

HILDERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper
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The AGM meeting of Hildersham Parish Council was held in Hildersham Village Hall, High Street, Hildersham, on Tuesday 9th May 2023, after the Parish Meeting

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, Rob Clay, one member of the public and the Clerk.

Start time : 7.28pm

1. Election of Chairman – Mark Logan was proposed by David Mercer and seconded by Rob Clay with the support of Darren Long; he agreed to continue as the Chairman.

2. Signing of declaration of acceptance of office by Chairman. The declaration of acceptance was signed by Mark and witnessed by the Clerk.

3. Members of the Council to review and update their register of members' interests' forms. No councillor wanted to update their interests.

4. Election of Deputy Chairman – Darren Long was proposed by Rob Clay and David Mercer with the support of Mark Logan; he agreed to continue as the deputy Chairman.

5. Apologies – apologies were received from Billie Chapman.

6. 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

7. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items Mark Logan agreed to attend a meeting looking at the village verges with the county Ecology Officer and Jean Kelly. Mark mentioned had received a letter from a Blench Lane resident unhappy about the grass cutting regime and the uncut state of the verge there.

8. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting of 7th March 2023 were unanimously agreed.

9. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

- a) Clerk emailed Kate Kell of Linton Parish Council to ask for copies of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) plans and materials Linton PC are using to consult their community, but had no reply. Jean was attending the Linton PC meeting on Thursday and would follow this up. All day on 27th May Linton were holding an exhibition about the NP as the consultation process. It was agreed that Hildersham should have a separate consultation for residents in the village and Jean agreed to bring this up at the Linton meeting on Thursday.
- b) Arrange a meeting with Highway officer to discuss getting the bridge painted. The Highway Officer had replied that there was no budget to paint the bridge this year.
- c) Clerk queried why in the second year of a five year agreement with Zurich insurance the policy had increased so much. Zurich replied that prices to replace products had increased by 20%, so this was reflected in the policy increase.
- d) Can councillors retrospectively authorise the payment of the Zurich insurance policy - £1,869.02. **Darren probed the policy payment which was seconded by Rob Clay with the support of all councillors.**

10. Neighbourhood Plan

- a) An update. Discussed earlier in meeting under item 9a.

11. Village maintenance

- a) All Councillors to take responsibility for the assets this year: defibrillator, benches, bus shelters, noticeboards, village sign and kiosk. The assets had been checked and the benches were in good order, although it had been noted that the church bench (owned by the church) needed repairing and Mark would let them know via Ross Gray. New bus shelters had recently been installed by the County Council as part of the road reconfiguration and the notice board was in good repair. All land assets including the allotment land, South Holding and the Recreation Ground are the responsibility of Hildersham RG&FG Trust.
- b) Pictorial plan of walks has been erected and was looking good.
- c) Update on new parking spaces in Meadowlands. There was no update from Billie but it was noted that 3 cars and a van had been seen parking on the grass there.
- d) The river depth gauge has been installed to prevent further cars getting stranded when the river is deep. One resident had thought the gauge was too big and inappropriate. Discussions were had about making the 'Flood' signs more accessible but no change was agreed so they will remain in Mark's garage.
- e) Sarah Tunnicliff has offered the council trees using funds raised at a county fayre held at Hildersham Hall several years ago. Councillors agreed that trees could be planted along the South Holding to shield the area from traffic but they wouldn't want the trees in the field as it may be used for possible housing in future.
Action: Clerk to reply to Sarah Tunnicliffe' email.
- f) Street light contract had been agreed for the period of a year.
- g) Suggestion for new pedestrian lights for the Back Road end of Hildersham. There was no lighting from Mabbutts to the church. **Action: Mark and Rob** to check this area and propose possible locations for light at the next meeting.
- h) Review the RoSPA report and any action required to improve safety. **Action: all councillors** to review the RoSPA report for the Trust
- i) Update on the Local Highway Initiative application - There had been no news about the application.

12. Community Land Trust (CLT)

- a) **Update** - nothing to discuss.

13. Update on the improvements to the A1307 junction

- a) Update- work at the junction was scheduled to be completed at the end of May.

14. Annual Return

- a) Authorisation of the financial year figures and the supporting statement. **This was authorised unanimously by councillors.**
- b) As the council's income exceeds £25,000 the council will need to submit its AGAR to the external auditor for the year ending 2022-23.
- c) The Internal Auditor needs to do their work, before the Council can complete the annual governance statement and approve and sign the annual return accounting statements.
- d) The public inspection period for the audit we hope to have is 5th June-14th July. *This was changed at a later date to 28th June- 10th August 2023.*
- e) Can the Council authorise the Clerk to engage Vicky Warple at a cost of £160, plus any travelling costs, as the internal auditor? **This was authorised unanimously by councillors.**

15. Correspondences

- a) Donation to village Jubilee picnic. **Councillors updated the amount donated for the jubilee coins to £210, as they cost more than expected which was proposed by Darren Long, seconded by Rob Clay, with the support of all councillors.**

16. Finance

a) Can the Council authorise the payments and approve the financial statement dated 09/05.2023? **This was authorised unanimously by councillors.**

b) Update on opening a new current account for the Land & allotment account, when the funds are transferred into the new Hildersham RG&FG Trusts account. No progress had been made.

17. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items - no items were raised.

18. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 12th July 2022

a new ACV application for the Pear Tree pub to be submitted 8-12weeks prior to 15/10/23.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm