

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 12th July 2022.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, Rob Clay David Mercer, District and County Councillor Henry Batchelor, District Councillor John Bachelor, two members of the public and the Clerk.

25. Open Forum Parishioners can raise any matters of concern – Jean was concerned that the agenda was not on the website three clear days before the meeting, although it was on the notice board. Some of the documents on the website were not in pdf form, some were in the wrong format and in the wrong location. Jean Kelly suggested that a member of the council meet with her to be train on managing the website – Darren Long kindly volunteered. **Action : Clerk** to save the year end documents in pdf form and send them to Jean, who kindly manages the council’s website. The newly planted copse trees on the recreation ground needed weeding. Jean said that she had asked the grass contractor to take into account the wild-life when doing his work. Mark Logan explained that achieving a grass cutting regime that suited all villagers was extremely difficult as some people wanted the verges fully cut to improve the neatness of the village and improve visibility for drivers.

26. Apologies - Billie Chapman sent apologies.

27. 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 raised

28. Planning application to be considered:

- a) 22/02061/FUL – Hildersham Hall And South Lodge High Street -Vehicular access off High Street to serve Hildersham Hall and South Lodge.

The landowner spoke to the meeting explaining that the existing access from the hall in the village was inaccessible to large vehicles due to parked cars and the A1307 access was likely to be dangerous turning once the current changes had been completed. This was the reason for applying for an access on Beech Row.

Councillors unanimously supported this planning application.

29. The minutes from the last meetings on 10th May and 14th June 2022, were unanimously approved.

30. Parish Nurse Scheme update from Keith Day and Kim Cox, the Parish Nurse.

Unfortunately the Parish Nurse scheme representatives did not attend as Kim Cox had covid.

31. Report from District Councillor John Bachelor – the monthly reported had been circulated to councillors

In the last round of consultations for the Local Plan developers had challenged the preferred list of sites, 30 new sites were proposed and 130 existing sites would be revised. Locally Grange Farm, alongside Linton Road, Great Abington and the A1307 roundabout was a site being reviewed with a proposal for a new town with. John felt that there was a remote chance that any of these new sites would meet the Local Plan needs. Further consultations would be required and the conclusion of the Local Plan process was likely to be at the end of 2024. Covid update – people infected with covid had increased by 18% in the last week to 300/100,000 of the population and there were 124 people in Addenbrookes as a consequence of this virus.

Councillors answered a query, explaining that the highway junction contractors using the south Holding field as a site office and storage area would be reinstate the field and top soil once their work was completed. Councillors were concerned that the resistance to the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership's (GCP) from Great Abington residence and Parish Council may mean the cycleway remains incomplete.

32. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor – the monthly reported had been circulated to councillors

The existing Park and Ride (p &R) site at Babraham Road was expanding and the planning application for the new site near Babraham was going to be sent soon, although the route into Cambridge had not been decided.

Census data had been released which showed that Cambridge city was the city with the 5th largest expansion in the last 10 years, with an additional 40,000 house. The Local Highway Initiative scheme will open for applications in September, so the council should consider whether it wish to make an application to improve safety at the cross roads on Back Road.

John and Henry Batchelor left the meeting.

33. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

- a) Obtaining a specimen Christmas tree for the village, possibly from Miss Binney. David Mercer said Miss Binney had kindly agreed to donate a tree. She was keen to engage with villagers in Hildersham and Great Abington so was considering holding an open day. She was having problems leasing the Blench Lane bungalow because the allotment plot near it was very over-grown. **Action Councillors** to investigate how to get electricity to the tree.
- b) Defibrillator training by Anton King. **Action Clerk** to ask which Tuesday he could do the training in August.
- c) Revarnishing of noticeboard/s and possibly some benches. **Councillors unanimously authorised the Clerk to get the four benches and 2 notice boards revarnished up to a cost of £500.00 – Action Clerk**
- d) Update on reducing the size of the tree by the pump. **Action Rob Clay** to check the tree as it may need a working party to cut back the brambles and trim the tree.

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

David Mercer had met with Martin Meeham from the highway department who witnessed three fast cars driving on the wrong side of the road at the junction who said a safety review of the junction would be requested and suggested the council apply for LHI funds to improve the crossroads. Improvements could be traffic calming or traffic lights. A report would be requested from their contractors (Mott MacDonald) and was expected by 8th July, so needed chasing up. The Clerk suggested that support from other local councils for junction improvements would improve the chances of obtaining LHI funding for the work.

35. Actions required from Internal Auditors report

- a) Reclaim VAT- the Clerk explained that the spreadsheet with the details for the claim was on a laptop that needed to be fixed.
- b) Add last year's and this year's financial year end documents to the website. **Action: Clerk** to send pdf versions of the year end documents to Jean to add to the website.
- c) Remove brackets for Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. **Action: Clerk** and then to circulate to councillors for approval.
- 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. **Action: Clerk** to look at this and circulate suggestions.
- e) Further recommendations. **The council unanimously agreed that as it does not handle personal data , apart from the Clerk handling her data for payment purposes, therefore there was no need to register ICO.**

36. Village maintenance

- a) Finding a new Grass contractor. Glenn Broad had decided that he was unable to continue as the councils grass contractors as he was receiving conflicting instructions from the council and the members of the public. However he had agreed to continue until a replacement contractor could be found. Glenn Broad had strimmed the verges in Blench Lane in early July. Rob Clay explained that he would be unable to cut the verges as he was busy. David Mercer had spoken with his gardener, John, who would consider doing the verges. Rob agreed to meet with John to explain what was required- **Action :David Mercer** to introduce Rob to John. Ownership of Towne Green was thought to be Miss Binney with the track maintained by Highways; Jean Kelly insisted that and the land was shaded as verge on her map and that the council had maintained it.
- b) Pictorial plan of walks - the council applied for funding from the Community Chest Queen's Jubilee Grant for a pictorial plan/noticeboard of walks around Hildersham Parish. Design for the Hildersham map. Alison Webb has one on Instagram. Mark Logan had found another company to make the sign, but they were unable to do the graphics. He had asked a local person, to convert the image into graphics, similar in style to the Roman Road graphics. **Councillors unanimously agreed the cost of £150 to produce the graphics for the sign.** The expected cost for the notice board was £600.00.
- c) Update on when work on rebuilding the path on High Street near Back Road and painting of bridge will start. It was reported that there had been test drilling on the footpath in June. There had been no news on the bridge painting – **Action: Clerk** to chase up again.
- d) Update on new parking spaces in Meadowlands. No news.
- e) Jubilee tree planting area a bit messy. The weeds needed to be dug up, perhaps the new grass contractor would do this, if he agreed to do the grass.
- f) Hedge on Beech Row is creeping out onto the path. **Action Clerk** to write to Hildersham Hall's owner about the hedge from the phone box to the A1307.

37. Community Land Trust (CLT)

- a) Update - Mark Logan was advised by the solicitors that Trust do not need to register with the Charity Commission if its income is less than £5,000 pa and this is the case with both Trusts. **Action :Mark Logan** to check with the solicitor whether the a new bank account needs to be set up for the Trust , separate to the existing PC bank accounts.

38. Update on the improvements to the A1307 junction

- a) Update – it was highlighted that areas where become overgrown, during the construction period.

39. Annual Return

a) The certificate of exemption to the External Auditors for the year ending 2020-21 had been sent to the External auditors and receipt of it acknowledged.

40. Correspondences

a) Jean's request- Could HPC agree and endorse the formation of a Nature Recovery Plan for Hildersham, as such groups needed Parish Council support. Jean explained that a 10 year plan would benefit Hildersham wildlife, and that the village included protected species such as the spotted fly catcher than feed off insects in cow parsley; she planned to form a working party to identify what could be done. Jean suggested put a few words about forming a working party in the Abington and Hildersham News. Mark Logan suggested that a working party group be set up, so that the Parish Council could establish what they wished to do, before the council endorsed the group.

b) Update on Hildersham residents request Council support to be permitted to join the gym at Granta Park. Granta Park had confirmed that they would not offer Hildersham residents the option to join their gym.

c) Email about Himalayan balsam in flower on the river bank, near the footbridge on the way to Hilda's Wood. This plant is well established locally and seems to be in local gardens (Carol Sinclair's or the Red House grounds and possibly in the Grigg's garden.

Action: Mark Logan to ask Mark Huntsman to remove this plant from the river's edge.

d) Road closures details in Hildersham have been forwarded to councillors.

41. Finance

a) **The Council authorise the payments and approve the financial statement dated 12.07.2022 unanimously.**

b) Lloyds no longer offer Trust bank account, and other banks have stopped opening accounts for Trusts. Can Councillors authorise the Clerk to open a new Trust current account with a different bank? **Councillors unanimously agreed to the Clerk trying to open an account with another bank.**

c) Payment of the Archiving annual invoice £100? No decision recorded.

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

43. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 13th September 2022- Parish Nurse update

There was no Trust meeting after this meeting, as nothing needed to be discussed.

Meeting closed at approx.. 8.35pm