

# Helmingham Parish Council

**Minutes of the Helmingham Parish Council Meeting held online at 7.00pm on Monday  
January 18, 2021**

**Present:** Parish Councillors Alan Mayhew, Ian Pepper, David Styles and Nick Styles and Rod Caird (clerk), together with County Cllr Matthew Hicks. District Cllr Suzie Morley was unable to attend.

## **1/180121: Apologies for Absence**

Julian Bowden and Suzanne Curwen-Frost had sent apologies and their absence was approved.

## **2/180121: Declarations of interest and dispensations requested**

None

## **3/180121: Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on November 16, 2020**

The minutes were approved

## **4/180121: Reports from County and District Councillors and public comments on matters on the agenda**

Cllr Hicks reported that hospitals are still able to cope with the level of COVID admissions and that the County is assisting with the vaccine roll-out in spite of initial supply difficulties. By the middle of the following week all over 80s will have been contacted. The Nuffield Hospital is now closed to private patients. The Suffolk Support and Advice Service and the Home but Not Alone phone lines are still open and active. Big changes have been made to the Sizewell C planning application, with more emphasis on rail and sea transport to the site. But there is still inadequate mitigation given the level of impact the region will feel.

## **5/180121: To discuss progress on the installation of posts for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the village, and to confirm purchase of the device based on available funding**

Cllr Pepper is continuing to liaise with Highways about installation of the posts at suitable locations. Once the posts are in it was agreed to purchase the Westcotec SID with Bluetooth connection at a cost of £3,250.00 plus VAT; grants of £1,600 and £1,500 have been received from the budgets of the District and County Councillor respectively.

## **6/180121: Financial report, including any payments due, and confirmation of the budget and precept requirement for 2021/22**

A bank reconciliation to date was presented showing a balance of £7,124.49 (including the grants received under Item 5 above).

Payments were agreed as follows:

Jan 17, 2021	Rod Caird	544	£173.60		Clerk pay
Jan 17, 2021	CAS Ltd	555	£50.00	VAT £10.00	Web hosting

The budget for 2021/22 was agreed, showing projected spending for the year of £6,181.00, which includes the cost of the SID (referred to in Item 5 above) which is funded from District and County grants plus £150.00 from the Parish.

The precept for 2021/22 was agreed at a level of £2,500. This is £100 less than in 2020/21, and reflects the fact that the tax base for the Parish has decreased by 3.9%. Setting the precept at £2,500 will therefore show no proportionate change in the element of the annual council tax bill committed to the Parish Council.

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**7/180121: Urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council**

Highways repair issues had still not been resolved: the damaged verge near Old Hall Farm, the chevron signage near Pearl Farm and the collapsing waterway under the road between the two farms. These would be pursued urgently.

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**8/180121: To confirm the dates of all meetings in 2021/22**

May 17 (the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting), October 18, December 13 and January 17, 2022, all at 7.00pm, locations and arrangements to be confirmed depending on coronavirus requirements.

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