

A Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council was held on Tuesday 13th November 2018, in Hildersham Village Hall.

Those present at the meeting were: Mr Mark Logan, Mr Rob Clay, Mr Darren Long, and Mr John Myer, District Councillor John Batchelor, District and County Councillor Henry Batchelor, two members of the public and the clerk.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

66. Open Forum for members of the public to express concerns or raise issues - nothing raised.

67. Apologies – there were none.

68. Do any Councillors have interests to declare in the items to be discussed during the meeting? Has the Clerk granted any dispensations under section 33 (1) of the Localism Act and the basis is set out under section 33(2)? The clerk had granted dispensations to Mark Logan and Darren Long as allotment holders, to enable them to discuss item 7a.

69. Approval of the minutes for the meeting on 11th September – the minutes were approved and signed.

70. Report from District Councillor and County Councillor Henry Batchelor – the report had been emailed to all councillors

The District Council had requested a copy of every council's emergency plan: however this council had decided it did not require one. The District Council was offering councils with flooding problems a pallet of sandbags – **Action Darren Long** to ask Jenny Levitt if they could be stored in their barn, before the **clerk** orders them.

71. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor– the report had been emailed to all councillors.

A local planning application was to be considered by the planning committee which would be a test of the new Local Plan.

72. Update on the creation of a new parish council website.

The website had been set up. The next thing required was training and access passwords. It was agreed that Darren Long and the clerk would undergo training- **Action Mark Logan** to request.

The clerk was authorised to pay the invoice for the website up to the value of £600, by a proposal from Mar Logan, which was seconded by Darren Long and supported by all councillors.

73. Update on installing a perimeter fence around the allotment. The work was almost completed apart from the boundary along the lane owned by Pampisford Estate. Councillors were happy with the work. The contractor, John Baker, had agreed to dig a trench to the access plot for an additional tap to be installed and an allotment holder would install the pipework (to be purchased by Mark Logan) and fit the tap.

74. Update on application to renew the Asset of Community Value status for the Pear Tree as the current classification expired in October.

The Asset of Community Value status for the Pear Tree had been granted.

75. Latest news on the Neighbourhood Plan

Despite requests being sent to Linton Parish Council, no news had been sent to Mark Logan.

76. Community Land Trusts

a) Feedback on advice from solicitors Teeslaw after meeting on 12th November. The Clerk had met with two solicitors, James Marsh (Trusts) and Marieke Dacey (Property). The land

registry had the North and South Holding registered as the property of Hildersham Parish Council in 1999, but the Recreation Ground is not registered with them.

The solicitors would be investigating the Enclosure Act of April 1889 enclosing 16.4 acres of land as this may help clarify the nature of the gift of the land.

The Clerk's actions were: Send a copy of the Village Hall Trust document and the Land Lease to the solicitors, Establish with a previous clerk why the Recreation Ground wasn't register with the Land Registry in 1999, and find out what ownership document were used when the Village Hall Trust was created.

b) A copy of the deeds has been sought from the County Archive office. The clerk had contacted Mike Guttridge who had been the clerk covering the period 1999-2003 when the land was registered, (so the deeds were around), to find out where he thought the deeds were. He said he recalled getting copies of them from the County Archive at Shire Hall. To date the archivist had not found the deeds or a record of them being deposited in 2003. The clerk has asked her to check whether they were deposited at the archive earlier between 1999-2003, as they would have been required to register the plots with the Land Registry in 1999.

c) What action should the council take next? James Marsh advised the council to find the deeds or a copy of them, then to establish what action the Charity Commission (CC) required the council to take to achieve its aim of building a few houses, some of which would be to rent to local people and using funds to build a new village hall. The council's aim was likely to be acceptable to the CC as it was charitable. It was likely the CC would require the establishment of a Trust for the land, which would need to be a new Trust, but could have the same Trustees as the Village Hall.

77. Quotations for ditch clearance

a) Selecting a contractor to undertake the ditch clearance. Three quotes had been obtained by the clerk with prices quoted between £3975.00- £5800+ VAT. Only one contractor had quoted to remove the trees to gain access to the ditch. Gerald Franklin said the ditch was last cleared in the 1970's. Rob Clay said that when the swing was installed, they hit water at 1.5 foot down showing how high the water table was, so he questioned whether a cleared ditch would improve the drainage of the field when it floods. **Mark Logan proposed that the council leave the ditch as it was, which was seconded by Rob Clay and supported by all councillors.**

b) Removal of the stock fence on the boundary. Not necessary, see 77a.

c) Communicating with the properties that share a boundary with the ditch; some have bridges and fences into the area, Not necessary, see 77a.

78. Dangerous oak branch overhanging play area

a) Reported to landowners Anglian Water (ref 55551824). The branch had still not been cut down – **action Clerk** to contact Anglian Water again.

79. Allotments

a) Can the council decide how much to change for allotment rent for this year; the current charge is £26.00/ 12.8 rod plot? **John Myer proposed the rent be increased to £30.00/12.8 rod plot, which was seconded by Rob Clay, with the support of all councillors.**

b) Request made for the boundary hedge to be reduced in height as it is shading some plots. The Clerk received a response from the land agent of Pampisford Estate saying he would communicate with the land owner in a few weeks.

c) Suggestion that a noticeboard to communicate with allotment holders be erected, possibly on the barn. **Mark Logan proposed up to £250 be spent on a small notice board to go on the barn which was seconded by John Myer, with the support of all councillors.**

d) The unused plot, previously rented by Mr Broyd has been reallocated to another family as there was no response from the last tenant.

e) The newly available plot will be made into two plots but will require a fence to separate the two new plots; can councillors authorise the Clerk to get this fence installed/up to an agreed cost? Councillors said internally fencing was the allotment holder's responsibility even when new plots were being created- **action Clerk** to reply. Could Dr Webb make a log of when he checks the defibrillator – **action Clerk** to ask.

- f) The new allotment holders have sought permission to erect a shed for chickens? Mark Logan thought that this was not required as it was part of the conditions of being a tenant.
- g) Does the council wish to hire a skip for allotment holders to use? A skip would not be required at the moment.

80. Grass contract

- a) Advice from CAPALC about councillors not being paid to do council work.
- b) The council will need to seek prices from three contractors and select the one that offers best value.

81. Correspondence

- a) CAPALC advised the council that it was able to pay Gerald Franklin £500 for the use of his mulcher, but advised that a time scale be agreed. **Councillors suggested three years use of the mulcher which Mt Franklin agreed to at the meeting.**
- b) SCDC has requested that the council supply it with a copy of the council's Emergency Plan. The council felt that the village did not need an Emergency Plan.
- c) Awaiting response to email to Highway Dept about clearing the drains near the South Holding field. **Action Clerk** to chase up again.
- d) ACV submitted. See earlier item 74

82. Planning application to be considered:

Tree work request – Quince Cottage – no comments made

83. Finance

- a) Can the council authorise the payments and approve the financial statement dated. **The payments were authorised by all the councillors.**
- b) Authorisation has been sent for two people to administer the account. Mark Logan now has a card and reader. **Action Darren Long** to complete an application, **Clerk** to get paperwork sent to him.
- c) Update on the annual return. As the council's income and expenditure was below the required amount for the external auditor to require the paperwork, the audit was exempt, so there is no need to advertise the end of the audit and no invoice to pay.
- d) Can the council authorise the Clerk to pay the invoice for the allotment fencing when it arrives **Mark Logan proposed the clerk could pay the invoice up to the value of £4,000 (based on the quote plus extra for the trench digging), which was seconded by Darren Long with the support of all councillors.**

84. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 8th January 2019.

Adopting a new version of Standing Orders – **to be circulated**, budget, play equipment and hole in path by the Hildersham sign.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm