

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

A Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council

A meeting was held on Tuesday 9th January 2024, at the Hildersham Village Hall.

Present: Mark Logan, Tim Barton -Owen, Darren Long, Rob Clay and David Mercer (both arrived just after the start of the meeting), District & County Councillors Henry

Meeting started at 7.30pm

69. Open Forum – The invoice from Nextnorth still needs to be paid.

70. Apologies – there were none

71. 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.

72. Approval of the minutes from the last meetings on 14th November 2023 were unanimously approved by all councillors.

73. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor

The District Council were considering offering funds to allotment groups for facilities such as self-sustaining toilets, and were looking for expressions of interests from these groups. It is early in the process.

74. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor

Applications for the Local Highway Initiative funds for a 20 mph speed limit needed to be submitted by 15th March. **Councillors agreed that the previous applications should be resubmitted by Mark Logan.**

Work on the new roundabout leading to Bartlow is due to be completed in mid-February, which will be the end of the work for this section of the road.

The Civil Parking Enforcement Officer (2) are now active in the villages.

Councillors asked about disposal of asbestos and were told it needed to use specialist contractors.

75. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

a) Response to from consulting local residents to Towne Green about whether they would like a new pedestrian light locally or not. The approximate cost of installing a new light. Most household neighbouring Towne Green replied to the flyer asking their views on installing a new light near Towne Green. Three responses were supportive of a new light, three were against and one asked additional questions, which were replied to. **The Clerk had been advised by a CCC officer that the cost would be £8,000, which councillors unanimously agreed was too expensive.** Councillors agreed to look at other funding options, possibly partner funding or solar powered motion sensitive low level lights- **Action Darren Long and the Clerk to research. Action: Clerk** to reply and update all the people who responded to the flyer to explain the council was looking into at a less obtrusive lighting option.

b) Update on the installing the two replacement bollards at the entrance to the South Holding. Martin Meehan was hopeful that the replacement bollards would be installed this month.

c) Advice requested from the Highway Dept about how to prevent people using the Ford (and getting stuck) when it is flooded; possibly repositioning the depth measure. Bradley Southwell had redirected the council's question to the Drainage and Resilience Team. Bradley agreed to supply the council with 2 additional Flood signs (one for Carol Sinclair to erect and one to be kept by David Mercer). The existing depth measure was clearly visible from all directions, but despite this 3 drivers had got stuck in the ford in the last year.

d) Repair of broken bus stop window. The Clerk had obtained a quote from the bus shelter suppliers for a replacement panel, the options were glass that would be installed by the supplier at a cost of £1446.43+vat or a poly. Panel to be installed by local glazier, with the panel costing £297.98 +vat. **Councillors unanimously agreed the poly panel would be the best option. Action: Clerk to order panel.**

76. Consider the grass quotations

a) From the quotations received please can you select a contractor for the next growing season. The Clerk had received 2 quotations, but had contacted two local contractors |(who declined to quote) and a larger contractor who failed to quote by the requested deadline.

Councillors unanimously agreed to select Brookfield Contract Services to cut the verges and the play area.

77. Neighbourhood Plan.

a) Update on what happens next.

Jean Kelly was looking at the architectural elements to the NP, and thought that they may be a meeting held soon, as Linton were in the final phases of the NP.

78. Review and update Financial Regulations

a) Review and amend and accept the updated Financial regulations.

Proposed changes:

- 11.1h Change the upper value for the 3 quotes to £4500 or £5,000 to cover the likely cost of the grass contracts for the year (possibly higher).
- Paragraph 13 Remove Stores and equipment - we have none
- Note we are likely to need a separate audit for the Trust this year.

Councillors agreed to the above suggested changes to the Financial Regulations including increasing the upper limit for 3 quotations to £5,000.

79. Correspondences

a) The chairman and another councillor completed the precept request. **Action: Clerk** to return by the SCDC deadline.

b) Email from Jean about Naure Recovery Plan programme flyer and the grass cutting schedule. As the grass cutting regime was to remain unchanged councillors agreed that there was no need to contact parishioners. Councillors agreed information signs could be installed on the two greens advising people about the local floral (these were yet to be designed).

c) Increasing amount of litter in the layby near Cooks Pen farm Hildersham. The Clerk had contacted the Refuge Team , who after the meeting replied saying a new bin would not be installed but that their litter picking team would regularly clear this layby.

d) Purchase two additional 'Flood'signs. The County Council had agreed to supply two free of charge.

80. Finance

a) **The Council unanimously authorised the payments and approve the financial statement dated 09.01.2024.**

- b) Applying to add Rob and Tom as authorised to use the account. The Clerk had forwarded the councillors a link that they needed to complete. Rob had been unable to complete the form, as his address is classified as a business address (he banks with Lloyds). **Action: Clerk** to contact Lloyds.
- c) Councillors unanimously authorised the Clerk to transfer the Land income of £7200 (from GCP) less £550 (allotment hedge trim) & £648/00 2x skip hires and the padlock costs £147.03 = £5854.97 to the Land Treasurer's account.
- d) Clerk to pay Nextnorth.

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

All councillors had read Jean's email about the grass cutting regime.

Three Hildersham Recovery Volunteers were concerned about the council's stance on grass cutting around the village, particularly in relation to pollinators that are cut down prematurely. Jean stated that things have changed since the cutting schedule was created (which includes strimming around the flowers), as there was greater concern about biodiversity. The county Ecologist had suggested that the grass be cut in the Spring and Autumn, but the council had found that the contractors found it extremely difficult to cut the very long grass (when it was left in 2023 in Blench Lane). Mark Logan and other councillors explained that the council had to consider the views of other residents in the village who were not keen to have long grass along the verges, and that there were plenty of places for flora and wildlife as farmers left 6-12 m around every field for biodiversity.

82. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 12th March 2024

Council to review further policies and review the assets conditions.

Meeting closed at 8.23pm

Agenda for the Hildersham Land Management

This meeting follows the Parish Council meeting

1. Maintenance of the new plantation- maintenance plan and bigger access gate- the next step. Rob Clay said that the hire of a brush cutter would cost £86.00 a day for this area in the Spring, and that there would be no need to widen the gateway. Trustees liked this area.

2. Allotment

a) Surrendered plots offered to people on the waiting list. The Nightingale plot had been surrendered so could be given to a new allotment holder, and David Cross had mentioned giving up his plot. Paula Harper to contact him.

b) Any news on allotment who had not paid last year's invoice? An email stating that cash payments for last year and this year had been posted through the Clerk's door had been circulated to councillors; no funds had been received by the Clerk.

c) Creating access to allotments by reducing the size of the surrendered plot? Mark Logan to take a look.

d) Does the council wish to write to allotment holders who do not seem to be using their plots? It was suggested that a letter be written to one allotment holder who doesn't seem to use their plot- action Paula Harper

e) Plant material is still be left near the barn, do we need to erect a sign to stop this? Action|: Paula Harper to advise all allotment holders that the pile of debris near the barn is not a mulch pile and that allotment holders should not dump plant material and any material here.

f) Paul Seddon's request for a poly tunnel on his plot similar in size to existing ones on the site was unanimously approved. Mark Logan agreed to take a photo of the asbestos on Paul's plot to forward to the Clerk to arrange to have it removed.

3. South Holding

a) Replacing stolen bollards from the entrance to the South Holding. Still awaiting new bollards.

4. Finance

a) Update on rent paid. There are a few unpaid .invoices which will be chased up

5. Update on actions from RoSPA Report – new swing and chains and Spring guard, repair to shop and replacing bolts. Painting goal posts would cost £135.50 which was unanimously approved. Paula Harper would chase up quote to repair the ship wood. Darren had forgotten to order a spring guard, new swing and replace some bolts.

6. Grass contractor to be selected.

Play area maintenance – Trustees unanimously agreed to use Brookfield to cut the play area. Other quotes had been sought but not received.

Meeting closed at 8.47pm