Hildersham Parish Council Meeting, met at Hildersham Village Hall, High Street, +Hildersham, on Tuesday 12th March 2019.

**Present:** Mark Logan, Darren Long, Rob Clay, Peer Cousins, District Councillor John Batchelor. County and District Councillor Henry Batchelor, two members of the public and the Clerk.

**Meeting started: 7.31pm**

**104. Open Forum for members of the public to express concerns or raise issues**

A parishioner reported that a light in the bus shelter was no longer working; both **Mark Logan and Darren Long** agreed to investigate.

# 105. Co-option of Peter Cousins as a new Parish Councillor; the Declaration of acceptance of office form was signed and witnessed by the Clerk and the completed Members Interest form was returned to the Clerk.

# 106. Apologies - John Myer sent his apologies

**107.** **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)?No interests were declared and no dispensations had been granted by the Clerk.

**108**. **Approval of the minutes for the meeting on 29th January.** The minutes were approved unanimously by councillors and signed by the Chairman.

**109. New Community worker for the Parish Nurse Scheme Steve Jordan to introduce himself.** Steve Jordan introduced himself as the community worker working with and supporting the busy Parish Nurse. He explained that he was one of two newly appointed Community worker appointed and that he would work in Hildersham and local villages, whereas his colleague Jacqueline Douglas would work in the villages on the other side of the area. The scheme had identified that there was a need for support other than physical health issues particularly for children, young people and young parents. Steve’s role was to get to know these people through village groups. He aims to identify the needs within the villages and to help co-ordinate existing people and services to assist, such as Age UK. His role was a paid role for 6 months at the moment. Councillors gave Steve the names of people who help organise activities in Hildersham. Steve said that there seemed to be a need for activities for young people, young Parents and isolated/vulnerable people within most parishes.

**110. Report from District Councillor and County Councillor Henry Batchelor –** a separate report had been emailed to councillors

A year ago the County decided to charge library users for computers access but as only a tenth of the predicted funds were raised, they had abandoned the charges.

Greater Anglian had introduced compensation funds if trains were delayed by 15 minutes or more. The Greater Cambridge Partnership was consulting on public transport in the county and how it could be improved. More work to improve the A1307 would start soon, with new traffic lights installed and a roundabout at the Barlow crossing.

**Darren Long** to email Jenny Levitts details to Henry so that the sandbags could be delivered. The District Council was adopting the Local Plan. A call for new sites for development had been requested for the next Local Plan. **Mark Logan** to propose the South Holding land for this new Local Plan.

**111. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor** **–** a separate report had been emailed to councillors

The Abington Neighbourhood Plan had been completed and was the first in the County and District to be completed.

There was a 5% increase in the District Council’s precept, with Hildersham villager paying the largest precept in the district.

 **112. Actions for the last meeting:**

a) Road drains need clearing by South Holding and down from the church by the County Council – **Action : Clerk** to ask the Highway Dept to clear them.

b) Update on new grazing rights licence. The Clerk was awaiting feedback from Hildersham Village Trust as their trustees were on the lease; the Clerk wanted their permission to include them and to check who held key positions within the trust.

c) Permission to store pallet of sandbag in local barn. Jenny Levitt had kindly agreed to store the sandbags in case of flooding, Darren Long told the meeting.

d) Path opposite village hall uneven due to tree roots. **Action: Mark Logan** to see if anything could be done to improve the situation.

**113. Latest news on the Neighbourhood Plan**

Both the Chairman and Clerk had made repeated attempts to get feedback from Linton Parish Council, but with no results.

# 114. Community Land Trusts

# a) Update from the solicitors Teeslaw. The solicitors proposed using the Charity Commission’s enquiry portal to find out the way forward; there should be a response within 30 days.

**115. Play area**

a) The dangerous oak branch overhanging play area had been removed by Anglian Water’s contractor after months of waiting.

b) Selection of new slide for the play area from the three quotations received from HAGGS, Playdales and Kompan. **Councillors selected HAGGS as offering best value; this was proposed by Mark Logan, with the support of Darren Long and all other councillors.**

Rob Clay suggested the rubber play matting costing £1500 seemed to be the same as the surfaces used for horses which was much cheaper; it was suggested that the health and safety specifications of both types of matting could be compared, if Rob could supply more details.

# 116. Allotments

1. Update on geting the boundary hedge reduced in height to stop allotments being in the shade. Rob Clay was thanked for the work he undertook on behalf of Pampisford Estates to cut down the hedge to a manageable level. Allotment holders had expressed their appreciation.
2. Request from Pampisford Estate that the fencing be improved at the base of the hedge, which was reported as having been damaged during the construction of the fencing. What action does the council wish to take? There was some uncertainty as to what Miss Binney’s concerns were, so **Mark Logan** Kindly agreed to meet with her. It was thought that it could be the gap in the new fencing near Jennifer Levitt’s gate could be the concern, or the old barbed wire found in the hedge or the new gate put onto Shelly’s allotment.
3. Update on getting new noticeboard attached to the barn. Clerk showed councillors a small outdoor noticeboard and they agreed that this would be suitable, so **action: Clerk** to order it; Darren Long kindly agreed to fit it when it arrived.

**Rob Clay declared an interest as Gerald Franklin is his father-in-law, and he quoted for the grass cutting; so Rob did not get involved in discussions or the decision.**

# 117. Grass contract

1. Council to select a grass contractor to cut the village verges for the next three years from the three quotations received from CGM, Mr G.Broad and Mr G. Franklin. **Darren Long suggested that Gerald Franklin be selected as the contractor, which was seconded by Mark Logan and Peter Cousins.**
2. Contract to cut the play area. Select a contractor.

 **Peter Cousins suggested that Gerald Franklin be selected as the contractor, which was seconded by Darren Long and Mark Logan.**

# 118. Correspondence

1. Local Highway Initiative application for funds. An arc of kerbing would be supplied around the bend of the wall at the entrance to Blench Lane.

b) Email about problems parking in Meadowlands. Councillors felt that there was no obvious solution, to parking on land owned by the District Council.

# 119. Finance

1. **The council authorised the payments and approved the financial statement dated 12.03.19, with a proposal from Darren along which was seconded by Rob Clay**.
2. Update on getting on-line banking. Mark Logan was now able to do on-line transaction, but the Clerk was not.
3. c) Clerks rate of pay – adjustment to take account of NALC pay increase in April 2018.**The council agreed the increase in the Clerk pay from April 2018 as per NALC** **with a proposal from Darren along which was seconded by Rob Clay**.

**120. Items for the next meeting’s agenda on 14th May** **2019, which is the AGM & Parish Meeting.**

Councillors agreed the next meetings would start at 7pm.

 **Actions for Clerk**: to email councillors assets they should check for the next meeting and ask Mr Blackman when he would varnish the notice boards.

**121.** O**pen Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items.** Concern was raised about signage redirecting drivers from Balsham via Fourwentways.

**Meeting closed at 8.40pm**