

A Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council was held on Tuesday 20th January 2020, in Hildersham Village Hall.

Those present at the meeting were: Mr Mark Logan, Mr Rob Clay, Mr Darren Long, and Mrs Billie Chapman, District Councillor John Batchelor, three members of the public (including Tree Warden Carol Sinclair) and the Clerk.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

85. Open Forum for members of the public to raise concerns or make comments on parish council matters. Parishioners highlighted that there were holes in the road near Mabbutts and that the village paths were covered in leaves.

Action : Carol Sinclair to write to the Council about her concern that the binmen were leaving bins on the path, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road.

86. Apologies - District and County Councillor Henry Batchelor and Peter Cousins

87. 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.

88. Approval of the minutes from the meeting on 12th November 2019.

The minutes were approved, although it was noted that there were so typos in them.

89. Report from District Councillor and County Councillor Henry Batchelor – an emailed report had been circulated to councillors

Henry had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

90. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor - an emailed report had been circulated to councillors

A consultation about the next Local Plan was open for comments.

The mayor's plans for the A505 corridor from to Granta Park was open for consultation.

Councillor Batchelor asked the council to ignore the letter about delegating power to the planning committee as it was about a small change to the constitution that had upset one individual.

During the first few weeks of February work would start on the traffic lights at the top of Linton High Street, with the improvements to the cycleway between Abington and Hildersham were still to be done. New traffic lights at the Hildersham junction should be installed this year.

91. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

a) Prices for plastic wood-looking bench for allotments. Hard wood benches would cost £500 and councillors were concerned about the appearance of a plastic bench. Parishioner Mrs May Dry volunteered to donate her bench, which councillors agreed to and thanked her for generosity. **Rob Clay** volunteered to collect the bench.

- b) What condition is the play area picnic bench in, does it need repairing or replacing? **Rob Clay** to check the condition but it was thought likely that it would need replacing.
- c) Play area bench needed varnishing. Awaiting a date for work to be done by Ian Blackman.
- d) Reported gullies needing clearing at Blench Lane and the two lights not working, on the County Council's /District Council's portal. The gullies by the field entrance seemed to have been cleared.

92. Neighbourhood Plan

- a) Outcome of meeting with Linton Paris Council. When Billie Chapman left a message about attending a meeting, she received no response from the Neighbourhood Plan group at Linton.

93. Community Land Trust (CLT)

- a) Feedback from Heckford Norton that they hold no official paperwork for the council. They registered the North and South Holding with the Land Registry in 1999, and the Recreation Ground (without any deeds) in 2007 on behalf of the Village Trust.
- b) What actions does the council need to take based on the options suggested by Tees Law? Do Councillors want to ask Tees Law to get the terms of reference for a Trust/s written up and checked by the Charity Commission? **Mark Logan proposed that the council asked Tees Law to create the terms of reference for a Trust/s and checked by the Charity Commission (with the involvement of Mark Logan and Peter Cousins), which was seconded by Darren Long with the support of all councillors.** Action Clerk to email Tees Law this decision.

94. Village maintenance/allotments

- a) Can councillors consider requests for it to employ a pest controller to deal with the rats? Billie Chapman had spoken with three allotment holders who said that although they saw rats, they had not been affected by them. Councillors concluded that it would be best if individual allotment holders bought rat traps for their plots, such as one called 'The Big Cheese' available at Scotsdale for £9.
- b) Does the council wish to apply for funds from the Community Chest to pay for the Blench Lane bollards and contribute up to £1000 from its reserves in matched funds? The estimated costs for install the bollards based upon the Local Highway Scheme costings was about £2,070. **Councillors decided that they did not wish to contribute £1000 to match funds from the Community Chest.**
- c) Update on skip hire for the allotment holders. **Darren Long proposed that the council hire an 8 yard skip for £288 to be delivered at the end of February, which was seconded by Billie Chapman, with the support of all councillors.**
- d) Letter has been written to Ms Binney about the foot bridge to Abington needing repairing as it was very slippery and needing something done to make it safer to cross. **Action: Clerk** to chase up
- e) Letter written to Mr Barnes about hedge overhanging Pampisford Road, **Action: Clerk** to write.
- f) The fencing to the riverside of the village hall has been damaged, the concrete posts collapsed/been knocked over. HAGG have been informed and I am awaiting their response. **Action: Clerk** to chase up
- g) Confirmation of contractor to cut the verges in the village and the play area for 2020. Gerald Franklin's contract was agreed for three year, so the 2020 season will be the second year of the agreement.

95. Tree Warden – Carol Sinclair

a) Update/Report

Carol reported that at least two large beech trees are dead on the triangle piece of land at the junction between A1307 and Beech Row – **action Clerk** report this to the Highway Dept. Mark Logan had sent Carol the tree voucher donated by SCDC. Carol suggested purchasing an oak tree to be planted near the two bridges on the Recreation Ground; Mark Logan and Darren Long volunteered to collect the oak tree, if required. Carol explained other organisations were offering trees for free, including the Woodland Trust; such trees could be used to create a copse in the future on the South Holding. The meadow could do with the attention of a tree surgeon to cut down the lower branches. Mark Huntsman had been collecting up fallen branches from the ground, to help clear up the area.

96. Selecting a new electricity supplier for the pedestrian lights as the County Council will cease managing this from October 2019

a) Update on correspondence with Utility-Aid Ltd. **Councillors agreed to delegate the decision to accept the day price quoted to the Clerk; this was proposed by Darren Long and seconded by Billie Chapman, with the support of all councillors.**

97. Highway improvements

a) Report back on meeting with Highway Dept about moving the 'Slow Down' sign at the brow of the hill before the High St/Balsham Rd crossroads. **Action Clerk** to chase up Nicola Burden to move the sign

98. Correspondences

- a) Parish Councils in the area are invited to a meeting with Police and Crime Commissioner in Abington Institute 4th March 7pm.
- b) The following letter was discussed earlier in the meeting under item 90. Letter from the District Council's agent Fewes Lane Consortium Ltd asking councils to place a motion on their agenda to allow council leaders to call-in planning applications to be considered by the District Councils planning committee and that this power not be transferred to a single officer who is unaccountable to local residents. They are asking councils to write to SCDC leader, Cllr Bridget Smith and vice-chair of civil affairs committee Claire Daunton to make their comments.
- c) Email notification of road closure on Great Abington High Street in 12 weeks time.

99. Finance

- a) **The Council authorised the payments and approved the financial statement dated 14.01.20, which was proposed by Mark Logan and seconded by Darren Long, with the support of all councillors.**
- b) Bank account and internet access needs to be applied for Darren Long and Billie Chapman. The Clerk gave both councillors the account details. **Action: Mark Logan** to transfer £3,887.86 (less £1 transferred as a test by ML) from the section 106 account, as all the funds have been spent and the Clerk's authorisation number is not working.
- c) Peter Cousins now has authorisation to use the council's internet accounts and to authorise transfers but not to sign cheques the clerk as been told.

100. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 10th March 2020 - Tees Law

101. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items

There was a request to put church items in the allotment barn; it was suggested that Kate Huntsman speak to Mark Logan about this request.

Action Clerk: ask Ian Blackman to sweep the village paths of leaves; this was proposed by Mark Logan and seconded by Rob Clay with the support of all councillors.

Action Clerk: to inform Pampisford Estate that there is a hole in the septic tank on Blench Lane allotments.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm