

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

A Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council was held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at the Hildersham Village Hall.

**Present: Mark Logan, Rob Clay, Tom Barton-Owen, two members of the public County and District Councillor Henry Batchelor and District Councillor John Batchelor, and the Clerk.**

**Meeting started at 7.30am**

**83. Open Forum** – No matters were raised.

**84. Apologies** were accepted from Darren Long and David Mercer

**85. 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.

**86. The minutes from the last meetings on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were unanimously approved by councillors**

a)

**87. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor**

The District Council set its budget last week after increasing the council tax by 6%, which equates to a £10/week increase to households. He reported that the City Council was not in a good financial position. SCDC was generating £4.5 million income from housing, and generating 25% of its income from investments.

**88. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor**

In the next month the District Council will start collecting food waste separately in a caddy, in response to new legislation due to come into force by the end of 2026. The department of housing proposed that Cambridge expand to 150,000 houses by 2050, which would be a significant expansion from the current 60,000 homes in the city.

The Linton Village College traffic lights are not responding the traffic, stopping drivers leaving the site, with the Crofton Engineering site given priority. Also, there was no further news about the possible solar farm.

**89. Feedback on requiring these council actions from the last meetings**

a) Consider options for low level solar powered (possibly motion activated light) for Towne Green. One councillor felt that there was no need for lights in this area, while others were unsure, however all councillors were concerned about the quality of the solar lights available and were reluctant to waste money on them. Councillors unanimously agreed against pursuing alternative lighting for the Towne Green location.

b) Update on the installing the two replacement bollards at the entrance to the South Holding. Mark Logan had chased Martin Meehan. This action should be on the next agenda.

c) Advice requested from the Highway Dept/ Drainage and Resilience Team about how to prevent people using the Ford (and getting stuck) when it is flooded; possibly repositioning the depth measure. The Clerk is awaiting a response from Nicola Burden.

d) Replacement panel for bus stop received and insurance claim. Rob Clay is confident that he will be able to fit the new panel. **Action: Clerk** to make insurance claim once panel is fitted.

e) Four new 'Flood' signs received from the Highway Dept, one kept by Carol Sinclair, one in Mark Logan's drive, one at Jenny Levitt's and one at the pub.

f) Parking outside the village hall churning up the verge. Installation of bollards. David Mercer had circulated various options for bollards, 5 for £56 (6 x 18 inches) or some for £22/each (0.6m x 10cm<sup>2</sup>)

or £51.50 for 5 plus postage. **Councillor unanimously agreed to buy 10 bollards and leave Tom to select the best option up a price of £220 for the bollards.**

### **90. Neighbourhood Plan (NP).**

a) Update on what happens next. Mark Logan had a conversation with Liz Wood of Linton Parish Council about the South Holding now (SH) wording and the desire to have some development on this site mentioned on the NP. Wording for this had been sent to Ian Pool and Liz but the concern was that commercial housing would be required to fund a new village hall, and this could delay the NP adoption. A planning consultant may be employed to write the NP to get it completed, funded by the £8,000 in LPC#s account for the NP and further funds are available from SCDC. It may be in place by September 2024, after a summer consultation.

### **91. Review actions from internal audit**

- a) Standing Orders **-The latest version were unanimously adopted a including updating thresholds for procurement contacts & removing squared brackets and signed by the chairman. Action Clerk to forward this version to be uploaded to the website.** to be uploaded to website.
- b) Council reminded that the Internal Auditor stated that “*council has failed to recognise its duties as an employer...the council (that) hold the personal data connected to the Clerk, allotment holders, councillors and council is recommended to review the [ICO's information on this matter.](#)” Councillors felt that an information retention policy was not required as they only have one employee.*
- c) Items to be on website: members interest forms, list of councillors and their responsibilities & asset register on website- **Action Clerk**, plus sending all councillors a new interest form to complete and return.

### **92. Correspondences**

- a) Concerns have been raised about the number of floods there have been this year. Mark Logan highlighted that it had been the wettest in many years with 6-7 inches of rain in February, when there was normally 2-3 inches.
- b) Email from Jean about the information sheets about flora to go on the village greens. **Councillors unanimously agreed that it would purchase 2 x posts at a cost of £35 to be delivered to Tom – action Clerk**(details were in the email sent by Jean Kelly). Councillors were happy with the text to be displayed.
- c) Great Abington Parish Council had agreed to support this council’s Local Highway Initiative (LHI) bid. David Mercer had met a person from the Highway Dept, and they were considering putting a chicane at the top of the Back Road hill towards Abington, as part of the LHI.
- d) Request for a new wooden public footpath sign to mark the way between Hildersham and Abington. The council subsequently were advised that the District Council was not obliged to replace these signs when they deteriorated, and they had no plans to replace it.
- e) The Flourish Alcohol licence would be discussed at the planning meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

### **93. Finance**

- a) **The Council unanimously authorised the payments in the table and approved the financial statement dated 05.03.2024.**
- b) Update on applying to add Rob and Tom as authorised to use the account. Both Rob and Tom needed to get his form signed by councillors.

### **94. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items** No matters were raised

**95. Items for the next meeting’s agenda on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024** -Mark would not be at the meeting so Darren would be chairman. Confirm insurance and chase up new electricity contract.

Meeting closed at 8.33pm

## Agenda for the Hildersham Land Management

This meeting follows the Parish Council meeting.

### Start 8.34pm

**Present: Mark Logan, Rob Clay and Tom Barton-Owen and two members of the public.**

**1. Minutes of the meeting** - The Trustees agreed the minutes for the last meeting are an accurate record of the last meeting.

**2. Maintenance of the new plantation**- Trustees agreed that the hire of brush cutter (£86/day) in the Spring to tidy up the plantation should happen when it is dryer.

### **3. Allotment**

a) Update on surrendered plots offered to people on the waiting list. The chickens were still at the Huntsman plot despite them saying they would be off the plot by now, which is stopping Mark showing the area to be fenced for the fencing work.

b) Any news on allotment who had not paid last year's invoice leaving their plot and other plots? The tenant has been emailed again and advised that if we do not hear from him by the end of March, we will assume the seemingly abandoned plot has been vacated. **Action secretary** to ask Mr & Mrs Guy if they wished to surrender their plot and Keith had agreed with Mark that his plot would be split by the new access path.

c) Creating access to allotments by reducing the size of the surrendered plot- Mark to meet with Ian Blackman to show him the plot that needs clearing the area for fencing so that he can quote for the work.

d) Asbestos removal from one plot. **Action: Mark** to send photo to secretary

e) Plant material is still be left near the barn by allotment holders. **Action secretary** to email all allotment holders to state that the heap by the barn is not a compost heap, it is fly tipping and it must stop. Allotment holders need to keep waste material on their plot or dispose of it themselves well away from the site.

f) Proposed changes to the allotment tenancy were agreed as follows: "On termination of the tenancy the allotment should be handed back to the Parish Council, i.e cleared of any temporary structures, unless otherwise agreed with the Council" and include dispose of all debris away from the allotment site, and remove the option to keep fowl of any kind from the tenancy agreement, due to the rat infestations.

### **4. South Holding**

a) Replacing stolen bollards from the entrance to the South Holding. This had been discussed in the council meeting.

### **5. Finance**

a) Update on rent paid- Secretary is following up unpaid rent.

b) Financial update for near year end and consider having an internal financial audit. As the current account has only been operational since November and the expenditure has all been from the council's account apart from deductions made from the Trust funds for

major expenditure (two skips, hedge work etc) from the funds transferred into the new account. Only income has been paid into the account, no expenses deducted.

**6. Update on actions from RoSPA Report** – work required – new swing and chains and Spring guard, repair to shop and replacing bolts. Goal posts painted.

To sand back the timber on the bridge and treat with yacht varnish the cost would be £78.50. The Trustees approved this cost.

**Meeting closed at 8.50pm**