

**MINUTES OF LESSINGHAM AND HEMPSTEAD WITH ECCLES ANNUAL PARISH
MEETING HELD AT LESSINGHAM VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 14TH MARCH
2023 AT 7.30PM**

The Parish Council Chairman, Peter Peruzzi, presided and the following Councillors were present:-

Jennifer Boardman, James Holden, Alan Shields, Andrew Cull and David Reynolds. The Parish Clerk and County Councillor Richard Price was also present. There were no members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Steve Bennett.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 2022

There were no minutes available.

3. UPDATE ON MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

a. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report was presented by Peter Peruzzi (**Appendix 1**).

b. Financial Report

The Financial Report was presented by the Clerk (**Appendix 2**). It was noted that the accounts were in draft as no bank statements had been received since the end of April 2022.

5. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER REPORTS

i. County Councillor

Richard Price reported that information was published on the County Council website. It had been a difficult year reporting from Covid, and continuing to provide services. There had been a £16M funding gap for 23/24 and council tax had been raised by 4.99%. The Council was investing more this year, which generated income. The third river crossing was progressing well and the Norwich Western Link was still being discussed.

ii. District Councillor

No report.

iii. Police

No report.

iv. Village Hall

Andrew Cull reported that the village hall continued to tick along, bookings had not come back to pre-pandemic levels especially for occasional private hire. The school continued to use the facilities, and it remained available for the community to use. The accounts would be brought to the next meeting.

6. GENERAL PARISH ISSUES

Elections – it was noted that all seats were up for election, and that forms needed to be completed and hand delivered to North Norfolk District Council.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed:

Dated:

CHAIR'S REPORT – 2022/23

After a period where this council has endured a substantial degree of instability, I think we are now seeing progress toward bringing the council onto a much more stable footing. This has been down to the efforts of our longer-serving councillors to maintain a degree of order following the pandemic, the enthusiasm of our newer council members, and the dedication and knowledge of our new clerk. Without all your time and effort, this turnaround would not have been possible.

Being a rural, coastal community, this parish feels the impact from two of the current, major national issues - the cost of living and climate change. These are challenges that are indeed massive, but I hope this council continues to play its part in fighting these problems, both by continued lobbying, and by generating and developing new ideas.

Having had to spend a considerable amount of the period sorting out financial and constitutional issues, this council has also found time to address other concerns.

Our roads are still badly in need of repair, but I'm pleased our efforts to identify potholes and other problems have at least been acknowledged and temporary repairs carried out. But this lobbying needs to continue throughout the coming year so that they don't deteriorate so badly next winter.

Hopefully the parish will be successful in its bid to have speed roundels installed at either end of the main route through Lessingham, and this should help alleviate any remaining speed problems on that stretch of road.

This council has also been instrumental in getting to the bottom of the Lessingham, red telephone box situation, and once planning permission has been granted, we will hopefully be able to find the funds to see it brought back into good repair.

On a funding front, the council has ensured that the grounds around our two local churches have been kept tidy, and supported the bus that transports residents of the parish to local shopping centres.

Finally, I'd like to place on record my thanks to you all for your efforts over this period, and hope we continue to serve the residents of this parish to the best of our abilities.

Peter Peruzzi

Lessingham Parish Council
Accounts for year ending 31st March 2023

| | 2022/23 | | <i>Budget</i> 2022/23 | 2021/22 | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Precept | £ | 4,070.00 | £4,070.00 | £ | 4,000.00 |
| Grants and Donations | £ | - | | £ | - |
| Misc | £ | - | | £ | - |
| Interest | £ | 0.42 | | £ | 0.12 |
| VAT Reclaimed | £ | - | | £ | - |
| Total | £ | 4,070.42 | £ 4,070.00 | £ | 4,000.12 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Clerk Salary | £ | 1,126.10 | £1,700.00 | £ | 1,560.00 |
| HMRC | £ | 216.40 | | £ | - |
| Mileage | £ | - | | £ | - |
| Administration | £ | 6.00 | £150.00 | £ | 38.10 |
| Training | £ | 118.00 | £200.00 | £ | - |
| Subscriptions | £ | 189.23 | £250.00 | £ | 224.74 |
| Audit | £ | 55.00 | £60.00 | £ | 50.00 |
| Meeting Costs | £ | - | £12.00 | £ | - |
| Insurance | £ | 300.97 | £350.00 | £ | 300.97 |
| SAM2 | £ | - | £30.00 | £ | - |
| S137 | £ | 100.00 | £950.00 | £ | 600.00 |
| Democracy | £ | 300.00 | £200.00 | £ | - |
| Miscellaneous | £ | - | £150.00 | £ | 69.74 |
| VAT | £ | - | | £ | 0.83 |
| Contingency | | | | £ | - |
| Total | £ | 2,411.70 | £4,052.00 | £ | 2,844.38 |
| Balance B/f | £ | 5,424.88 | | £ | 4,269.14 |
| Income | £ | 4,070.42 | | £ | 4,000.12 |
| Expenditure | £ | 2,411.70 | | £ | 2,844.38 |
| Balance c/f | £ | 7,083.60 | | £ | 5,424.88 |
| Represented by | | | | | |
| Barclays Current Account | £ | 6,342.58 | | £ | 4,307.58 |
| Barclays Deposit Account | £ | 1,117.30 | | £ | 1,117.30 |
| Unpresented Cheques | £ | 62.47 | | £ | - |
| | £ | 7,397.41 | | £ | 5,424.88 |
| Difference | -£ | 313.81 | | | |