

## **HILDERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper  
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### **A Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council was held In Hildersham Village Hall on Tuesday 13th September 2022**

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

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, Rob Clay, Councillors John Batchelor and Henry Batchelor, one member of the public and the Clerk (who left the meeting at the end of item 51, and Jean Kelly kindly took the minutes for the remainder of the meeting/s).

44. **Open Forum** Parishioners can raise any matters of concern – Jean Kelly enquired whether the question of Hildersham pursuing the Neighbourhood Plan alone, without Linton (who are overwhelmed with PC business), could be placed on the next PC agenda. (Cllr. Henry Batchelor suggested that Mark Logan might be put in contact with Dave Sargeant of West Wickham PC.)

45. **Apologies** - Billie Chapman (working); David Mercer (on holiday).

46. **Councillors to declare any interests 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)?** - Mark Logan declared an interest in HFGRG Trust item a).

47. **Approval of the minutes from the last meeting on 12th July 2022** - the minutes were approved unanimously.

48. **Parish Nurse Scheme update from Keith Day** - Unfortunately, there is no Parish Nurse at the moment, so no updates could be provided.

49. **Report from District Councillor John Batchelor** – (circulated; and available on the website). SCDC are trialling a [four-day working week](#).

50. **Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor** – (circulated; and available on the website) – Smaller schemes should benefit from changes to the criteria for [Local Highway Improvement funding](#).

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

a) Power for a Christmas tree for the village. - Mark Logan discussed the technical problems at length with PSH Electrical, but no satisfactory conclusion was reached. However, the meeting wondered whether a cable across the road, and a rubber mat, might work.

b) Defibrillator training by Anton King. - Although only seven people attended, Anton King's presentation was much appreciated.

c) Revarnishing of noticeboard/s and benches- can councillors authorise a higher cost than previous agreed? - The new figure was agreed. Marine varnish was favoured.

d) Update on reducing the size of the tree by the pump. - Mark Logan agreed to look at the silver birch, and make suggestions; probably, three quotes would be required.

e) Hedge on Beech Row creeping out onto the path – Sarah agreed to deal with the matter on this occasion. However, the hedge is rooted, and starts growing, on the Hildersham Hall side.

f) Feedback on the defibrillator training. (See 51 b).

#### **52. Update on improving safety at the Back Road/High Street/Balsham Rd crossroads**

- a) An update has been circulated by David Mercer.
- b) Does the council wish to apply for LHI funds for safety improvements at this junction? - This would probably be dealt with after David Mercer's return from holiday.

### **53. Actions required from Internal Auditors report**

- a) VAT has been reclaimed up to March 2022. - Noted.
- b) Last year's and this year's financial year end documents have been added to the website. - Noted.
- c) Remove brackets for Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Is the council happy to approve these amendments? - An increase to £750 was proposed by Darren Long, and seconded by Rob Clay.
- d) Identify, assess and record council risks, and the council needs to address them by ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate and manage risk. - Mark Logan agreed to prepare a list of any relevant risks that occurred to him, and of how HPC would assess them.

### **54. Village maintenance**

- a) Update on finding a new Grass contractor – Rob Clay reported that enquiries are ongoing.
- b) Update on the creation of a pictorial plan of walks around Hildersham Parish – Holly Barrie is to be chased; she has provided a figure of £150 to transpose the map into a JPEG.
- c) Update on when work on rebuilding the path on High Street near Back Road and painting of bridge will start. - A tent has been seen, in which test drilling is being carried out. Work should be finished by the end of the financial year.
- d) Update on new parking spaces in Meadowlands – Billie Chapman could not provide an update.
- e) Update on the Jubilee tree planting area. - A team of volunteers had strimmed the area, and carried out watering, on two occasions in mid-August. Jean Kelly would enquire whether volunteers would shift mulch in wheelbarrows from Willow Cottage to the trees.
- f) Did Mark Huntsman remove the Himalayan balsam in flower on the river bank – Yes. The Griggs family have also removed some from their side.
- g) Request to have the hedge from Hildersham Hall cut back along Beech Row – (See 51e).

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

- a) Update - (See HFGRG).

### **56. Update on the improvements to the A1307 junction**

- a) Update and new agreement about charges for the highway contractors to use the south holding for an extended period. - Noted. (The cycle path is now being finished off).

### **57. Annual Return**

- a) As the council completed an certificate of exemption for the External Auditors nothing further is required for the audit, having advertised the public right to inspect the records. - Noted. Complete.

### **58. Correspondences**

- a) Jean's request - Could the council agree to print a 4 page questionnaire to be delivered to every house hold as part of the process of possibly creating a Nature Recovery Plan for Hildersham. - This was agreed. (Mark Logan and Darren Long kindly agreed to help with this).
- b) Letter from the Parish Nurse with invitation to a social event - Noted (although the event has now passed).
- c) Email about, near the footbridge on the way to Hilda's Wood . - This item might have to be placed on the next agenda.
- d) Emails about road closures in Hildersham. - Jean Kelly suggested that any relevant road closure notifications be sent to the Website editors/admins.

### **59. Finance**

- a) Can the Council authorise the payments and approve the financial statement dated 13.09.2022? - Authorised (proposer: Darren Long; seconder: Rob Clay).

b) Update on opening a new bank account for the Trust. - The Clerk stated that this was proving very problematic.

c) Payment of the Archiving annual invoice £100? - Authorised (proposer: Darren Long; seconder: Rob Clay).

**60. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items** – None was raised.

**61. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 8th November 2022.** - The Neighbourhood Plan. Item 59c brought forward.

The meeting ended at 8.22 pm.