

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Hempstead Parish Council held on  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Paul Sanders (Chairman) Charles Inglis, Yvette Gibson, Charles Mack.  
William Mack, Robin West. John Stibbons *Clerk*

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr. S. Aquarone
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. having been previously circulated, it was proposed by Charles Inglis that they be confirmed as an accurate record. This was seconded by Charles Mack and approved by the meeting. The Chairman then signed the minutes.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Reports from County, District or Parish Councillors.

*A written report from County Cllr. S. Aquarone was circulated to all members and included the following points.*

I recently attended the first Norfolk County Council in-person meeting since just after the elections in May. We had a wide ranging agenda, two items of which I flag specifically for your attention:

Funding for potholes and road safety We supported plans to commit an additional £1m to roadsafety schemes. This more than trebles what has been available in the past for preemptive schemes and Melton Constable division will be eligible to take part in the scheme in the calendar year 2023 as part of the Parish Partnership programme (with information to be sent to clerks in June 2022, for submission in December 2022). However, I was distraught that ten times this amount is being committed to tackling potholes. I'm as against potholes as the next road user, and doubtless they affect road safety, but the prioritisation seems wrong to me. A better solution for both would be to adopt the Swedish approach to road accidents: to start from the premise that the only acceptable number of road deaths and injuries is zero - and work back from there, shifting the onus from the individual driver, to a societal responsibility placed upon authorities and manufacturers to design out risks.

Footpaths As many of you know, I have been looking for ways to promote active living in our villages – in particular since lockdown led to many families looking for walks they could take locally. Over the summer I went on half a dozen walks, exploring where circular walks have issues or blockages that need fixing. I found that public liability insurance is one of the many barriers that local communities face in establishing permissive path arrangements with local landowners in the absence of Natural England funding. So I proposed that Norfolk County Council resolve to investigate the option of providing an insurance-based scheme to cover the unlikely event of claims arising from the use of permissive paths. Sadly the motion didn't pass but this was just one idea, and I will continue to push ahead with improvements to our local footpaths – repairing obstacles, negotiating with landowners, and improving mapping and signage. Please get in touch if you discover any issues! Email: [steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:steffan.aquarone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk) Tel: 01603 327

6. Planning

PF/21/2088 Formation of a new vehicle access road at Red House Farm, Kelling Road, Hempstead  
The parish council had no objection to this application

Pinewood Poultry Farm Mr. Daniel Orford- the Architect for Lampro - addressed the meeting.  
The revised plan is to remove housing from the corner near the Church. This land possibly to be gifted to the parish as a car park with six parking spaces. Bungalows will be placed nearest to the church so the view from the church is not restricted.  
The existing bungalow is to be removed or sold to the developers. This decision may depend on highways requirements.  
The land holding will need to be resolved before the exact details of the footpath can be agreed.  
The planning application will be for approval and not outline permission  
The full planning application should be submitted by the end of November.  
If the area is sold to a developer they must follow the approved plans or re-apply for any changes.  
The community benefits will be water installed to the church. Gift of land and money for play equipment.  
The community benefits will be included in the planning application.  
The chairman thanked Mr. Orford for his most helpful presentation. Mr Orford left the meeting at 7.58pm.

7. Budget for 2022-23 The clerk presented a proposed budget which was discussed by the councillors. It forecast a deficit on present income of £740. There would be a projected reserve of funds in March 2022 (the end of the financial year) of £2580.  
It was proposed by Charles Inglis that the precept should be raised by £400 for the 2022-23 year to £3380 leaving a budgeted deficit carry over of £340.  
This proposal was seconded by Robin West and approved by all the members.

8. Finance

Bank Balances at 1/11/2021 Current a/c £3379.24  
It was proposed by Charles Mack that the invoice from Glenn Holmes of £180 for grass cutting should be approved for payment this was seconded by R. West and carried.

9. Correspondence.

Village News Letter. Request for a donation of £1 per household per year towards the News Letters running Costs. In the case of Hempstead this would be £90 per year which the councillors agreed to donate.

The following emails were sent to members for information:-

NALC bulletin  
Planning- Chicken Farm Application Withdrawn  
Queens Platinum celebrations  
Equinor Update  
Police report  
NALC Autumn Webinars

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.26pm

The next Hempstead Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022