

	Chair: Sandra Clarke Vice Chair: Angela Lambard  Parish Clerk: Stephen Williamson 01493 789422 hicklingclerk@gmail.com	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES OF MEETINGS 2014-15</b></p>
<b>The Annual Parish Meeting 2014</b>		
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May – Hickling Methodist Church Hall</b>		
<b>PRESENT AT THE MEETING</b>		
S. Clarke (Chair), Mr. S. Williamson (Clerk) 65 members of the public signed the attendance record sheet		

*The meeting commenced at 7.15 p.m. Mrs Clarke stated categorically that if there was recurrence of the type of threatening behaviour present in the 2013 meeting, this meeting would be closed.*

<b>1:</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
Messrs. P. Berrie, I. Kemp, N. Baker, R. Cook, PCSO J. Boardman and representatives of the Bowls Club had sent formal apologies, no further apologies for absence were offered from the floor.	

<b>2:</b>	<b>MINUTES OF 2013 MEETING</b>
<p>Mrs Clarke said that for the first time, draft minutes for last year's meeting had been available on line. She said that several e-mails and letters expressing dissatisfaction with the draft minutes for 2013 had been received. In addition an objection signed by 45 people had been submitted. Mrs Clarke claimed that this list had been delivered to her house with people knocking on her door one morning at 4.40am [Subsequent sworn evidence contradicts this statement.] Mrs Clarke then claimed that 2 of the objectors had not been at the meeting last year. [Subsequent checks showed that one signatory had not been present] Mrs Clarke said that the objectors said that the resolution made by Mr Radcliffe had not been changed by those present at the meeting to include that both sides in the dispute must disclose, but that she had checked the minutes with Paul Rice (County Councillor) today and that his recollection accorded with hers. Mrs Clarke then asked the meeting to approve the minutes with one name spelling change.</p> <p>A parishioner raised an objection and disputed the accuracy of the draft minutes saying that 46 people had also objected [to the assertion that Mr Ratcliffe's resolution had been modified to include disclosure by both parties in the litigation as claimed in section 9 of the draft 2013 minutes] Mrs Clarke disputed this saying again that the resolution had been amended by the meeting. The parishioner disagreed. The parishioner also said that before any vote on the minutes' accuracy was taken it should be ascertained who present had also attended the meeting last year. Mrs Clarke attempted to ascertain who had been present last year and who wanted to object. She then read out the names of the people who had signed the objection. Mrs Clarke said that an amended resolution had been passed, but that 46 people said that this did not happen. Mrs Clarke said that the objections would be noted but that she would still be signing the minutes anyway [without alteration]. She stated that she did not have to take a vote. This was confirmed by the clerk, so no public vote on the accuracy of the 2013 minutes was taken.</p> <p>A parishioner subsequently asked for a further amendment to paragraph 9, saying that the record of his attempts to call a Parish meeting on the matter of the dispute had been incorrectly minuted, however, the minutes were also not changed in this regard.</p>	

<b>3:</b>	<b>CHAIR REPORT</b>
<p>In her report, Mrs Clarke informed that four new Councillors had been co-opted to the Parish Council bringing the number to eleven – the maximum allowed. Her report also dealt with the clearing of Chapel Pit and repairs to the bus shelter, thanking those involved, and also highlighted the many improvements to the staithe area which had not only greatly improved the area visually but also improved income to the Parish Council finances. Most of the work had been made possible by grants from Broads Authority and Environment Agency, she also thanked Councillor Deane for appreciation and hard work in this area. In relation to the ongoing dispute, the Chairman regretted she could not go into much specific detail, but did summarise the current position, she also</p>	

offered thanks to the Parish Clerk and all other Councillors for support and activity during the year.

*The report in full will appear on the Parish Council website <http://hicklingparishcouncil.wordpress.com> or a copy may be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk*

**4:**

#### **CLERK/RFO REPORT**

The Clerk thanked all Parish Councillors who had helped and supported during the past year, and welcomed the new Councillors, he particularly thanked Mrs Clarke and spoke of their excellent working relationship. The Clerk also emphasised the work that had been achieved to improve the village. In his role as Responsible Financial Officer, Mr. Williamson informed of a yearend bank balance of just over £7,500, a figure which would have been greater had the VAT refund arrived before March 31<sup>st</sup>. Despite ongoing legal dispute the 2014-15 Precept had remained at the same figure as for 2013-14. The accounts for 2011-12 had been finally signed off in July 2013 with a huge cost approaching £4,000, mainly as a result of a long letter from a Parishioner. The accounts for 2012-13 had still not been signed off and a similarly large bill was expected. In closing the Clerk speaking as a non-resident, hoped for speedy resolution to the legal dispute for the good of everyone in the village.

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**5:**

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

No representative of Norfolk County Council was present. For North-Norfolk District Council, Mr. Paul Williams informed that a great deal of grant money was on offer within the Big Society Fund, monies that had been raised mainly from Council Tax applied to second home owners. He also spoke about the Coastal Forum which was of importance to everyone, and also informed that he was now part of the Internal Drainage Board.

**6:**

#### **NORFOLK POLICE**

In the absence of a representative from Norfolk Police, the Clerk informed from a prior received report that 25 crimes had been recorded within the Parish during period April 2013 – May 5<sup>th</sup> 2014. The greatest proportion of these reported crimes was ten cases of assault. A more general report highlighted deception crime, garden and building site thefts and also thefts from churches. Police were patrolling car boot sales on the lookout for stolen items. Members of the public were urged to use the 101, 999 or Crimestoppers numbers if necessary.

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**7:**

#### **HICKLING BARN**

The HPFRGC report was given by Charity Vice Chair Mr. Purnell. He emphasised that the Charity belonged to everyone in Hickling with its remit to provide indoor and outdoor recreational activities. He informed of another successful year with over 13,000 individual visits for activities at the Barn. He thanked the 'huge army' of volunteers that looked after the Barn and also the individuals and groups who ran events. Turning to the ongoing dispute with the Parish Council, Mr. Purnell refuted suggestion that the dispute was about changes to the constitution, and that it was about the failure of the current Parish Council to pay what the previous Parish Council had previously agreed to pay. He said that the current Parish Council's offer made in January had been accepted (despite it being less than the Charity believed was owed) to save the necessity of going to court. Mr. Purnell went on to outline the changes to the constitution proposed by the current Parish Council, saying that it would no longer be a membership charity and that village organisations would lose the right to appoint trustees. He said that the Charity Commission had confirmed that the law was uncertain about how to remove nominating organisations from the Board and that the Charity Commission had therefore required that the Trustees write to the nominating organisations to seek their approval to do so. Copies of the replies had been sent with a letter to the Parish Council and response awaited. Mr Purnell made an unequivocal and firm rebuttal to the notion that anyone using the Barn was entitled to vote at Charity meetings. Mr. Purnell also wished to make it clear that settlement with the Parish Council was supported by the Trustees, and spoke of new challenges once agreement was finalised.

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**8:**

#### **COMMUNITY REPORTS**

REPORTS GIVEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF, OR ON BEHALF OF THE FOLLOWING LOCAL ORGANISATIONS:	
<b>Hickling Bowls Club (Clerk on behalf of)</b>	<b>Hickling Ladies Group (Clerk on behalf of)</b>
<b>Hickling Parochial Church Council (Mr. E. Lindo)</b>	<b>Hickling Broad U3A (Mrs C. Cooper)</b>
<b>Phoenix Trust (Hickling Village Hall) (Mr. T. Barker)</b>	
<i>The reports in full will appear on the Parish Council website <a href="http://hicklingparishcouncil.wordpress.com">http://hicklingparishcouncil.wordpress.com</a> or a copy may be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk</i>	

<b>9:</b>	<b>CONSTITUTION</b>
<p>The Chairman stated that the purpose of this agenda item had been to explain the constitution to those present, however with the receipt of correspondence from HPFRGC this could not take place. A brief one page summary of changes resulting from the new constitution had been prepared and was available that evening. The Chairman also mentioned that an idea for the four new Councillors to sit down with representatives of the Charity had not been approved by the Charity Commission.</p>	

*V-Chair A. Lambard thanked Mrs Clarke for her tireless work during the year. Meeting closed at 8.33 p.m.*

<i>Signed after agreed amendment and approval by Council as being a true and accurate record by the Chair of the meeting or authorised deputy</i>	<b>These Minutes were approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting &amp; signed by Chair – Jo Belsten</b>	<b>Dated: 1 June 2015</b>
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