

## HILDERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper  
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### **A MEETING OF HILDERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

#### **Meeting started at 7.30pm**

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, David Mercer, the Clerk and no members of the public.

**69. Apologies** – Billie Chapman, Rob Clay and District Councillor John Batchelor. County and District Councillor Henry Batchelor did not attend the meeting either.

**70. 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.

**71. Open Forum for members of the public to raise concerns or make comments** – no comments were raised.

**72. Approval of the minutes for the last meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021** – the minutes were unanimously

**73. Report from District Councillor and County Councillor Henry Batchelor** – report circulated by email some weeks before the meeting. Henry was unable to attend the meeting.

**74. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor** – report circulated by email some weeks before the meeting. John sent apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting,

#### **75. Feedback on actions from the last meetings**

a) Councillors to select two tree specimens for triangle of land by A1307. **Action Clerk** to ask Helen Reynolds which small leaved trees the Council should request.

b) Repair to Back Road end of High Street (outside Gerald's house) path requested. The Highway Officer advised the Clerk that there was no news on this yet. **Action Clerk** to follow up.

c) Feedback from neighbours about proposed copse on Recreation Ground. After months of advertising the proposed work to create a copse and once a contractor had been engaged to do the work, have objections be made to the Council about the project. Mark Logan has replied to a neighbour's concern about her view of the Recreation Ground being blocked by explaining that the trees to be planted are whips so would take decades to grow. A concern that the proposed location is either too wet or too dry have been considered but the location will remain unchanged. The weedkiller used to prepare the area was selected as a 'pet-friendly' and 'people friendly' product.

- d) The free trees had been applied for and would be delivered at the beginning of December.
- e) Purchase of solar lights for bus shelters. Mark Logan had purchased the new solar panel and battery (as agreed at the previous meeting), which will be fitted on the Linton side bus shelter. **It was unanimously agreed that a £24.00 solar light from Amazon would be fitted on the Cambridge side bus shelter.**

#### **76. Neighbourhood Plan**

- a) An update. This project that was started in 2014 was finally progressing again, with assistance from Jean Kelly; a meeting was to be on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **77. Covid 19**

- a) Update on support groups and any action required to assist residents? Granta Health Centre was delivery prescriptions to local residents free of charge, so the volunteers were no longer required. David Mercer said that he was still happy to assist, if any help was needed. **The Council proposed a vote of thanks to Billie Chapman and David Mercer for all the assistance they have given resident in need over the past 2 years.**

#### **78 Village maintenance**

- a) Allotment/land invoices have been sent out.
- b) Update on new parking spaces in Meadowlands. There was no further news but also there was no problem with parking in this area now.
- b) Have footpath gates repairs been undertaken by Pampisford Estate to the identified gates? Andrew Rouse had repaired one of the gates
- c) Update on request to have the bridge and fencing painted. The Clerk had confirmed that the paintwork needed to be white when the work was finally done in Spring 2022.
- d) Update on replacement solar panel and battery need to be installed on Abington side of A1307 bus shelter light. This was discussed earlier in the meeting under item 75e.
- e) Tree planting would be arranged once the trees were delivered.
- f) Trimming Silver birch and tidying area around it near old water pump. **Action: Rob Clay** to trim the tree and tidy the area.

#### **79. Play area/Recreation Ground and allotments**

- a) Update on the installation of the fencing around the area for the planned copse. The fencing had been installed and was to a good standard.
- b) Correspondence about the treatment given to the copse land to suppress weeds. Mark Logan had replied to the email and explained the weed treatment had been selected because it was 'pet and people friendly' and that he had taken his dog around the area and there had been no problems.
- c) Plan for planting trees. Helen Reynolds would decide how the area would be planted up.
- d) The new picnic bench has been erected and installed.
- e) Authorise the quotation for tree work to be done by Andrew Rouse at a cost of £200.00. As he did not have public liability insurance, **the Clerk** would ask a local tree surgeon to contact Mark Logan about quoting to remove the low hanging branches to enable Andrew Rowse to get his tractor nearer the river to cut the grass. If the quote was less than £500 no further quotes were required.

#### **80. Community Land Trust (CLT)**

- a) **Councillors unanimously agreed that Mark Logan should send all the newly created Trust documents to be held at Tees Laws office in Saffron Walden.** The solicitor had advised the

Council that the income from the land could be spent on any of the Trust land sites as it would benefit the whole parish.

**Action: Mark Logan** to contact the Hildersham Village Hall Trust about the earmarked funds set aside by the Council for the village hall (approx. £13,000) to ask if these funds can go into the Council's reserves. Helen Humphry's had suggested that £1,000 be donated to the Council to help fund the fencing for the new copse from the 'Hildersham in Bloom' funds.

### **81. Agree Budget and Precept for 2022-23**

- a) Review, and amend the draft budget and proposed precept for 2022/23.
- b) Approve the budget and the precept for 2022/23. Councillors agreed to amend the budget by removing the Neighbourhood Plan consultation fees of £500, the removal of the £5,500 for a new pedestrian light and agreed that over the next two years they would donate £2,000 to fund the Parish Nurse, including £1,000 in 2022-23 and £1,000 in 2023-24. **Darren Long proposed that the Council adopt the proposed draft budget with the suggested amendments detailed previously and request a precept of £13,000 for the year April 2022-March 2023, which was seconded by David Mercer, with the support of all Councillors.**

### **82. Correspondences**

- a) The Highway Dept had asked if it could erect a site office in the South Holding next year to manage the construction work at the A1307 Junction. Mark Logan had contacted Gerald Franklin (who leases the land) and he had confirmed that he was happy for the building to be erected in the field. **Mark Logan proposed that the Council agree to the request that the Council agree that the construction office be allowed to be erected in the South Holding, which was seconded by Darren Long with the support of David Mercer.**
- b) Letter requesting funds to support the Parish Nurse Scheme for the next two years. In item 81b the Council had agreed to donate £2,000 over the next two years to support the Parish Nurse Scheme.
- c) New battery required for defibrillator at a cost of £54- Councillors to authorise. **Mark Logan proposed that the Council authorise the cost of replacing the battery, which was seconded by Darren Long with the support of David Mercer.** **Action: Mark Logan** to order the battery and make the invoice to the Council to enable us to reclaim the VAT.

### **83. Finance**

- a) The Council authorised the payments and approved the financial statement dated 09.11.2021; **Mark Logan proposed that the Council approve the financial statement, which was seconded by Darren Long with the support of David Mercer.**
- b) Update on adding existing Councillors to be able to authorise bank transfer payments on the Lloyds account. The Clerk was still awaiting confirmation that Darren Long and David Mercer had been added as authorised users to the bank account.

### **84. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 11th January 2022 – grass cutting quotes**

### **85. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items**

The meeting closed at 8.23pm and was followed by a meeting of the Land Trust.