

Helmingham Parish Council

Minutes of the Helmingham Parish Council Meeting held on Monday January 20, 2020 at Old Hall Farm, Helmingham Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Parish Councillors Julian Bowden, Alan Mayhew, Ian Pepper, Nick Styles and Rod Caird (clerk), together with one member of the public, County Cllr Matthew Hicks and District Cllr Suzie Morley

1/200120: Apologies for Absence

Ian Pepper had sent his apologies and his absence was approved.

2/200120: Declarations of interest and dispensations requested

None

3/200120: Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on November 18, 2019

The minutes were approved

4/200120: Reports from County and District Councillors and public comments on matters on the agenda

Cllr Hicks noted that County Council decisions were postponed because of the general election campaign. The County's four full-time fire and rescue service stations got a "good" review from Her Majesty's Inspectorate; they were in the top third in the country. Recommendations for improvements were noted. Ten schools have been identified for development of new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) units. The County's Trading Standards Unit successfully prosecuted a rogue businessman who was taking advantage of vulnerable and elderly people by selling them faulty or non-existent goods. The requested speed restriction on Gosbeck Road is proceeding through its formal processes. Cllr Pepper expressed appreciation of this progress.

Cllr Morley reported that MSDC Council Tax is going up by 1.66%; £500,000 have been set aside for climate change initiatives. The Council is clamping down on tax fraud, especially people wrongly claiming single occupancy. The vulnerable would be protected while the crackdown proceeds. A visitor centre is being built at Needham Lakes.

In response to a question about apparently increased heavy traffic on Otley Road, Cllrs Morley and Hicks both welcomed any detailed information which would enable them to make inquiries about why this is happening. Inquiries will also be made about repairing the bridge between the woodyard and the back entrance to Helmingham Hall.

5/200120: To review updates on recent planning applications

The school has been granted permission to construct new fencing as previously discussed and supported by the Parish Council.

6/200120: To receive an update on the proposed speed limit on Gosbeck Road and to consider the reported increase in heavy goods vehicle traffic on Otley Road

Both these matters had been discussed under item 4 on the Agenda.

7/200120: To review progress by Highways on repairing road damage on New Road

Repairs are yet to be carried out and this will be monitored.

8/200120: To confirm a budget for 2020/21 and to confirm the precept requirement for 2020/21

A spending budget of £2,547.40 was agreed and the precept was set at £2,600, unchanged from the current year.

9/200120: Financial report, including any payments due.

It was agreed to make grants to local organisations under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as follows: £150 to St Mary's PCC; £75 to the Old School House Nursery; £50 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance; £25 to the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

A bank reconciliation to date was presented showing a balance of £3,626.96. A payment was made to Rod Caird (clerk pay) £169.00.

Payments were made under sections 111 and 112 of the Local Government Act 1972

10/200120: Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

None at this time.

11/200120: To confirm the dates of the next meeting and meetings in 2020

The next meeting will be held on Monday March 2, 2020, at Old Hall Farm at 7.00pm. Subsequent meeting dates would be set at that meeting.