

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 24th September 2024
was held at the Hildersham Village Hall.**

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, Rob Clay and Tom Barton-Owen, District and County Councillors Henry Barchelor, District Councillor John Batchelor, eleven members of the public and the Clerk.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Sarah Sanderson arrived 10 minutes after the meeting had started so item 40 was discussed after

Item 47.

40. Sarah Sanderson Catchment Projects Officer for Cambridge and Staffordshire Water, is leading Cambridge Water's chalk stream restoration programme in Cambridgeshire. This item was considered after item 47—see below

41. Open Forum - Parishioners can raise any matters of concern. No items were raised.

42. Apologies were received from David Mercer and unanimously accepted by councillors

43. 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.

44. Approval of the minutes from the last meetings on 14th May, 11th June & 17th July 2024. Councillors unanimously approved all the minutes.

45. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor

The District Council was visited by the new governments Housing minister, Matthew Pennycook, who said that 100,000 new homes would be required to 2024, which was a reduction to the previous government requirement of 150,000 new homes to be built.

46. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor

Henry encouraged people to engage with the Bus Franchising Consultation. The Combined Authority was seeking people's views of the bus services in the County and how they can be improved. 'Under a franchised network the Combined Authority would contract bus companies to run the service but would have control over the routes, frequency, fares and overall standards of the regions buses.'

The Hildersham Local Highway Initiative (LHI) bid had been submitted but there had been no response. Henry explained that there should be a decision in October, but that the District was already accepting bids for the next LHI round in the form of 'expressions of interest', to check that proposed schemes were compatible with the LHI scheme.

The quarterly Police Engagement Event would take place on-line on 27th November, which the public can attend to hear about policing plans as well as to raise matters.

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47. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

- a) Is there sufficient interest in holding resuscitation training session in the village hall to make it worthwhile to arrange a training session? Last time this event was held only two people attended. It was agreed that the **Clerk** should arrange a training session in October or November with Anton, the trainer.
- b) Requesting a new dog poo bin installed near the A1307. The costs quoted to install the bin (£471/normal bin or £560 for a dog waste bin) and the £4/week emptying charge were considered too expensive by councillors. **Action: Clerk** to let Great Abington Parish Council know that this could was not going to install another bin.
- c) The Council's insurance claim for bus shelter panel had been paid- £197.98.

***40. Sarah Sanderson Catchment Projects Officer for Cambridge and Staffordshire**

Water, is leading Cambridge Water's chalk stream restoration programme in Cambridgeshire. The Cambridge Water Chalk Stream Restoration programme is starting with the Granta River. She explained her plans for the project and listened to concerns raised about local flooding from residents. A priority for the programme was increasing water quality and supporting brown trout by creating fish passages through weir and other obstacles. Funds would also be used to create wetlands, create measures to get surface water into the aquifers, act as arbitrators with landowners, to make straight concrete channels wavy to help reduce flooding and to improve the habitat. The project would start in April 2025, and take five years, with work starting on the city chalk streams. A presentation is planned for 9 October 2024 at Great Abington.

48. Biodiversity responsibility

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must (before January 2024):

To comply with the guidance, town and parish councils could as a minimum:

- have biodiversity as an agenda item for a meeting (if not already, as soon as possible).
- note what action they are already taking to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- agree what further steps they should take to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Councillors agreed to consider what action the council should be taking to discuss at the next meeting. They would like to invite a councillor for Duxford Parish Council, Ian Walters, to explain what measure they have taken at the council's November meeting; specifically with reference to the Recreation Ground. To ensure biodiversity is considered with all decisions made. Consider asking the Nature Recovery Group what could done on Trust land to increase biodiversity, as this is a much bigger area than the verges. The Duxford PC Biodiversity Strategy to be circulated to councillors.

49. Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

- a) Update - the volunteers were working through a selection of documents, editing some and considering green spaces and which maps would be included in the plan and would also be making enquiries about grants, as the last one was applied for in June 2015.

50. Review and adopt the new Financial Regulations

- a) A new revised template was issued by NALC in April – **Councillors unanimously agreed that section 5.8 should be amended to £4,500 and that 3 quotes be required for expenditure between 3751-£4,500. With these changes made, Mark Logan proposed and**

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Darren Long seconded that the council accept and adopt the new Financial Regulations, which was supported by all councillors.

51. Further recommendations from the Internal Auditor

- a) The VAT had been reclaim and paid to the council - £620.64 received.
- b) Adoption of a publication scheme. The publication scheme had been in circulation but was not completed as the Clerk had been unable to embed links to the website. Jean Kelly had volunteered to assist with this. **Councillors discussed how long council documents should remain on the website and unanimously agreed that it should include two full years plus the current years documents.**

52. Correspondences

- a) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority bus franchise consultation will be held at IWM on 10th October between 6-8pm.
- b) Complaint about the quality of the verge grass cutting. Councillors would be discussing the verge cutting regime in November.
- c) History Group to be start in Hildersham. The council with assistance from Jean Kelly (who indexed most of documents) had archived a lot of local material in Ely Archives and some documents had been sent to the Linton History Group.

53. Finance

- a) **Once the two payments for £750 & £330 were amended to JM Watkins, Councillors unanimously authorised the payments and approve the financial statement dated 24.09.2024.**

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

55. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 12th November 2024

Duxford Councillor, Ian Walters to be invited to meeting to discuss their biodiversity strategy, grass cutting regime for 2025, budget and clearance of the Recreation ditch.

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