

Homersfield Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Homersfield Black Swan

Monday 2nd January 2024 at 6.00 pm

Councillors Present: Lucy Hammond (Chair), Ian Duffy and Jo Westgate

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO): Sally Chapman

Also Present: District Councillor Anthony Specca

A. To Receive Reports from the County & District Councillors

- County Councillor Judy Cloke sent apologies and a report.
 - District Councillor Anthony Specca sent a report and discussed the speeding in Homersfield with Councillors and informed a Bungay Town Council speeding report is now being collated.
- All reports: <http://homersfield.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/meetings>

B. Public Forum – for Members of the Public

None

MINUTES

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Bird and Councillor Stokes.

2. To Record Declarations of Interests and to Consider Requests for Dispensation

9. a) Cllr Hammond and Cllr Westgate declared a non-pecuniary interest – members of Homersfield PCC.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November 2023

The Minutes from the Meeting held on the 6th November 2023 were confirmed unanimously as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Finance

a) To Receive the Financial & Budget Reports and Approve the Income & Expenditure

The Chair signed the latest bank statements and the RFO read out the reports.

Councillors resolved unanimously to approve the following Receipts and Expenditure:

DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURE
22/11/2023	cash	Lawnmower Sale	50.00	
28/11/2023	S/O	Clerk's Salary - November		200.00
28/12/2023	S/O	Clerk's Salary - December		200.00
02/01/2024	100941	Clerk's Backpay - 01/04/23-31/01/2024		160.00
02/01/2024	100941	Clerk's Expenses December-January		41.35
02/01/2024	100942	McCarthy Tree Services - Tree Pollarding		450.00
		Total	£ 50.00	£ 1,051.35
		Reserves		
		General Reserves		£ 3,401.32
		Restricted Reserves		£ 2,351.74
		Total		£ 5,753.06

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

Homersfield Parish Council

b) To Consider New Bank Accounts

Councillors approved unanimously to open a Unity Trust Bank Current and Saver Account and close the Barclays Accounts.

Action: Clerk

c) To Note the NALC Clerk's Pay Award 2023

Councillors noted the NALC pay award backdated to April 2023.

d) Bus Shelter Repairs – update

The bus shelter's seating and noticeboard has now been completed. Cllrs gave thanks to Cllr Duff and Mr Lawrie Hammond for all their hard work completing this project.

5. Planning Applications and Decisions

Applications

None

Decisions

None

6. To Approve the Biodiversity Policy & Action Plan

Councillors approved the adapted Biodiversity Policy & Action Plan.

Action: Clerk

7. Homersfield's Playing Field – update

The Playing Field Charity has had the Play Equipment inspected and received a report. The major items will need to be repaired or removed.

Action: Clerk

8. Homersfield Phonebox

'The History of Phone Boxes' is still in Homersfield's phone box for all to enjoy. Parishioners are invited to contact the Clerk if they wanted to do their own display.

9. Homersfield Church Wood

a) Hedging beside Churchyard

Cllr Hammond and Cllr Westgate declared a non-pecuniary interest – members of Homersfield PCC.

Councillors agreed to contact The Woodland Trust for free hedging for beside the Churchyard fence.

Action: LH

b) Oak Tree Pollarding – update

The Chair informed the Oak tree Pollarding was completed in December to a good standard.

c) Church Wood Deeds – update

Cllr Duffy advised he had received a copy of the Church Wood Deeds to be kept in the Clerk's files and the originals are kept at Sprake and Kingsley Solicitors in Bungay.

d) Wood Working Party – update

The Chair will circulate the new dates.

Action: LH

e) Memorial Tree

Councillors agreed unanimously a Memorial Tree could be planted in Church Wood.

10. Village Maintenance

a) Nature Reserve White Posts – update

Cllr Duffy agreed to check if the replacement post has been installed.

Action: ID

b) Jubilee Oak Tree Replacement – c/f

c) Litter Picking

The next Litter Picking Party is 16th March 2024 meeting on the Village Green at 10.00 am.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

Homersfield Parish Council

d) Story of the Homersfield Bridge Sign

The Chair advised the sign needs maintenance and will photograph for the Clerk. **Action: LH**

11. Correspondence

a) East Anglian Air Ambulance Trust

A thank you letter for the Grant towards a New First Responder Kit.

b) Thank you Letter

Received from Mr Mick Pellet the former village grass cutter.

c) Email from Parishioner

A parishioner emailed the Clerk re the cutting down of the privately-owned trees between Homersfield and Bungay. Cllrs asked the Clerk to contact SCC to ask if the owner had permission and if they will be replanted. **Action: Clerk**

12. AOB (For discussion only – the Council cannot make decisions on these items unless stated on the agenda)

a) Parking by the Bus Shelter – *update*

Councillors approved the Chair contacting SCC to request road markings and/or a sign. **Action: LH**

b) Legal Ownership of Assets, Equipment and a Maintenance Plan

Cllrs discussed the above and agreed the Asset List covered the assets and equipment and maintenance is carried out when required.

c) Speeding – *c/f*

The Chair is discussing the speeding in the village with the Bungay Town Council Mayor.

d) Chairperson Leadership Training - Community Engagement 7th December 2023

The Chair attended the above training and informed of some ideas for the village.

13. To Receive items for the next Agenda

a) End of Year Finances

b) Policies Review

c) Grants

14. To Confirm the Future Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 28th May 2024 at 6.00 pm – **new date**
Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 6.00 pm

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____