

SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Shropham, Norfolk

Chairman: David Napier

Vice Chairman: Andy Thornton

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SHROPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

29 NOVEMBER 2017

SHROPHAM VILLAGE HALL

Those in attendance: David Napier, Andy Thornton, Lesley Brown, Amy Negus, Ed Howe, Cliff Allen

Also present: 13 members of the public, District Cllr P Cowen

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Fabian Eagle.

2. **To approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2017**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2017 could be signed, by the Chairman, as a true and correct record. All voted in favour.

3. **To record any Declarations of Interest and to consider any requests for Dispensations from Council Members**

A Thornton and A Negus – item 4a. A Thornton and A Negus left the meeting whilst discussions took place on item 4a.

The Chairman opened the meeting to permit the public to speak.

4. **Planning – Applications**

- a. **3PL/2017/1320/O** – Land off Hargham Road, Shropham - New housing scheme and associated works comprising 2 no. bungalows and 8 no. houses (outline)

D Napier invited Graham Negus ('GN'), one of the developers, to present the planning scheme to the meeting.

GN thanked the Parish Council for allowing him to present the application to the meeting. GN advised that his family has had connections with the village for over 45 years. The land in question is owned by himself, his brother and Mrs Thornton. GN explained that an application was previously made on this site, as part of the Local Plan, some nine years previous which was unsuccessful. The plot is 3.3 hectares in total and the proposed planning site is 0.7 hectares, the balance being left to meadow. The application is of low density consisting of 2 bungalows and 8 houses with varying range of bedrooms. There is a single entrance/exit to the site in the interest of road safety and GN confirmed that the aesthetics would remain much the same with existing hedges and trees to remain as far as possible and new ones planted. GN confirmed that this is a business opportunity to provide quality new homes and bring new people into the village. Mr M Negus confirmed his agreement to the presentation put forward by his brother.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATED:

CLERK: Joanne Blackman, Westcroft, Watton Road, Ashill, Norfolk, IP25 7AQ

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Members of the public were given an opportunity to put their views forward. Some concerns were raised by various residents, which included:-

- The road is notorious for speeding vehicles and it was felt by many that adding a further entry/access point at this busy dangerous location is not acceptable.
- It was felt that the proposed development would be detrimental to the character of the local area and would damage the street scene which is of a linear nature.
- Many residents expressed their concerns that the development does not make provision for a footpath to enable residents safe passage to the village centre without the use of a car.
- The village has a lack of local services and public transport and any new development would be reliant on vehicles.
- The plot in question is outside of the settlement boundary.
- The likely impact on neighbouring properties.
- There are already several proposed plots with planning permission within the village.
- The risk of future further development at the site.

Those in favour of the development raised the following points:-

- The village has become dormant and would bring in new life.
- Affordable housing is required for future generations.
- Increase in vehicle movements would not be significant.

A straw poll of the public present was taken with 6 against, 4 in favour and 1 abstention.

District Councillor Phil Cowen advised that the application would either be determined by delegated powers or by Committee. If it should go to Committee residents will have an opportunity to attend and request an opportunity to speak at the meeting together with a representative from the Parish Council.

DC Cowen urged residents to enter their comments on the planning application but advised that comments should be objective as subjective and/or emotional comments hold no weight in planning law and planning policies are the only basis upon which an officer is allowed to make a decision. Comments are to be submitted by 6 December.

Highways have yet to make their comments.

The Parish Council does not approve or otherwise any planning application their job is to reflect the parishioners' views only and the meeting tonight has enabled residents to express their views.

As Breckland Council is still awaiting the updated Local Plan, matters can only be determined and/or discussed against the current plan.

7.45 pm E Howe left the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting for the Parish Council to discuss the matter.

The Chairman advised that we have to respect the views of the parishioners. Whilst the infrastructure of the village has changed over the years, we have to deal with what we are presented with now.

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L Brown said that in such applications there are always people that will turn up at meetings to object and those that do not object tend not to. Things have changed in general with regards to shopping habits and transport used and the criteria is somewhat old fashioned. L Brown acknowledged that footpaths would make a big difference.

C Allen suggested that as soon as a property is built outside of the settlement boundary, this sets a precedent for future development. It is a hard decision based on the limited information available at the current time.

DC Cowen advised that the Parish Council should consider:-

- The Parish Council have fought long and hard for fresh life in the village and it is the wish of the Parish Council that new development happens and where.
- The meeting has produced a very spirited debate and everyone understands each other's views.
- Condition for a footpath – the County Council would not pay for a footpath however consideration could be given to a TROD for which funding may be available.
- Those that do not attend do not have a view, no matter what the subject.
- The straw poll highlighted a split vote which is not definitive.

The Parish Council should put together views which should be submitted to Breckland.

The Clerk will draft wording on the grounds discussed for approval by Councillors and submit the same to Breckland Council.

The Chairman invited Cllrs Thornton/Negus to rejoin the meeting.

- b. **3PL/2017/1334/F** - Development Plot Adjacent Homefields Hargham Road, Shropham NR17 1DS - Proposed erection of two new dwellings. The Chairman advised that there was an envelope on its way round to all Councillors for consideration and/or comments.
- c. **3PL/2017/0584/F** – Pond Meadow, Harling Road, NR17 1EA – Erection of storage building including toilets and laundry facilities. This application remains undecided.
- d. **3PL/2017/0867/0** – Land east of Rocklands Road, Shropham, NR17 1FE – Proposed residential development of 8 dwellings consisting of a mix of bungalows and houses. Permission granted.
- e. **3PL/2017/0960/D** – Overdue, Hargham Road, Shropham, NR17 1DS – Proposed residential development of 4 houses and 2 bungalows. Permission granted.
- f. **3PL/2017/1149/F** – Greenacres, Watton Road, Shropham, NR17 1DS – Construction of single detached dwelling. Permission granted.
- g. **3PL/2017/0063/US** - Home Farm Bradcar Road Shropham NR17 1EQ - Conversion of Agricultural Buildings to 3 Dwellings. This application has been refused.
- h. **3PL/2017/1226/F** - 5 The Meadows Shropham NR17 1BF - Erection of stable block to be built in field. Change of use for field to allow horses to be recreationally kept. Permission granted.

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5. Financial

- a. Receipts and Payments/Balance Sheet for the six months 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2017.
- b. Financial Balances as at 29 November 2017.

The Clerk provided the above documents and reported on the same.

c. Budget/Precept requirements for 2018/19.

The Clerk presented a budget for the year 2018/19 and a discussion took place regarding the Council's precept requirement for 2018/19. It was noted that no precept has been requested for a number of years (since 2006/7). Following the retirement of the Clerk, the new Clerk is entitled to a salary and there are outgoings from the Parish Council which have previously been met from reserves/income.

After discussion it was agreed that the precept requirement for the year 2018/19 would be £6,000.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the precept requirement for the year 2018/19 would be £6,000, proposed by D Napier and seconded by A Thornton. All voted in favour.

The Clerk will submit the necessary paperwork.

6. Finance – to approve and report the following expenditure:-

- a. **To approve the salary payment including holiday pay allowance to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, for the months of September, October and November 2017 in the sum of £635.33.** Proposed by D Napier and seconded by A Thornton, all voted in favour.
- b. **To approve the reimbursement of the purchase of Parish Council computer, software and equipment to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, in the sum of £619.26 (£102.54 VAT recoverable).** Proposed by D Napier and seconded by A Thornton, all voted in favour.
- c. **To approve office expenses for the months of September, October and November to the Clerk, Mrs Joanne Blackman, in the sum of £38.49.** Proposed by D Napier and seconded by A Thornton, all voted in favour.
- d. **To approve the additional item of expenditure of £10 to Shropham Village Hall for the hire of the hall.** Proposed by D Napier and seconded by A Thornton, all voted in favour.

7. To consider donation to The Poppy Appeal.

A discussion took place as to whether a donation of £100 should be made to the Poppy Appeal. In previous years a donation of £100 has been made. L Brown suggested that given the increase in expenditure of the Parish Council maybe a donation should not be made this year.

D Napier proposed that a donation should be made and seconded by A Thornton.

A short discussion took place and a vote was taken on the proposal that a donation of £100 should be made. 3 voted in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that a donation of £100 would be made to the Poppy Appeal for the year 2017/18.

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It was agreed that charitable donations would be added to the next Agenda for further discussion.

8. Website – update.

The Clerk provided an update on the development of the Parish Council website.

9. Data Protection Bill – update.

The Clerk provided an update on the recent Data Protection training meeting she had attended and advised that whilst it is possible that considerable work may be necessary, Norfolk ALC will be providing guidelines to local councils and once these are known the Parish Council will be in a better position to address the work that is required.

E Howe returned to the Council Meeting at 9.15pm

10. Any items to be noted for the next Agenda.

Charitable Donations, Grit Bin

11. Correspondence.

The Clerk reported correspondence received.

The Chairman will close the meeting to allow public participation.

12. Public participation.

D Leonard suggested that there would be objections to the precept for 2018/19. D Napier will put a notice in the Shropham Grove in this regard.

A request was made for the Parish Council website address to be placed in the Shropham Grove. The Clerk will arrange this.

D Leonard suggested that the Parish Council had stopped paying hall rental when the Grant was made to the Village Hall. D Leonard will raise at the next Social Club meeting.

The Chairman will reopen the Council Meeting.

13. To agree date for next meeting: to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 9.27pm

*Jo Blackman
Parish Clerk
18 December 2017*

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