

The Annual Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council

Was held on Tuesday 13th May 2025, **after the Parish meeting had finished at** Hildersham Village Hall.

Present: Darren Lon, Rob Clay, David Mercer, Tim Owen-Barton, one member of the public and the Clerk

Meeting started at 8.02pm.

Present: Darren Long, Tom Barton-Owen, Rob Clay, David Mercer one member of the public and the Clerk.

1. Election of Chairman – Darren Long proposed Mark Logan (who had emailed all councillors to say he was happy to support the election of a new Chairman or to be elected), which was supported by David Mercer and supported by all councillors.

2. Signing of declaration of acceptance of office by Chairman- This would be signed on his return from holiday.

3. Members of the Council to review and update their register of members' interests' forms. All councillors confirmed that their declarations were still correct.

4. Election of Deputy Chairman – Rob Clay proposed Darren Lon, which was seconded by Tom with the support of all councillors.

5. Apologies were received and accepted from Mark Logan, who was on holiday.

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 – no items were raised.

8. The minutes from the last meeting on 4th March 2025 were approved unanimously.

9. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

- a) Another Blench Lane resident's views on whether a 'No Through Road' sign would reduce traffic trying to use the lane was required. Mark Logan had spoken with a resident who felt there was no need for a new sign. The resident at the meeting appeal for the council to investigate the cost of a new road sign which would include a 'No through Road symbol' .
- b) No through road sign costs. **Clerk** to contact Highway to find out if the existing road name sign could be replaced with a name sign that included a 'no through road' symbol at the end of it.

- c) Can councillors formal agree to the new electricity contract with SSE entered into after email correspondence with councillors in April; contract ends on 31 July as the terms change for electricity contracts after this date. **Darren Long retrospectively proposed that the council enter into a new short-term contract with SSE, until the terms changed which was seconded by Tom Barrton-Owen with the support of all councillors.**
- d) The County Council confirmed in April that they would not be taking back responsibility for the verge grass cutting this year.

10. Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

- a) Update on what happens next. There would be another zoom meeting later this year.

11. Correspondences

- a) Email from new grass contractor explaining due to staff changes he felt unable to cut the verges/green in Hildersham after April, could we get a new contractor to do this work.
- b) No quotation had been received from Brookfield to cut the Hildersham verges only during 2025, although Dan had verbally agreed to cut the verges when he cuts Little Abington's. A member of the public felt that this contractor had left a mess when they were last used, including cut down wildflowers, although a councillor had been impressed by the standard of cut made to Towne Green. Councillors were happy for Beech Row and Blench Lane to remain uncut until June, and for the Greens to remain mainly uncut except the edges to ensure a good visibility splay.
- c) Correspondence about another accident at the Back Road crossroads. There was another accident at the crossroads which David Mercer alerted 6 people including Highway officers about and would be mentioned in his presentation to the LHI panel. **Action: Clerk** to seek letters of support from Linton and Balsham Parish Councils asap for this bid to improve safety at this junction. The 'give way' sign is not visible from the Balsham junction, and the police have refused to attend recent accidents. Traffic calming is likely to cost £10,000.
- d) Area of verge that hasn't been cut for years and a neglected tree planted by the council 30 years ago. **Action: Clerk** to ask Peter Carter to tidy up this area near the old pump and the council would consider cutting back the silver birch at a later date.

12. Year End & Annual Return

- a) **Councillors unanimously authorised the Clerk to engage to Vicky Warple at a cost of £190, plus any travelling costs, as the internal auditor.** 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.
- b) **Councillors considered and accepted with the financial year end figure and supporting statement with a proposal from Rob Clay which was seconded by Tom Barton-Owen and the support of all councillors.**
- c) The public inspection period for the AGAR is 3rd June -14th July 2025.
- d) Councillors agree a date to meet in June after 7.30pm to approve the year end AGAR once the internal auditor has completed their work.

13. Finance

- a) **Councillors unanimously approved and authorised the payments in the table and approved the financial statement dated 13.05.2025.**

b) One payment to Clerk for last year still needs to be paid for February 2025.

14. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items- drainage ditch in front of village hall has water in it- **Action Darren Long** to contact Sarah Sanderson of Anglian Water Chalk water project.

15. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 8th July 2025 - Grass cutting, Ditch in front of the village hall.

Meeting ended at 9pm

Agenda for the Hildersham Land Management

This meeting followed the Parish Council meeting on 14th May 2024\.

1. Minutes of the meeting – The Trustees agree the minutes for the last meeting are an accurate record of the last meeting.

2. Maintenance of the new plantation-

a) Are any actions required concerning the comments raised by the new contractor after cutting this area: uneven surface, removal of dead trees and creating a more uniform planting? Peter Carter who has cut the grass with a brush cutter highlighted that the land was uneven due to ants' nests and that the dead trees should be removed and the rows of trees planted more evenly in rows. Trustees thought a roller could help level up the land but did not want the trees would not be replanted in rows.

3. Allotment

a) Inspection of allotment plots. No date was agreed for the next inspection.

4. South Holding

a) Update on - a pile of chalky dirt in the gap of the hedge (possibly from Flourish). **Action: Mark** to talk to the owner of Flourish. Await the return of Mark for an update.

5 Recreation Ground

- a) Playsafety inspection - any actions required? A few minor actions were highlighted in the safety report including: the fencing needing a few tacks, the manhole covers concrete edging, gaps in the matting and slats rooting on the bridge, odd bolts missing- **action Darren Long.**
- b) Suggestion that we contact the Environment Agency to ask if they can dredge the river to help lower the level of it to enable the RG ditches to clear. **Action: Clerk** to contact Sarah Sanderson of the Chalk River clearance project.

6. Finance

a) Financial update for near year end and consider having an internal financial audit. **Trustees unanimously agreed that as there had only been approximately 4 transactions in the account this financial year, that it would not be worth-while have an audit.**

Meeting ended at 9.15pm