed by Cllr. K. Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Straughan to agree the quotation of £48. This was unanimously agreed.

21.To receive information regarding the coastal path Hopton to Gorleston.

The wooden steps at the far end of the beach, coming off at Gorleston, have been in a poor condition for some time. The Parish Council asked GYBC to repair or replace the steps. However, GYBC blocked them off and advised they would not be repairing the steps. The Ramblers’ Association, Norfolk Area, have now contacted the Norfolk Trails Team at NCC advising that the Coastal Path between Hopton and Gorleston has been obstructed (by GYBC). They are asking what is being done to restore accessibility to that section of the path.

22.To consider the Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document and Draft Open Space Needs Assessment Local Plan 2 received from GYBC.

The Parish Council submitted comments. [The document identifies there is a lack of allotments and green space in Hopton. It also outlines the proposed changes to S106 money received from developers. S106 money is used to mitigate a development to be spent on the provision of recreational facilities in the vicinity of the new development. However, the proposals state that S106 money can be used within 1 mile of the development. For example, when the Links Road (Hopton side) development takes place, the S106 money (if any) could be used in Gorleston. This is a simplified outline of the document, which has been copied to all Cllrs.]

23.To consider e-mail exchanges with Netbox Digital regarding the photocopier contract.

The final payment has been made which brings the contract to an end. The machine was removed from the office today.

24.To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council.
Confirmed Monday 14 November 2022, 7.30pm at Hopton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed

Dated

The Clerk to the Parish Council can be contacted in the following ways:- e-mail
hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com Tel: 01502 730768 (message service in operation).
Address: Office at the Village Hall Station Road Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE. Office open
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm (flexible).
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