

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 10th January 2023.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, Billie Chapman, Rob Clay, David Mercer, Councillor Henry Batchelor, four members of the public and Jean Kelly, who took the minutes during the unavoidable absence of the Clerk.

84. Open Forum - no comments from the four members of the public present.

85. Apologies – from Paula Harper (Clerk).

86. 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)? - No interests were declared.

87. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting on 8th November 2022 - the minutes were approved unanimously.

88. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor – Noted.

89. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor – (will be sent, and made available on the website) – Cllr. Batchelor mentioned the following:

- a) Cambridge Congestion Charge proposal. In all, 24,000 responses had been received, and the matter will be further debated in due course.
- b) The recent ban on accepting sofas, cushions, etc. at sites such as Thriplow has now been reversed.
- c) From February, villages can now freely apply for a 20 mph speed limit, and each application will be considered on a case by case basis.
- d) Cllr. Batchelor would try to find a contact at the Environment Agency in connection with a potential problem with flooding.
- e) He would also see if anything could be done about preventing cyclists from unlawfully using the footpath past the sewage works (Lady Grove, 124/8).

90. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

- a) Update on reducing the size of the tree by the pump. As the tree is too big, Paula Harper was arranging to contact tree surgeons for quotations.
- b) Councillors to authorise retrospectively the agreed purchase of the outdoor Christmas tree lights- £44.96. - The Councillors authorised this payment (proposer: Billie Chapman; seconder: David Mercer).
- c) Application made for LHI funds for safety improvements to the Back Road junction. - (See 92 below).
- d) The 4-page Gardens Questionnaire printed and delivered to all village households in connection with the creation of the Nature Recovery Plan for Hildersham. - Councillors had now received a letter explaining what information had been received, and suggesting that the village grass-cutting

programme be altered to accommodate and encourage the various red-list species that had been noted. It is hoped that further investigation will be taking place in the spring.

91. Adoption of Risk Register – This was adopted.

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

a) LHI bid has been submitted? - David Mercer explained that he had met Michael Martin, of CCC Highways. Michael Martin pointed out that the width of Back Road at that point was dangerous, noted that the white lines had not been painted properly, and suggested that the description “dangerous junction” be inserted in the application. David Mercer and Michael Martin discussed various remedies, e.g., 20 mph speed limit, moving the signs back, or a four-way Give Way junction. Finally, David Mercer sent the LHI application off with a request for a four-way Give Way junction.

93. Cutting the verges

a) b) Update on getting a new contractor to quote. - Remains ongoing.

b) Suggestion from Jean Kelly that the verges near Forge Green, the bridge, village hall, Town Green and Blench Lane be reduced to being cut twice a year from eight times a year. - Councillors voted unanimously for maintaining the present arrangement (including leaving the cow-parsley in Blench Lane).

94. Village maintenance

a) Select the stand for the new footpath map from the following quotes which include VAT – Three quotes were obtained by Mark Logan; Councillors agreed to select Madebylandmark £1212.00 (although Mark Logan will check that the quote is still the same).

b) Update on when work on painting of bridge will start. - No information; the matter remains ongoing.

c) Update on new parking spaces in Meadowlands – Billie Chapman reported that this question was not easy to resolve, and remains ongoing.

95. Neighbourhood Plan.

At the last LHNP meeting on 6th December 2022, it had emerged that there was a problem with a mistaken PVAA. The latest Local Plan does not have Forge Green designated as a PVAA, but instead incorrectly mentions Corner Cottage or Denewood House (both private dwellings). Mark Logan agreed to write to SCDC Planning requesting that the error be corrected. JK said that, at the next LHNP meeting (Zoom, Monday 16th January, 6.30pm) she would seek help with other tasks that Hildersham had been asked to complete.

96. Update on the improvements to the A1307 junction

a) Correspondence about receiving payment form the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership for the use of the compound at the South Holding. - An invoice for some £9,000 had been raised.

b) Any updates. - Completion of the cycle path to Linton is down for the spring.

97. Correspondence

a) The Pension Regulator – council/Clerk needs to make a re-declaration of compliance by July 2023. - Mark Logan will complete form confirming that the Clerk’s earnings are not sufficient to make this applicable.

b) Email about, near the footbridge on the way to Hilda's Wood . - In the absence of any further information, this item to be brought forward to the next meeting.

c) Parish Nurse Scheme update from Keith Day. - Mr. Day had sent an email explaining that no-one had come forward to fill the vacancy as yet.

d) Email from Amanda Palmer about using a small part of the allotment barn to store some art equipment for the Children’s Church Council whilst the church build a new shed. - There were no objections to this. Darren Long agreed to convey this decision to Amanda Palmer.

e) Request to hold a wedding on the recreation ground and considering Liability insurance, a charge for use of the land, Andrew and the sheep and the duration for the Marquee on the field, a few days or a week? - Emma Copham and Fergus Austin wish to hold a wedding (possibly with hog roast) for 120-150 people on or about Saturday 29th July. Marquees, tents and toilets would probably take about four days to erect and remove. The couple were reminded about the £10,000,000 Public Liability insurance requirement. Mark Logan suggested that they rent the village hall (about which they have contacted Helen Humphry). Rob Clay advised them to check the measurements of the gate outside the hall.

f) Part of email correspondence concerning the possible replacement of a gravestone with indistinct wording from Patricia Brown concerning her grandparents' gravestone. Not clear yet what is likely to be requested. The matter remains ongoing.

98. Finance

a) Can the Council authorise the payments and approve the financial statement dated 10.01.2023? - In the absence of the relevant documents, this matter will be placed on the next agenda.

b) Update on opening a new bank account for the Trust. - This matter will be placed on the next agenda.

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

100. Items for the next meeting's agenda. - Because of the non-availability of some councillors, the date is to be altered from 14th March to 7th March. Any outstanding items will be placed on the agenda.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.