

Homersfield Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Homersfield Black Swan

Monday 6th November 2023 at 6.00 pm

Councillors Present:

Lucy Hammond (Chair), Debbie Bird, Angela Stokes & Jo Westgate

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO): Sally Chapman

Also Present:

A. To Receive Reports from the County & District Councillors

The County Councillor and District Councillors sent apologies and 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 Duffy.](#)

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

None

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th September 2023

[The Minutes from the Meeting held on the 26th September 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 statement and the RFO read out the reports.

[Councillors Resolved unanimously to Approve the following Receipts and Expenditure:](#)

DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURE
28/10/2023	S/O	Clerk's Salary - October		200.00
06/11/2023	100935	Alburgh Parish Council - Grant		100.00
06/11/2023	100936	CAS - Website Hoisting		60.00
06/11/2023	100937	Ian Wood - Lawn Mower Service		83.90
06/11/2023	100938	SALC - Training LH		36.00
06/11/2023	100939	Clerk's Expenses October-November		39.20
06/11/2023	100940	East Of England Ambulance Trust - Service Grant		100.00
		Total	£ -	£ 619.10
		Reserves		
		General Reserves		£ 4,402.67
		Restricted Reserves		£ 2,351.74
		Total		£ 6,754.41

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

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- b) **To Approve the Budget and Precept 2024/25**
Councillors considered the three Draft Budgets prepared by the RFO and Resolved to Approve Draft Budget 3 and a Precept of £7,000 (an increase of £21.53 for Band D properties) for 2024/25 (*copy attached*).
- c) **To Approve Pollard of Trees Quotation**
Councillors Resolved to Accept the quotation of £450 to pollard the Oak Tree in Church Wood and work to commence ASAP. Action: Clerk
- d) **Bungay Community First Responders Grant Request**
Councillors Approved unanimously to give a Grant of £100.00.
- e) **Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Day – update**
The Remembrance Wreath will be laid on the 11th November 2023.
- f) **Bus Shelter Repairs – c/f**
5. **Homersfield’s Playing Field – update**
Cllr Bird (*Chair of Homersfield’s Playing Field Charity*) informed an independent safety assessment of the playground and equipment had been completed and would forward a copy of the report to HPC. A new gate and fence would be required and she would obtain some quotations. Action: DB
6. **Planning Applications and Decisions**
Cllrs noted the following:
Applications
None
Decisions
a) **Reference: DC/22/2522/FUL**
Proposal: Construction of two ground floor extensions
Wortwell Mill, Low Road, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk, IP20 0HJ
Validated: Thu 28 Jul 2022 | Status: Permitted
At HPCs 17th August 2022 meeting Councillors Agreed NEUTRAL and added comments to the planning application.
7. **Homersfield Phonebox**
‘The History of Phone Boxes’ is still in Homersfield’s phone box for all to enjoy.
8. **Homersfield Church Wood**
a) **Deeds – c/f**
b) **Wood Working Party – update**
A wood working party was held on the 4th October and four volunteers cleared the path from the road and planted 3 Oaks and 20 Hornbeams donated from a Rumburgh parishioner. The next wood working party is scheduled for the 25th November 2023. The Church Warden has kindly agreed the first aid box could be taken to the wood working parties and any items used will be replaced.
c) **Bench Maintenance**
A parishioner has kindly repaired the bench – many thanks.
d) **Permissive Path Signs and Circular Walk Discs – update**
The new signs and discs are now in place in the wood.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

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9. Village Maintenance

a) Ride on Lawnmower – update

The non-runner lawnmower has now been sold for £50.00.

b) Missing Nature Reserve White Post – update

The Natural Environment Team at Suffolk County Council informed on the 24th October 2023 'The Senior Ecologist will have to go out to the site to take a look and then our highways people will need to replace it'.

c) Jubilee Oak Tree Replacement – c/f

d) Daffodil Planting – update

Cllrs informed that several people had planted the Daffodils around the village.

e) Litter Picking Party – 21st October 2023 – update

Seven volunteers attended and gathered eight big bags of rubbish in the village.

f) Village Plaques – update

The Commemorative plaque will be replaced next year, the Best Kept Village Sign on the village sign post will be kept until it is in a worse state of repair and the sign marking the tree planted on Church Lane will be removed.

10. Correspondence

a) Clerks and Councils Direct Magazine

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

a) Parking by the Bus Shelter – c/f

b) Legal Ownership of Assets, Equipment and a Maintenance Plan – c/f

c) Speeding

The Chair agreed to email Jordan Hinds, Bungay Deputy Mayor re speeding measures for the village.

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

The Chair will attend the above training.

e) Cadent Green Cupboard

Cllr Stokes informed the Cadent green cupboard on the slip road had been refurbished.

12. To Receive items for the next Agenda

a) Biodiversity Policy

13. To Confirm the Future Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 6.00 pm 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 7.58 pm

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

