

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 7th March 2023.

Meeting started at 7.32pm

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, David Mercer, Rob Clay (arrived after the start of the meeting during item 105 discussions), Councillors John Batchelor and Henry Batchelor, one member of the public and the Clerk.

101. Open Forum - The Parishioners asked if road narrow signs could be erected between Innotech and the crossroads along Back Road. David Mercer explained that new signage was part of the application for the Local Highway Initiative (LHI) funds to improve safety at the Back Road. Two residents had requested (previously), that the council apply for a 20 mph speed limit through Hildersham. Jean Kelly explained that the Nature Recovery volunteers are planning to carry out a verges survey on 22nd April from 9.30am. It was suggested that they carry out a health and safety assessment prior to the survey and **Mark Logan** would contact the Village Hall Committee to enable the volunteers access to the first aid kit , should it be required.

102. Apologies - Billie Chapman sent apologies.

103. Councillors to declare any interests in the items to be discussed during the meeting? Has the Clerk granted any dispensations? No items declared or dispensations requested.

104. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting on 10th January and 8th November Both minutes were approved and signed.

105. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor

The council tax had been set by SCDC, with 10p added to band D properties tax. The County had increased its charge by 4.99% and the rent on council homes had increased by 7%.

106. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor

Public meetings had been and were to be held to explain the plans to install a new roundabout near the Barlow/Linton junction. Work was scheduled to start at the end of March. **Henry** would forward the work schedule to the Clerk so that it could be put on the website. More complex LHI bid such as this councils bid would be reviewed between April and May, the council would be given the opportunity to present its case to the panel at SCDC considering the LHI applications. Henry explained that the footpaths officer, Peter Gaskin, believed that installing 'no cycling' signs along footpaths encourage more cyclists to use the footpaths.

107. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

a) Quote received for reducing the size of the tree by the pump, near the walnut tree green.

Councillors to authorise. Only one quote was required as amount is below the councils threshold for requiring 3 quotations. Councillors unanimously authorised the Clerk to use JMW Services to reduce the size of the tree at a cost of £420.

b) Any action required concerning contacting the Environment Agency concerning local flooding? Councillors agreed that this was no relevant to the council.

c) Can any action be taken to prevent cyclists using the footpath alongside the sewage works from Linton? Discussed previously under item 106.

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

a) Awaiting the outcome of the LHI bids for application for LHI funds for safety improvements at the Back Road junction. Discussed/updated by Henry Batchelor previously under item

109. Cutting the verges

a) Review the quotes received and select a contractor for the growing season for 2023. Only two quotations were received from Glenn Broad and Ian Blackman, for this contract. **Councillors considered both contacts for the best value offered to the council and agreed to accept Ian Blackman quotation unanimously.** Action Clerk to obtain copy of his public liability insurance and to explain the expectation is that the verge be cut 6-8 times a year.

110. Village maintenance

a) Update on the footpath map – the lectern should arrive on 8th March.
b) Work on rebuilding the path on High Street near Back Road completed.
c) Painting road bridge- ongoing. Action Clerk had asked the Highway officer to meet with her to discuss the bridge painting, as all previous agreement to undertake work seems to be lost.
d) Update on new parking spaces in Meadowlands – no further news.

111. Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

a) Update on the NP with Linton parish council. There seemed to be a small amount of work required to complete the plan. Kate Kell had advised Jean that the NP would be open for a public consultation in April. Hildersham PC would also need to consult local residents over the plan. Action: Clerk to contact Kate Kell to ask for copies of the plans and materials Linton PC are using the consult with, to be used in Hildersham consultation.

112. Update on the improvements to the A1307 junction

a) Updates- work is progressing with the cycle path to Linton.

113. Correspondences

a) The Pension Regulator – council/Clerk needs to make a re-declaration of compliance by July 2023. Action: Clerk to forward email to Mark Logan. *Since the meeting the Clerk was able to successfully make the re-declaration, stating that the Clerk's income was too low to qualify.*
b) Letter from SCDC reminding the council to submit a new ACV for the Pear Tree pub 8-12 weeks prior to 15/10/23. Action: Mark Logan to complete the application for the September meeting, as the form is required by 15/10/2023.
c) Request for Candidate Site status as Protected Verge by parishioner for Blench Lane. The County Council are encouraging bio-diversity and an officer will visit, possibly in July, the council were informed by Jean Kelly. She asked the council to remember 'No mow May'.
d) Mark Logan told the council that he had submitted the application for a 20 mph limit through Hildersham.
e) Power for street lights -The Clerk explained the process for agreeing a new electricity contact for the pedestrian lights electricity and how the price is only valid for half a day, so a decision would need to be made on the day of the quote, as the contract was close to finishing.

114. Finance

a) **The Council unanimously authorised the payments and approve the financial statement dated 07.03.2023 and also agreed to increase the budget for grass cutting to £2500.**

b) Update on opening a new bank account for the Trust. The Clerk had posted the completed mandate change form removing previously councillors which was required before the new account could be

opened. On following up, Lloyds bank stated that the form had not been received. **Action Clerk** to try again.

c) HMRC - submissions sent by Clerk not received by HMRC- Clerk resubmitting missing submissions and this should resolve the problem.

d) Council insurance – **Action: Clerk** to query why in the second year of a five year agreement the insurance has increased significantly.

e) **The Clerk was authorised to transfer the payment of £9800 from the Greater Cambridge Partnership (for use the South holding during work on A1307) to the Allotment bank account, by a proposal from Mark Logan, which was seconded by Darren Long, with the support of all councillors.**

An emergency item was included and authorised by the Chairman, Mark Logan, as it was time sensitive

f) Coronation events- **Councillors authorised £100 to be donated for prizes at the coronation event to be held in the village, which was proposed by Mark Loagn and seconded by Darren Long, with the support of all councillors.**

115. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items – no items raised.

116. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 9th May 2023. LHI,ACV, and lighting contact, insurance.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm and followed by a meeting of the Land Trust