

HIGH KELLING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the HIGH KELLING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday
18th June 2024 at 2.00 pm at High Kelling Village Hall.

Attendees: Cllr Peter Rutherford, Cllr Susan Rutherford, Cllr Philip Fejer, Cllr Maureen Pearman, Cllr Sally Monkman, Cllr Duncan Henderson and Locum Parish Clerk Gemma Harrison.

20 Members of the public present.

1. Welcome and to consider apologies

1.1 Cllr Carter gave his apologies due to a family commitment.

1.2 County Cllr and District Cllr Eric Vardy gave his apologies along with the District Cllr Martin Batey.

2. Declarations and Dispensations by Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below;

2.1 None.

3. Receive the Chairman's Report for 2023/24

3.1 The Chairman gave his report which can be seen in full at Appendix A.

Public Question Time

- A question was asked about cleaning the highway signs and clearing back the vegetation from obscuring the signs. It was suggested the speed watch team could tackle the over hanging branches.
- A member of the public raised concerns about over hanging branches on the A148. Residents should be encouraged to keep hedges maintained to enable easy access. The comment was noted.
- A member of the public informed the Parish Council that the illuminated speed sign (from Bodham), has a fault, as it is permanently on. The Parish Council will arrange for the sign to be looked at. GH
- A member of the public asked about a speed limit reduction on Bridge Road. Pedestrians feel vulnerable walking along the road and would welcome a reduction in speed limit. The comment was noted.

- A member of the public asked a question about the village gate which has been damaged, Cllr Peter Rutherford stated that NCC are due to repair/replace the gate in the coming weeks.

4. Update from the Fundraising Committee

4.1 Cllr Pearman introduced herself and updated everyone on the High Kelling Fundraising Committee. Cllr Monkman, Cllr Fejer, Cllr S Rutherford and Cllr Pearman have formed a committee to look at funding opportunities. The Committee are committed to looking at as many funding opportunities as possible, to make the most of available funding for parish projects. The purpose of today is to better understand from residents what is needed in the parish.

4.2 Cllr Pearman updated everyone on some emerging projects;

- Village gates alongside Bridge Road
- Pollinator Sites
- Better walking surfaces
- Traffic Lights on Bridge Road

4.3 Cllr Pearman stated the Parish Council have applied for funding through the Parish Partnership Scheme initiative at NCC and are waiting for the outcome of the application.

4.4 The funding committee are keen to work with Holt, St. Andrew's Church, and other local organisations on the green agenda together.

5. Discussion – Planning for High Kelling's Future

A summary of the discussion that took place in the breakout sessions has been outlined below.

Table 1

- Agreed the list of the 4 funding areas were good ideas and should be pursued.
- Protecting and improving verges e.g Pineheath there has been damage caused by lorries to the verges.
- Re-wilding and biodiversity was welcomed, residents were aware that money was needed to make it happen and aware money is also needed to maintain aswell.

- Residents were keen to see partnerships develop with local organisations such as Kelling Estate and Holt Rugby Club.
- Hedging and footpaths. Hedging needs to be maintained either by the landowner or NCC Highways. Pavements need maintaining, some are covered in moss. It was recommended an annual survey of the footpaths and verges should take place in order to have a better understanding of any problems.
- A lot of footpaths in the village which require better waymarking.
- Trees – it was suggested that an annual tree survey should take place, to see what needs to be done.
Cauliflower fungus should be inspected in fir trees as it could be dangerous. A survey in October and November is needed to address the issue. Ash Dieback also needs monitoring.
- Residents love the trees; it is the reason why many people choose to live here. More information about the trees would be beneficial, how to manage trees, living with trees etc.
- Traffic issues – need to make it clear High Kelling is a residential village. Improved signage, clearing back vegetation, speed cameras, there was support to village gates but important to ensure they are visible. A bigger slow down sign would be welcomed when coming from Holt.
- Community Broadband – residents are keen to be kept up to date with what is happening so people can make informed choices. Community Broadband should be explored.
- Social isolation – particularly the elderly. Needs looking at further.

Table 2

- Main road A148 – has narrow pavements, pedestrians are concerned regarding the mirror of lorries and spray when wet. Lack of visibility due to the growth of vegetation near to Avenue Road.
- Blocked drains in particular by Bernard Close need looking at, as causes flooding. Clerk to report to NCC Highways upon receipt of photos from residents. GH
- No overtaking signs would be welcomed.

- Pavement cleaning – lots of moss and leaf litter etc.
- Cats Eyes disappearing from A148.
- Desire to have a crossing on the A148 to get to church but also bus stops, walking etc.
- Lack of cleanliness of speed signs.
- Eco Church and biodiversity of the church yard was promoted.
- More information of where the paths are, and information about the flora and fauna which may be found in the parish would be welcomed.

Table 3

- Agreed High Kelling is a great place to live.
- Traffic on the main road, intrusive speeding vehicles and the impact on wellbeing. Road on the way to the doctors surgery is 40 mph and should be reduced to 30 mph.
- Working in partnership and working with Kelling Estate was supported.
- Noted that Kelling Estate use the bridge a lot e.g business vehicles, deliveries to the garden centre.
- Footpaths – link up Vale Road and Avenue Road to avoid using the A148. Much safer and more attractive.
- Parish Council asked to investigate some street lighting at the entrance and exit to the village in particular Bridge Road.
- Residents are happy with the bus service. If travelling to Holt and living to the west of the village, then it was noted that residents have to come all the way back to the bus stop or go in the opposite direction to the surgery when getting off. Noted the bus stop was removed by the Post Office due to a tragic incident.
- Pigeon – a pest and nuisance. PC asked to investigate.
- Noted that the village is friendly and sociable.

Table 4

- Sensory garden was welcomed but thought the Church was not the best place (from accessibility point of view), can we work in partnership with the Village Hall, another suggestion was the patch of road at the end of Pineheath Road or the Village Sign.

- Discussed A148 not pedestrian friendly. Pineheath Road there is access along the old Cromer Road but it was noted that branches were placed across the area, the area possibly belongs to the 3 nearby properties. A permissive path agreement to allow access would be welcomed.
- A parallel footpath behind the A148 would be wonderful and could be achieved with the agreement of landowners.
- It was noted that a path used to exist between Heathfield Road.

Table 5

- Celebrate the positives of our wonderful green village.
 - Issues of maintenance and keeping the quality of the village is a challenge.
 - Notes the PC has limited land available.
 - A community orchard was discussed.
 - Need to work more closely with the Village Hall to optimize their land/ assets. Need to have another look at how we improve the social isolation in the parish. Noted that we support others from outside the village and need to ensure the balance is right and we support those living in the village.
 - Signage review of Bridge Road as signage could be a quick answer.
 - More repeater signage is needed aswell as the proposed SAM2 device.
 - Maintenance is as important as grand ideas, and volunteers are needed to encourage help and input, however small to contribute to the village.
6. Cllr Pearman thanked everyone for all the feedback and the Funding Group will work hard to look at all the comments, thoughts and ideas.
- A reminder to fill in the questionnaires which was included in the latest edition of the Chronicle. Cllr Pearman stated they would use the Chronicle to communicate what has been done.
- Cllr Rutherford closed the meeting.
- A resident thanked the parish council for their hard work.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm

Appendix A

High Kelling Parish Council

Chairs Report 2023-24

Following David Carter's decision not to seek reelection at the Parish Council elections last year I agreed to on the role of Chair of the Parish Council and was encouraged to do so by my fellow Councillors. The Parish Council as elected consisted of 6 members Jan Kemp Duncan Henderson Susan Rutherford Maureen Pearman Philip Fejer and myself. During the course of the year we were pleased to be joined by Sally Monkman and the return of David Carter as co-opted members and we currently have one vacancy. All of the Parish Councillors are volunteers and receive no remuneration.

The Council employs one employee- The Parish Clerk who is paid a salary. During the course of 2023 our previous Clerk decided to resign and we were left without a functioning Clerk for several months. We have had significant difficulty in recruiting a new Clerk in common with many other Parishes in Norfolk. We have been extremely fortunate to have had the support during this period of Gemma Harrison who is the Town Clerk at Holt, and the Parish Clerk at Cley. Gemma was also previously the Clerk at High Kelling and we are pleased to have Gemma with us today acting as our locum Clerk.

Most of you will be aware that a Parish Council receives funds each year from the District Council to enable it to carry out its activities. The funds are raised via the Council Tax and is known as the Parish Precept. The precept for 2023-24 was increased substantially for several reasons. It had not been increased for some time and our reserves were very limited meaning that it was very difficult to fund any improvements to the Village. I am very pleased to say that our finances are now in a far better state and this year we were able to agree that there should be no further increase so residents are paying the same by way of the precept as the amount they paid last year.

The Parish Council have continued to keep villagers informed via the Parish Chronicle which is now published on 10 occasions each year. We are extremely grateful to Cllr Duncan Henderson for editing and producing the Parish Chronicle, to our advertisers who help to fund the magazine and the Trustees of the Village Hall who contribute to production costs each year. We hope residents consider the Chronicle to be useful. We are always open to suggestions as to how communication can be improved.

Some projects which the Parish Council had hoped to progress have been delayed for a variety of reasons. The purchase of a speed camera for the village has been in the pipeline for some time. We were advised in the press in March that funding for High Kelling had been approved but we are still waiting for written confirmation that we can go ahead with the purchase of the equipment. Following concerns by residents about vehicles driving too close to the pavement on the A148 we agreed with Highways that it would be useful to have a white line painted along the road edge. This was agreed at the end of October but it took until 10th June for it to be installed. We are currently awaiting new signs close to the crossing to the Church warning of pedestrians. We have been told that signs have been ordered and should be in place by the end of this month.

Last year we had significant problems in persuading the County Council to cut the grass at the Pine heath entrance to the point where visibility became a problem. There was only provision for 2 cuts each year. This year the Parish Council decided that we should employ a gardener to cut this area twice a month and the areas of grass adjacent to the Parish sign and Jubilee bench. We are happy to give consideration to other areas in the Village which may need attention on a less regular basis.

In the second part of this meeting we are hoping to gather information from residents as to priorities that the Parish Council should be looking at. There are several opportunities coming up where we

could obtain funding for village projects and indeed we have established a sub group of the Parish Council who are meeting on a regular basis to consider new projects and funding opportunities. Councillor Maureen Pearman will have more to say on this later in the meeting. I would like to thank all of the residents who have returned the Village survey questionnaire or written to me as to the issues they see as being priority.

There have been concerns expressed by some residents that the village might not get Full Fibre Broadband. It is very difficult to obtain commitments from the providers but as far as I am aware full fibre will be available in some or possibly all parts of the village from Virgin Media later this year and that Openreach will be connected in perhaps a years time. That would then mean that Full fibre could be purchased from all the various suppliers.

One of the functions of the Parish Council is to comment on planning applications submitted on sites within the Parish boundaries. We have had very few applications in the last year but we are expecting an application being made in respect of the former Pine heath care home. The provisional plans we have seen show the conversion of the buildings on site to 35 units of accommodation, access being from the existing narrow road onto the A148 with improved visibility splays and no provision of affordable housing. It is difficult to see that this proposed development would get approval given the narrow entrance and the speed and volume of vehicles using the A148. The Parish Council will keep residents informed as to any applications made in relation to this site and will arrange a special meeting if we feel this appropriate.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their dedication, to all the villagers who volunteer in keeping the village free of litter and the grass verges neat and tidy, for the three residents who have agreed to clean the old telephone kiosk where one of the defibrillators is sited and for all those who have taken the time to attend today's meeting.