

Draft Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Emneth Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 6.30pm in the Committee Room at Emneth Central Hall

Parish Councillors present: Councillor Pearson, Councillor Howard, Councillor Fry, Councillor Finnis, Councillor Purchase, Councillor Wiles, Councillor Groves (Chair) and Councillor Tingley

Also present: Kate Bennett (Parish Clerk) and County Councillor Dawson

Apologies: Councillor Kok, Councillor McCourt and Councillor Curtis

Minutes (draft)

1 Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received as listed above and the reasons for such approved.

3 Members' Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda and any dispensations required considered

- Councillor Purchase declared an interest in Item 5 on the agenda as he is Chairman of Emneth Central Hall Committee.
- Councillor Tingley declared an interest as he is a Member of the Hall Committee as well as a Parish Councillor.

4 Open Forum for Public Participation (fifteen minutes only)

- a) Councillor Purchase outlined the Hall's position regarding health and safety concerns with the current condition of the car park at Central Hall and the urgent need to have resurfacing works carried out before the cold, wet weather sets in. The Hall Committee has had three insurance claims against the car park in the last two years; two involving trips and another involving the barrier.

Concerns were voiced surrounding maybe needing to close the car park if improvements are not carried out soon.

It was noted that once resurfacing works have been carried out there is also a need to upgrade the lighting and the barriers in the car park.

The car park has an estimated 30,000 vehicle visits per year being, used by various visitors to the village; not just hall users but those visiting local businesses and of course the school and nursery located just around the corner. There is a lack of off-road parking in the village and many visitors use the hall car park as an overflow.

The quote for works is £35,869.30 inc. Vat¹; funding of £22,299.00 has already been granted, the Hall Committee can contribute £3,070.30 from their fund-raising balance leaving a shortfall of £10,500.00.

Based on the detail provided, the Chairman of the Hall Committee was requesting financial assistance from the Parish Council, either:

- A donation from Parish funds of £10,500.00 or,
- A loan of £5,000.00 to be repaid over a period of five years supported by a donation of £5,500.00.

¹ The quote is for 46 car parking spaces including more disabled spaces (currently 48 spaces)

Copies of the last twelve months bank statements from both of the Hall's Bank Accounts had been received and analysed by the Clerk and their current financial position duly considered.

Councillor Purchase thanked Members for their time and left the meeting room.

- b) County Councillor Dawson added that he would be able to donate a certain amount from his Members' Fund for improvements to the lighting and the barriers in the car park if councillors supported a donation for resurfacing works.

5 To consider making a financial donation of £10,500.00 to Emneth Central Hall Committee for resurfacing works to Central Hall car park

Following a detailed examination of current Parish Council funds, taking into account projects already committed to financially in 2024/25 and the projected carry forward figure at this financial year end; it was resolved to support a donation of £10,500.00 to Emneth Central Hall Committee for resurfacing works to be carried out to the Hall car park.

Central Hall is considered to be the biggest asset the Parish of Emneth has; it can potentially benefit all the inhabitants of the Parish (and neighbouring parishes) and the Parish Council is keen to support the Charity in order to ensure its viability for years to come for the residents of Emneth.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm

Chairman's signature