

Homersfield Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING *Homersfield Black Swan* Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 6.00 pm

Councillors Present: Lucy Hammond (Chair), Debbie Bird, Ian Duffy and Angela Stokes

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO): Sally Chapman

Also Present: County Councillor Judy Cloke and District Councillor Toby Hammond

A. To Receive Reports from the County & District Councillors' - Full reports are on the website:

<http://homersfield.onesuffolk.net>

County Councillor Judy Cloke gave a verbal update and answered questions, she also advised she had been appointed Deputy Cabinet member for Flooding and all flooding lasting longer than 24 hours will be reported to her.

District Councillor Toby Hammond provided a verbal update on his work and discussed the issue of antisocial behaviour in Bungay and Halesworth, including instances of racial abuse. He encouraged everyone to report any incidents to the police.

B. Public Forum – for Members of the Public

None

MINUTES

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence

[Apologies were Received and Accepted from Councillor Elliott](#)

2. To Record Declarations of Interests and to Consider Requests for Dispensation

[The Clerk received and approved requests for dispensation from Lucy Hammond and Debbie Bird relating to Minute Point 4. d\), as they are Trustees of Homersfield Community Park. Without dispensation, only two Councillors would be able to participate and comment on considering an offer for the Homersfield Playing Field. This would impede the Council's ability to transact business.](#)

It was noted Lucy Hammond, Debbie Bird and Lynne Elliott (not present) have declared they are Trustees of Homersfield Community Park on the HPC's Register of Interest.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th May 2024

[The Minutes from the Meeting held on the 28th May 2024 were confirmed unanimously as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.](#)

4. Finance

a) Certificate of Exemption from a Limited Assurance Review

The RFO advised that the Certificate of Exemption from a Limited Assurance Review has been sent to the External Auditors. They will respond in due course.

b) To Appoint the Internal Auditor for 2024/25 – update

[Councillors Approved the Appointment of an Independent Internal Auditor Mr Peter Strange for 2024-25.](#)

c) To Receive the Financial & Budget Reports and Approve the Income & Expenditure

[Councillors Resolved unanimously to Approve the following Receipts and Expenditure:](#)

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

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DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURE
28/05/2024	3	SALC Internal Audit 2023-24		£ 212.40
28/05/2024	S/O	Clerk's Salary - May		£ 216.00
31/05/2024	4	ICO - Data Protection Registration		£ 35.00
11/06/2024	Transfer	Interest From Barclays Saver Account (now closed)	£ 4.41	
27/06/2024	Transfer	To Saver Account £6,000		
28/06/2024	S/O	Clerk's Salary - June		£ 216.00
30/06/2024	D/D	Bank Service Charge		£ 18.00
16/07/2024	5	Clerk's Expenses June-July		£ -
16/07/2024	6	Meeting Expenses - July		£ 11.35
		Total	£ 4.41	£ 708.75
		Reserves		
		General Reserves		£ 8,795.57
		Restricted Reserves		£ 2,351.74
		Total		£ 11,147.31

d) To Consider an Offer for Homersfield Playing Field – c/f

The Chair advised the valuation for Homersfield Playing Field had not been received and another meeting was set for Tuesday 30th July 2024 at 6.00 pm for this agenda item.

e) To Consider a Poppy Wreath or Crosses for Remembrance Day

Councillors Agreed to purchase a new Poppy Wreath (type B) for Remembrance Day. Crosses were not required.

f) To Consider Homersfield Bridge Information Board Repair – update

District Councillor Toby Hammond kindly agreed to give a grant of £655.00 (as previous quotation) to repair the information board and posts.

Action: TH/Clerk

5. New Policies

a) Privacy Statement

Councillors unanimously Approved and Adopted the Privacy Statement.

b) Church Wood Policy – c/f

The Church Wood Policy will be considered at the Homersfield Church Wood Planning Meeting on Monday 12th August at 6.00 pm.

Cllrs discussed signage for the wood, a combination gate padlock and County Councillor Judy Cloke said she would help with funding. Sign examples to be taken to the meeting.

Action: Clerk

6. Planning Applications and Decisions

Applications

a) Homersfield Article 4 direction – Public consultation (full details on HPC's website:

<http://homersfield.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/meeting-dates-agendas-and-draft-minutes>)

East Suffolk Council has reviewed the Article 4 direction in Homersfield Conservation Area. The content of the Article 4 direction will be amended as follows:

- The restriction on the installation of satellite dishes in certain controlled locations is proposed for removal, as this is becoming outdated technology.
- The restriction on painting the exterior of buildings in certain locations is removed. The GPDO does not distinguish between the painting of previously unpainted surfaces and the

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

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general painting of the exterior of a building. Therefore, it is considered that the removal of the Permitted Development right to paint the exterior of a building would be too onerous and could result in a large number of applications where there would be no change to the character or appearance of the building as well as likely compliance issues.

- Consideration was given to restricting renewable energy under Part 14 of the GPDO (concerning the installation of solar equipment, heat pumps and biomass heating systems) and electrical outlets and upstands for recharging vehicles under Part 2 Class D and E.

Following consultation with the Local Plan Working Group it was decided that these should not be restricted.

[Councillors Agreed to the above amended Article 4 direction in Homersfield Conservation Area with no comments.](#)

b) Planning reference: DC/24/1460/TCA

Proposal: 1 x Silver Birch (T1 on plan) - Reduce height by 1/3 and re-shape.

1 x Ash (T2 on plan) - Pollard to 1/3.

Site address: Mill Cottage, St Cross Road, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk IP20 0ET

Consultation letter expiry date: 14 May 2024

Status: Pending

Decisions

None

7. Homersfield's Playing Field – c/f

8. Homersfield Phonebox

Cllrs agreed the suggested Suffolk Wildlife Trust posters were not relevant to the village and will ask River Waveney Trust if they would like to offer a display.

Action: Clerk

[Councillors Resolved to purchase a noticeboard for the inside back of the noticeboard.](#)

9. Homersfield Church Wood

a) Tree Warden's Annual Report 2023/24

The Chair read out the Tree Warden's Annual Report (*as attached*).

b) Planning Meeting for Church Wood

The date was set for Monday 12th August at 6.00 pm.

c) Wood Working Party Dates

The next Wood Working Party Date is on 28th September 2024 from 10 am to 12 noon.

10. Village Maintenance

a) Village Grass Cutting

HPC received a letter from a parishioner requesting that only the paths on The Green be cut, and that the Millennium Sculpture area be left uncut except for a strip around the edge to maintain sightlines. This is to encourage wildflowers and provide a habitat for insects and wildlife.

Councillors discussed the grass cutting schedule for The Green and the Millennium Sculpture (Totem Pole) area, noting that the orchids near the Millennium Sculpture had been cut down by East Suffolk Council.

[Councillors Agreed to have The Green completely cut regularly, except for "No Mow May," and signs will be displayed. The Millennium Sculpture area will continue to be completely cut by East Suffolk Council, and the orchids will be fenced off with stakes and hi-viz tape when spotted.](#)

b) Litter Pick Date

The date was set for 12th October 2024 at 10 am.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

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c) Missing Duckboard on Public Footpath near Wortwell Mill – update

Cllrs informed the duckboard has now been repaired.

d) Missing Church Lane Sign – c/f

Action: Clerk

e) Nature Reserve White Posts – c/f

f) Jubilee Oak Tree Replacement – c/f

11. Correspondence

a) Clerks & Councils Magazine

12. AOB (*For discussion only – the Council cannot make decisions on these items unless stated on the agenda*)

a) Parking by the Bus Shelter – Due to be completed by 22nd July 2024

b) Speeding – update

County Councillor Judy Cloke said she would enquire about a speeding survey.

13. To Receive items for the next Agenda

a) Memorial Bench

14. To Confirm the Future Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday 30th July 2024 at 6.00 pm.
- Monday 12th August at 6.00 pm - Homersfield Church Wood Planning
- Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 6.00 pm

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm

9. a) Tree Warden Report

Volunteer work parties took place monthly over the autumn and winter period. These were fairly well attended so a variety of tasks were completed.

The main areas of work were ensuring that the paths were not encroached by surrounding vegetation and continuing with the tree planting programme to replace dead trees. Oak, Hornbeam and Hazel were planted in protective guards. Recent wet weather has ensured that most of the saplings have survived.

Dead trees near paths have been felled and cut up to provide firewood for residents or stacked in habitat piles.

A start has been made on controlling the bramble growth in the centre of the wood. Suffolk Wildlife Trust has suggested managing the bramble on a 4 year rotation. This may be beyond what our volunteers can achieve so initially, brambles near paths will be cut.

New volunteers are always welcome and will allow more management to take place.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____