

Hildersham Parish Council
Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper
17 Lewis Crescent, Great Abington, Cambridge CB21 6AG

A Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council was held on Tuesday 8th November 2022, in Hildersham Village Hall.

Present: Mark Logan (Chairman), Rob Clay, Darren Long, David Mercer, County and District Councillor Henry Batchelor and District Councillors John Batchelor, one member of the public and the clerk.

The meeting started at 7.30pm

63. Open Forum - Parishioners can raise any matters of concern. No matters were raised.

64. Apologies - there were none

65. 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)? None were declared.

66. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting on 13th September 2022. The minutes of the meeting of 13th September were approved unanimously and would be signed once the Clerk was able to print them.

68. Parish Nurse Scheme update from Keith Day and the Parish Nurse. No Parish Nurse has been recruited so the update would be next year.

70. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor- a report had been circulated to councillors

A boundary commission consultation was underway proposing that Linton be part of the South Cambs. constituency and that a new constituency be created around the St Neots area. The major authority has temporarily taken over all the bus routes no longer provided by Stagecoach to reduce the crowding on buses and to ensure services continued to be provided in some areas.

71. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor- a report had been circulated to councillors

The local X13 bus service had been stopped. Residents were to be encouraged to complain to Stagecoach as they do seem to be listening to concerns raised. The A1307 Greenway route considered was now only the Pampisford Road option (at a cost £1million), as a consequence of concerns raised about the semi-closure of roads in Abington that would result from the alternative option along Linton Road. The Local Highway Initiative Scheme had been modified to have smaller schemes and larger schemes considered separately, speed reduction request would be considered outside of the LHI scheme. It was noted that the new path at the top of the High Street near Back Road was under construction after many years of waiting. Henry would ask Bradley Southwell to contact the previous Highway officer about the funds designated for painting the bridge.

72. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

a) David Mercer had spoken with Mrs Kallindar and a live 10-12 foot tree would be given to the village in early December. Mark and David planned to visit Pampisford Estate to see the tree.

Options for power to be taken from the street light were being looked into. The Clerk had contacted UK Power network and Mark Logan would contact Mr Cornwall to ask his advice. Arrangements for transporting the digger to plant the tree were discussed. **Action : Rob to contact local farmer about using his digger.**

b) Defibrillator training – councillors to authorise a donation to Anton King of £25 for training in August. **Mark Logan proposed the council pay Anton King £25 for the paperwork and equipment required to do the training, which was seconded by Rob Clay with the support of all councillors.**

c) The 2 noticeboards and 3 benches had been revarnishing.

d) Update on reducing the size of the tree by the pump. **Action Clerk** to get a price to reduce the crown of this tree, ideally below the cost of £750, so only one quote was required. Darren Long would provide the details of a local contractor.

e) A 4-page questionnaire had been delivered to all village households about the possibly creating a Nature Recovery Plan for Hildersham. The results of the survey had been circulated to councillors, although some surveys were yet to be returned. A detailed survey of the verges and larger tracks of land still needed to be done. Newts and hedgehogs had been seen at near Forge Green and Towne Green and otters had been seen in the river. Spotted fly catchers also lives locally. Jean suggested that the grass cutter could just cut the grass around the edges of Forge Green and Towne Green, be cut only twice a year. Jean was thanked for all her work .

73. Update on improving safety at the Back Road/High Street/Balsham Rd crossroads

a) Does the council wish to apply for LHI funds for safety improvements at this junction? David Mercer had been in contact with Martin Meehan, but hadn't received a reply, concerning Mott MacDonalds views on how the junction could be improved. **Action: Mark Logan to contact Linton PC and Balsham PC to get their support for the LHI application to improve this junction.**

74. Budget

a) Review and update the draft budget prepared by the Clerk. Once satisfied councillors agreed to adopt the budget for 2023-2024. Councillors agreed to add £180.00 for CAPALC to increase planned expenditure to £13,923; **this was proposed by Mark Logan, which was seconded by Darren Logan, with the support of all councillors.**

b) Councillors to agreed a precept for 2023-24 of £13,000; **this was proposed by Mark Logan, which was seconded by Darren Lon, with the support of all councillors.**

75. Actions required from Internal Auditors report

a) 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 kindly agreed to prepare a list of any relevant risks that occurred to him, and of how HPC would assess them. The Risk Register was reviewed by councillors and should be adopted at the January meeting.

76. Village maintenance

- a) Update on finding a new Grass contractor to cut the verges. **David Mercer** to follow up with his gardener whether he was interested cutting the verges and **Paula Harper** to contact Ian Blackman with the same question.
- b) Update on the creation of a pictorial plan of walks around Hildersham Parish. Holly Bowie had finished the plan. **Mark Logan proposed that she be paid £200 (as opposed to the £150 previously agreed due to the extra work she had undertaken), this was seconded by David Mercer, with the support of all councillors.** Action: **Mark Logan** to contact sign companies to create the sign and to include wording saying it was created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- c) Update on when work on rebuilding the path on High Street near Back Road and painting of bridge will start. The footpath is being built, but there is still no news on when the bridge will be repainted – Action: **Clerk** to chase up.
- d) Update on new parking spaces in Meadowlands – no news

77. Neighbourhood Plan.

- a) Council to consider proceeding with a NP without Linton parish council. At a meeting with David Sargent at West Wickham he said that the Neighbourhood Plan enables villagers to force development in particular areas. Kate Kell of Linton Parish Council (LPC) had suggested a meeting at the beginning of December to discuss the NP. **Mark Logan proposed the council continue working with LPC on the NP, which was seconded by Rob Caly with the support of all councillors.**

78. Community Land Trust (CLT)

- a) Update - nothing further to report

79. Update on the improvements to the A1307 junction

- a) New bus shelters have been installed on both sides of the A1307. Mark Logan had requested live bus timetables be installed.
- b) The contractors had asked if the compound on the South Holding could be used for an additional 4/5 months Jan- May in 2023 to complete the cycleway between Dalehead Foods and Hildersham. Gerald Franklin had been contacted by Mark Logan and had no objection to this.

80. Correspondences

- a) The Pension Regulator – council/Clerk needs to make a re-declaration of compliance by July 2023.
- b) Email about, near the footbridge on the way to Hilda's Wood. This had been dealt with at the previous meeting.
- c) Email of thanks from Keith Day for the £1000 donation (other half in new financial year) to Parish Nurse scheme.
- d) Email from County Council querying streetlight opposite the village hall. The light was installed by the council so was owned by the council; the Clerk had emailed the insurance company to ask that it be added to the policy, but had not received a reply yet.
- e) Information on planned roadworks to be undertaken had been circulated to councillors.

81. Finance

- a) **The Council authorised the payments and approve the financial statement dated 08.11.2022; this was agreed unanimously..**
- b) Update on opening a new bank account for the Trust. The Clerk had visited 4 banks but none were opening new accounts for charities. **Councillors authorised the Clerk to open an account with Barclays bank, which was proposed by Darren Long and seconded by Rob Clay, with the support of all councillors.**
- c) Authorise transfer of allotment income for 2022 to Land account, **Mark Logan proposed that the land income of approx.. £1281.92 be transferred into the land account, which was seconded by Rob Clay with the support of all councillors.**

82. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items Jean Kelly asked the council to request that residents stop cutting the grass in the coming Spring. Nothing was agreed by councillors

83. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 10th January 2022. No items were mentioned.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm