

# Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

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Summons to: All Parish Councillors

## Meeting of the Parish Council Monday the 2nd of January 2017 at 7.00 at the Village Hall

### AGENDA

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Declaration of Interests
- 3 To agree the minutes of the meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> of November
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Report from County Councillor
- 6 Report from District Councillor
- 7 Consideration of District Councillor's attendance at PC meetings
- 8 Highways
- 9 Planning  
*2016/2891 Old Boyland Hall Farm, Common Road, Bressingham  
Alterations to elevation and floor layout.  
2016/1447 Harvest House update*
- 10 Finance – 2017/18 precept confirmation  
Speed sign battery charging finance
- 11 Correspondence
- 12 Chicken lorries to and from Kenninghall
- 13 Home security
- 14 Any other matters
- 15 Date of next meeting



Mike Mortimer  
Parish Clerk

## Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd of January 2017

The meeting opened at 7.00 p.m .

#### Present

Councillors – Chair, Mr R Hewitt, Mr D Hodges, Mr J Kemp, Mr K Traynier and Mr R Spall. Also present were County Councillor Mr B Spratt, District Councillor Mr B Stone, the clerk Mr M Mortimer and several members of the public.

#### 1 Apologies

Mr D Neville and Mrs A Lawson

#### 2 Declaration of Interests

None

#### 3 To agree the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2016

The minutes were agreed.

#### 4 Matters arising from the minutes

Mr Hewitt thanked Mr Kemp for his work as PC representative to the Allotment Association.

#### 5 Report from County Councillor

Mr Spratt reported that the CC was considering budgets but that little had happened over the end of year period. The future of adult services remained a difficult question he said. He found it surprising that bad weather had been blamed for a hold up to work on the NDR. He had nothing to report on the Highways issue relating to Harvest House but promised to inform the PC as soon as he was aware of anything new.

Mr Spratt kindly donated a collection of old photos of Bressingham to the PC.

#### 6 Report from District Councillor

Mr Stone had sent a report which had been distributed to parish councillors. There is a copy in the minute book. As a result of a change in distribution of the New Homes Bonus SNC would be required to make 8 million pounds of savings rather than the previous expectation of 4.8 million. On Harvest House Mr Stone pointed out that although permission had been granted for the development it had not yet been implemented and more information was to be expected shortly.

#### 7 Consideration of District Councillor's Attendance at PC meetings.

Mr Hewitt explained that Mr Stone was not invited to or expected at all meetings so a simple record of attendance could be misleading. Mr Stone pointed out that district councillors were not required to attend PC meetings though he made every attempt to attend despite having 21 parishes to look after. He also pointed out that he always provided a report.

Mr Hewitt informed the meeting that a local retired planning expert had called for a vote of no confidence in Mr Stone but that he, Mr Hewitt, had explained that such a procedure was inappropriate. Mr Hewitt reported that there was particularly strong feeling that Mr Stone had not represented the parish's interest with regard to the Harvest House planning application.

Mr Stone responded pointing out that though he had initially supported the development he had modified his views as new information had emerged and though he was unable to attend the planning decision meeting personally he had briefed his substitute who voted against the application.

#### The meeting was closed to allow comment from the floor

A belief that Mr Stone had not represented the interests of the community and that a vote of no confidence was justified was expressed very strongly.

**The meeting was re-opened**

Mr Kemp said he would not support a no confidence vote.

Mr Hewitt expressed the view that the PC would appreciate it if Mr Stone took a highly visible role in supporting the local community in future with particular regard to the HH planning process.

**8 Highways**

Mr Hewitt reported that the relationship with Mr Overland in Highways remained a good one and gave examples of positive responses. All agreed there was still much to be done with signs and maintenance. Mr Kemp drew attention to signs on the 1066 and Folly Lane. Mr Traynier complained about sections of The Street in Fersfield.

**9 Planning**

Approval was recommended for applications for Old Boyland Hall, Deveraux House and The Thatched Cottage.

Updating councillors on the Harvest House development Mr Hewitt explained a great deal of support had been provided by a local expert who had assisted the PC in producing a document summing up the parish council's position and views on the development including complaints about procedures and omissions particularly Fenners and the fen land and its objections on many grounds.

**The meeting was closed to allow comment from the floor**

There were statements in support and against the development. There was a complaint that the application had been surrounded with misinformation, omission of facts and procedural irregularities meaning that the proper democratic process had not been followed and that therefore the whole application should be reconsidered.

An alternative view was expressed that the site would not be a problem pointing out that in the past it had been a commercial haulage site with 130 lorries and vans operating from it. The current plan for a grain store was needed by local farmers and alternative use could be much more irksome.

**The meeting was re-opened**

Mr Hewitt wondered if a public meeting with a representative of Openfield would be a good idea. Mr Spratt endorsed the idea and he and Mr Stone agreed that officers at South Norfolk had let everybody down.

**10 Finance**

A report was made available. A copy is in the minute book and on the website. The precept request was confirmed.

It was agreed that the cost of £125 for charging batteries for the speed signs should be met.

**11 Correspondence**

There were two requests for donations and payments of £100 were agreed to NARS and the Air Ambulance.

**12 Chicken lorries to and from Kenninghall**

It was agreed that Mr Hewitt should approach Kenninghall Parish Council.

**13 Home Security**

Mr Hewitt pointed out that this is the time of year for extra vigilance.

**14 Any other matters**

Mr Traynier agreed to look into complaints about a footpath in Bressingham.

Mr Kemp asked if he could seek another estimate for shingle at the allotments and suggested the PC might make a contribution. Mr Hewitt commented that it seemed a good opportunity for matched funding.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm