

HOE & WORTHING PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 6th July 2022 Day: Wednesday Time: 7pm Venue: Hoe Village Hall

In attendance: District Cllr Mr Roger. Atterwill, Celia Daniel, Sharon Colk, Tracey Green, Graham Lewis, Malcolm Barnes, Margaret Barrett, Philip Barrett, William Borrett, John Hardiment, Lorna Hardiment, Beverly Kidd, Richard Malt, Susan Malt, Roger Patchett, James Sayer, John Tuckwell, Carl Watling, Glenys Watling, Jane Whitcher and Trevor Wood

Also in attendance: Mrs Kelly. Pickard - Minutes (Swanton Morley Parish Council Clerk)

Before the meeting began, Susan Malt reported that Peter Darty who had held lectures raising money for the Hall has sadly passed away. Peter will be greatly missed.

Election of Chairman to Hoe & Worthing Parish:

Cllr Atterwill asked if there was anyone present who would like to stand as Chairman for the Parish meeting.

Cllr Bill Borrett raised his hand, Cllr Atterwill asked if there was a proposal for Mr Borrett, James Keith proposed Bill Borrett as Chairman seconded by John Tuckwell.

Celia Daniel also raised her hand, proposed by Graham Lewis and seconded by Sharon Colk.

Cllr Borrett asked if he could say a few words ahead of the vote.

Cllr Borrett mentioned he has been connected to the Parish all of his life and as a community Hoe and Worthing have always been supportive of each other. The Parish Meeting has a role to bring the Communities together and get to know each other, to form a sense of togetherness. Mr Borrett has a vision for the Parish Meeting which is more supportive of the community. There are District and County Cllrs that are able to assist with the more complicated queries within the Parish. Mr Borrett is happy to run the meetings and would like consideration to appoint a Vice Chair for Hoe village and a Vice Chair for Worthing village. The two Vice Chairs can then work together as a community. The meetings could be shorter to allow time to mingle afterwards.

Celia Daniel took the floor and explained that a large part of what Bill Borrett has expressed falls within the Local Governance Review and at the last Parish Meeting it was unanimously voted that the two villages would like to proceed with a review. Celia suggested to go ahead with the review and see what the outcome is.

Cllr Atterwill then put the Chairman position to the vote.

Celia Daniel received 14 votes and Bill Borrett received 2 votes.

Celia Daniel took the Chair.

Any other urgent business: Cllr Atterwill handed to Celia for agreement and authorisation a renewal insurance policy, prepared by Gallagher Insurance, quoting £618.89 for Parish Liability including cover for Officials effective 18th August 2022, this being a significant increase from 2021.

As the newly elected Chairman, prior to making any commitment, Celia agreed to review this quotation against other insurance providers as previously the annual cost was £218.00.

Bill Borrett asked Cllr Atterwill if other parishes were incurring high increases? Cllr Atterwill mentioned brokers are commonly used and suggested Came & Company and Norrish & Fisher. In some instances, if a parish agree to a three year contract then the renewal figure would not increase.

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To meet the renewal date, Bill Borrett proposed that the Chair undertakes a review with the Treasurer and authorises the Parish to pay for either the price quoted or lower, seconded by Carl Watling and agreed.

Celia Daniel asked James Keith if he had received the hydraulic testing report from Will Todd - Environment Agency. He responded no. Bill Borrett stated he has some information to provide under the agenda item no 7 below.

James Keith left the meeting

The Meeting Went into Session

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from James Keith, Jennifer Tuckwell, Philip Stroulger & Krystyna Stroulger

2. Minutes from the Parish Meeting of 26th May 2022 to be Considered, Agreed and Signed

Beverly Kidd reported there had been on a number of occasions where some comments were made but had not been recorded. She asked that in future these are included where possible.

One member of the public asked what GDPR was. Mrs Pickard responded that this is the General Data Protection Regulation.

Beverly Kidd proposed that the minutes are accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting seconded by Margaret Barrett.

3. Matters arising from the minutes dated 26th May 2022

Trevor Wood stated that the minutes that have been approved are for a meeting that was not lawful.

Celia Daniel added that following the meeting and production of the minutes, Mr Atterwill and Mrs Pickard were contacted a number of times to amend the minutes which indicates that people were happy with the final document and contents of the meeting.

Cllr Atterwill responded that there is nothing to suggest that the last meeting was unlawful. The legislation allows a District Cllr to convene a meeting (*LGA 1972 Schedule 12, Pt III 15 (1) c*) however, as a District Cllr and not on this electoral register, he cannot vote. It should be noted that no votes were taken by Cllr Atterwill at that time.

He explained that following the annual meeting on the 28th April 2022 and James Keith's resignation, no resident came forward to Chair the meeting. If no one comes forward, what was the parish meeting going to do? Cllr Atterwill sought advice from Breckland Council as they are Parish Trustees, and the Parish Assets are held in trust by the Chairman and Officer at Breckland District Council. Cllr Atterwill asked Breckland what direction they could give to Hoe and Worthing.

Cllr Atterwill in good faith had offered to be an honest broker and overall, felt that the meeting was productive and allowed the residents of Hoe and Worthing to "clear the air." He had been told however that someone had made a 'big complaint' and Breckland had referred some matters for special legal advice. The Parish Meeting unanimously voted for a Local Governance Review.

Dick Malt stated that what Roger had said and what Trevor had said were different and he asked Trevor what reference he had relied on.

Trevor Wood replied the relevant legislation very clearly lays out what parish meetings can and cannot do. He then opened his file and said he had a copy of the legislation with him which he would read out if the meeting wished him to. The meeting however asked him not to.

Trevor Wood stated that at the end of the extraordinary meeting Roger had decided once again the issues which would make up the agenda for the next meeting and when challenged he refused to include the issue of complaints, which was the original reason an extraordinary meeting had been called by the parish meeting.

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Bill Borrett raised the issue of the meeting being unlawful meaning that the decisions will need to be remade. He advised that the decisions made in the previous meeting should be considered again at this meeting to put the issue to bed. Graham Lewis agreed these should be ratified at this meeting in order to get around the legal issues.

Trevor Wood wanted it placed on record that Cllr Atterwill made the decision to form the agenda without including the issue of complaints that have been raised over the course of three years. Celia suggested that this be added onto item 8 (any item to be reported for the next agenda) and that he prepares an A4, bullet point sheet of complaints that needed addressing at the next meeting. Trevor Wood asked what would then happen to the A4 sheet? Celia suggested this could be circulated or presented at the next meeting for attendees to read before the meeting.

Celia Daniel understood the concerns raised however, as they have held the meeting and approved the minutes it will be noted.

Celia Daniel asked if this current meeting, 6th July 2022 was considered lawful. The Parish Meeting agreed it was lawful as Celia had been elected as Chairman.

The Parish wished to thank Councillor Roger Atterwill for all his recent work and help in progressing the voting of a new Chairman.

Beverly Kidd suggested on the back of the previous comments that the agenda for this evenings meeting is re-ordered to bring the urgent issues of Roads (item 6) and Flooding (item 7) to the top of the agenda and any other item could be rolled over to a future meeting. Celia agreed.

4. To receive an update on a possible Governance review

Moving forward Celia is happy to continue with the Chair and with the need to proceed with the Local Governance Review.

Further to the minutes of the last meeting on the 26th May 2022, Cllr Atterwill confirmed If residents want a governance review then they would have to raise a petition and submit this to Breckland District Council.

In response to Dick Malt's query, a minimum of 37.5% (i.e. 206 total / 78 to sign) of registered electors across this parish would be required to support, sign the petition and deliver this by hand to BDC to officially begin the review process.

Dick Malt also asked how the information is presented. Cllr Atterwill advised this is a complex piece of work but ultimately, it is the Parish Meeting's responsibility to put this together.

Graham Lewis asked if there is a precedence for this however Cllr Atterwill has no knowledge of this.

Cllr Atterwill listed 4 possible options for the residents of Hoe and Worthing to consider:

- i) Remain as a Parish meeting (no change)
- ii) Form a Parish Council
- iii) Separate the villages and become their own individual parish meeting
- iv) Individual village to join neighbouring parish/parish council

Celia informed the meeting that she would obtain further information direct from BDC and circulate this to all residents.

Susan Malt stated that she does not feel that the Parish Meeting is broken and in the years Trevor Wood chaired it everything ran like clockwork. Now they have a new Chairman, and the community is coming together and helping, Susan suggested that the Parish Meeting look at the 15 points that Cllr Atterwill had suggested on the 26th May to sort

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the issues out. The Parish need people to come together again. All points are sensible although aimed towards a Parish Council. However, BDC Democratic Services could provide some guidance directly.

Beverly Kidd agrees with Susan Malt and thinks it would be good to start drafting up some information required for the Parish Meeting.

Separately, Cllr Borrett proposed that until the Local Governance Review has concluded that Jane Whitcher remains as Parish Treasurer, seconded by Beverly Kidd, formally approved.

5. Planning

Cllr Atterwill reported that in the press it had been published that the Radome will no longer be situated on Robertson Barracks however the planning portal is not up to date with the information as yet.

6. Highways - To discuss resident's concerns relating to speeding in Hoe

Previously, Cllr Borrett was asked to provide a response following receipt of an email, from residents, detailing a number of questions regarding Road safety. Bill Borrett read a pre-prepared Statement provided by NCC. (Awaiting copy of statement, to follow).

Carl Watling thanked him for his response and introduced the residents attending the meeting who are affected by the Road, specifically dangerous driving and increased volume of traffic following a re-categorisation of the Road by NCC Highways Dept. In response to the Statement, Carl stated that the method the Council and Police use to record accident statistics are inaccurate and do not reflect collisions, where no injuries are reported, or the antisocial behaviour that residents experience on a daily basis from passing motorists. Carl referred to a report detailing by vehicle volume and speed data, supplied by the police, sight stopping distance measurements and the plan to install the Vattenfall offshore windfarm Vehicle Mobilisation Compound that will be sited in the area of the properties in 2023. Carl also reported that the Konectbus Company had agreed to introduce bus stops on either side of the road adjacent to Rabbits Foot Barn and also the Local Democratic Reporter, Noah Vickers, was interested in covering developments of the Campaign.

Cllr Borrett stated that he was influential in the project to reduce the speed limit in the area to 40mph in 2020 and expressed his willingness to support a subsequent campaign; Carl proposed that an independent survey should be carried out by attendees visiting the site and a report produced for the Parish. The signage in the area should be reviewed and new signs instated where applicable, record any identified risks on the NCC Risk Register, consider a 24/7 speed deterrent and identify a potential funding-line for new works and equipment. Cllr Borrett agreed to lead with the proposals, which were unanimously accepted.

Funding for Safety Speed Detection Systems were discussed, and Cllr Atterwill reported that NCC have sent out the invitations for Parish Councils/Meetings to apply for the Parish Partnership Funding, which could aid Hoe and Worthing with the purchase of such devices. Cllr Borrett added that he would investigate another funding-line through the Vattenfall Community Fund Project.

Suggestions were made from James Sayer, regarding other vehicle calming measures and the requirement for better road signage in the Parish by Beverly Kidd.

It was agreed that Cllr Borrett and Carl would work on the Campaign and report on developments at future Parish meetings.

7. To discuss resident's concerns relating to flooding in Hoe and Worthing

Celia has since the December 2020 flood, been very much involved with Worthing's concerns and few people were aware that James Keith, accompanied by Mr Goff (local landowner) met Will Todd – Environmental Agency Senior Flood & Coastal Advisor for East Anglia on the 12th October last year to discuss flood protection and the proposal to carry out Hydraulic Testing / Track Raising along the river. A report is expected in June 2022.

In the absence of James Keith, Celia Daniel asked Bill Borrett for an update. He has been corresponding with Mark Bogden and the Environment Agency, the recent response 05.07.2022 reads:

"Dear Bill, Please see below a response I have received from Will Todd at the EA. I hope this is helpful for your meeting.
Regards - Mark Ogden, Flood & Water Manager - Community and Environmental Services

Sent: 05 July 2022 14:31

To: Ogden, Mark

Hi Mark,

We have received the draft hydraulic modelling that has been produced by JBA Consulting for the Norfolk Rivers Trust. This has modelled the floodplain restoration on the Wendling Beck as well as the raising of the track to create a low embankment, reducing the frequency in which the floodplain on the eastern bank of the Wendling Beck is utilised in times of flood.

We are in the process of reviewing this report and associated modelling and hope to have a final report to share later this month (July).

Many thanks – Will"

Celia requested that all future correspondence is also shared with her please.

At this time, it is unknown whether the testing and model used will conclude that flood risks will be reduced. We shall await further news, hopefully by end of July.

Trevor Wood and Celia met Norfolk Rivers Drainage Board (IDB) in May 2022 to discuss ways of alleviating flood pressure points in both villages. The IDB suggested/recommends a detailed 6 point plan for Hoe. **See appendix 1**

And for Worthing – *categorised at High Risk*, construct a small earth/clay embankment across the floodplain (connecting existing high ground) as indicated by the brown line. **See appendix 2** Ultimately, we all want to reduce flood risk to both communities and properties.

Bill Borrett reported that the nature of flooding has over the years changed and a land drainage system was installed 5 years ago however the land is now much drier. Bill Borrett feels that what is required is an attenuation lagoon for all of the water, so it goes back into the table before coming through.

Graham Lewis asked if these are ideas or is this work going to actually happen? A couple of meetings ago Graham asked a question if any landowner contributes towards flood risk, and does it require approval or a permit? By granting the permit will they have potentially contributed towards increased water flow!

Celia is hopeful that following the hydraulic testing report this may provide an answer and solution to the issue. Also, Will Todd mentioned in his email last year that all costs would be waived for the landowner, they will be met by the Flood Authorities.

To date, our concern is that Worthing residents have not yet been invited to meet and talk to County Flood Specialists from the Environment Agency to explain the full impact of the flood in their village or understand the detail of any flood protection proposal.

The IDB have suggested proposals however, they need to obtain the view of the parishioners and review all the proposals, this could be scheduled in once the hydraulic testing report is available and then allow the residents to decide how they want their village protected for the future including other flood resilience measures.

Celia suggested that both she and Trevor continue to work together and consider arranging a Parish Meeting dealing specifically with the report from the Environment Agency & IDB

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In agreement with Graham Lewis suggestion, hold two separate meetings, one for Hoe and one for Worthing so this is relevant to each resident that was affected by the Christmas, December 2020 flood.

After checking with Worthing residents that they still wanted their case to be included in the next tranche of work addressed by Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance, Trevor Wood said that following the devastating flood it became clear that Worthing was one of the worst villages affected and he had urged every effort should be made to include Worthing's case in the NSFA's next tranche. James Keith had said he would contact its chairman, Richard Dannatt but that never happened. As there has not been any correspondence submitted from the parish to date, he proposed that the meeting should now authorise a letter to be sent to the NSFA urgently making Worthing's case for inclusion. This was seconded by Graham Lewis and unanimously agreed.

8. Any item to be reported for the next agenda:

9. To confirm the date, time and venue of the next Parish Meeting - August, subject to Flood Reports.

Cllr Atterwill asked for a vote of thanks to Mrs Pickard for assisting with the minutes of recent meetings.

Cllr Borrett also asked for a vote of thanks to Cllr Roger Atterwill for acting Chair.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed:

C. Daniel

Mrs Celia Daniel - Chairman

Date: 25/8/ 2022