

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HORNINGTOFT PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT St. EDMUND'S CHURCH ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2013 AT 7.30 P.M.**

**Present:** Councillor A Hill (Chair)  
Councillor T Hawke  
Councillor I Baker  
Councillor P Chapman  
Councillor G Drew

19 members of the public  
Rob George from WiSpire

**1. Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence. The County and District Councillors had sent their apologies.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Councillor Hawke proposed and Councillor Baker seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 May having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**4. County and District Councillor Reports.**

There were no reports given.

**5. Matters to Report.**

**5.1 Village Sign.**

Councillor Drew reported that all is in hand. The overhanging branches had been trimmed and the sign is ready to be replaced.

**5.2 Broadband/WiSpire.**

The meeting was adjourned.

Mr Cleverly reported on a meeting he had attended which was sponsored by George Freeman M.P. At this meeting there were B.T. plus four independent suppliers. The aim is to roll out better broadband over the next two years so that 80% of the population of Norfolk will have better broadband. He suggested that Horningtoft might remain in the 20% with no better coverage. Fibre optics will need to be installed from the exchange to the boxes in the village but from there speeds drop. Norfolk County Council/the Government and B.T. are the partners in the venture. It has not yet been announced if Horningtoft will be included. The independents present were promoting satellite, mobile and WiSpire broadband. It should be possible with one of these systems to raise the broadband speed from 3mbs to 20mbs. There is a WiSpire system at Colkirk which will reach Horningtoft. B.T. does not include businesses in its remit.

Rob George from WiSpire outlined the method by which his company utilises churches to provide broadband. It is a joint venture between the Norwich Diocese and FreeClix. Since 2000 the company has been assisting businesses and wished to expand the service further. It is working with the diocese to build an independent network with small antennae in church towers and the signal is transmitted to a receiver within the properties. A cable then runs to a router and it is the property's

own independent link so that there is no loss of speed. As Horningtoft Church has no tower it is intended to utilise the antennae at Colkirk and Whissonsett. Different packages are available, no land line is required but people could have a voice line. B.T.'s remit is to raise the speed to 2mb but this is not enough to stream iplayer. Even if B.T. upgrade there is no guarantee that the cabinets will be able to deliver faster speed. Areas of poor broadband are identified and parishes are requested to register 25 households for the system to be implemented. FreeClix has been operating since 2000 and has its own engineers and it is a long term venture with the Diocese.

Rob George then answered questions from those present. He stated that Whissonsett and Colkirk will be live within two months and it does not have to be line of sight as it is a microwave between points, and it is not affected by atmospheric conditions. The cost of installation is £59.99 and the router does not have to be purchased from them. It is possible to wire direct to the computer but it is not necessarily a better signal. Contention rates are much lower than normal broadband therefore a higher rate is set so it is always available, and even at peak times the speed is close to the top rate. An upgrade has been brought forward as there has been increased demand. The company can offer different speeds to businesses. The Parochial Church Council will have to discuss with Colkirk and Whissonsett over any payments that come from Horningtoft. The contract is a 30 day rolling contract and can be changed. Households need to register their interest. There is no need to install in Horningtoft Church as broadband can be obtained from Whissonsett and Colkirk. There are 648 churches and it is not necessary to install in all of these. Several questions were asked about payments to the PCC but it is a matter for the relevant PCCs to discuss. If there is an equipment failure it is the responsibility of WiSpire However if the router is supplied by the individual it can not necessarily support if there is a failure. As there is a service level agreement to businesses which ensures that this is restored promptly and so all on the system will be restored. If there is a receiver problem it is normally dealt with that day or the next.

The Chairman thanked Rob George for attending the meeting and explaining the system.

The meeting was re-convened.

It was agreed to place the information in the newsletter and on the website to encourage parishioners to register their interest.

### **5.3 Risk Assessment.**

Councillor Drew stated that there are no problems with the bus shelter or post box, or at the Claypits and the bridge is satisfactory. Councillor Chapman reported that there is no problem with the notice board. The Chairman reported that there is no problem at the village sign. The Chairman thanked Councillor Drew for cleaning the notice board and cutting the verge.

### **5.4 Date of Annual Parish Meeting.**

Councillor Chapman requested why the date had not been moved and was informed that the Councillors present felt it was better to leave this in March rather than have the Annual Parish Meeting on the same evening as the Annual Parish Council meeting.

## **6. Highways.**

### **6.1 Report.**

The Clerk reported that the Local Highway Improvement for the sign had been agreed and this would be available to the parish throughout the year.

The trees on Fakenham Road near to School Road are to be requested to be cut back. Nothing had been heard from the County Councillor on the request for a speed limit on Fakenham Road. The fingerposts at FP3 and FP4 need replacing. A query was raised about FP4 but the landowner informed the meeting that the path had been sprayed off and the rape had fallen in. This should be harvested within the next month.

## **7. Correspondence.**

The following correspondence will be circulated.

- |            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>7.1</b> | Clerks and Councils Direct July 2013 |
| <b>7.2</b> | Norfolk Link June 2013               |
| <b>7.3</b> | Dudgeon Offshore.                    |

## 8 Finance.

### 8.1 Budget.

This had been circulated and was agreed.

### 8.2 Balances and cheques for authorisation.

Councillor Chapman proposed and Councillor Drew seconded the resolution that the balances and cheques for authorisation which had been circulated be approved. All were in favour.

#### Balances :-

##### **Business Saver Account.**

Balance at 25 03 13	2399.78
Plus interest	<u>.30</u>
Balance at 25 06 13	2400.08

##### **Community Account**

Balance at 31 12 13	2190.01
Less cheques authorised 15 01 13-59.17	
cheques authorised 12 03 13-571.41	<u>630.58</u>
Balance at 31 03 13	1559.43
Less cheques authorised 14 05 13	<u>392.14</u>
	1167.29

Amount available for Section 137 : 136 x£6.98 =£949.28

Spend to Date : £00.00

Cheques for authorisation:

320.	CGM	Grass cutting April and May	64.80
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## 9. Planning.

### 9.1 Applications.

#### **9.1.1 3PL/2013/0572/F-Installation of 1no. WTN 250kW wind turbine with overall tip height of 45m including assoc temporary infrastructure.**

Councillor Drew proposed and Councillor Hawke seconded the resolution that an objection be raised to the application on account of the size and intrusion into the rural landscape. This was carried by a majority decision of 3 to 2.

### 9.2 PortaKabins at Town and Country Conservatories.

When permission had been granted for the new offices a condition of the permission was that the old offices would be removed. The Clerk is to contact Mr. Tuck to enquire when these would be removed.

### 9.3 Development close to the source of the River Wensum.

The Clerk had informed Breckland Council of this and was awaiting a reply. A septic tank has been installed and the tail drain is 3m from an open ditch.

## 10. Matters for the next meeting.

### 10.1 Colmans Lorries.

The Clerk would write to Stangroom Farms requesting that speed be reduced whilst travelling through the village.

## 14. Date of next meeting.

This was confirmed as Tuesday 10 September 2013 in St. Edmund's Church at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 2052