

## **MINUTES OF THE HILTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 02 DECEMBER 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllrs P.Balicki (Chairman), G.Barradell, D. Bates, K Dunk, A.Goodridge, J Perez, S.Whyte, W. Wilson

**In Attendance:** Jo Perez (Parish Clerk), 9 Parishoners and Cllr Ian Bates (HDC)

### **1. To note Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S. Perry.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest

### **Parishioners Open Session**

Parishioners were invited to participate stating to which item on the agenda they wish to comment. No comments relating to the agenda were made.

Cllr Ian Bates (HDC) – handed the Chairman a copy of Cambridge County Council budget details. He then went on to speak to the committee regarding agenda item 5.2 and gave some background information. He informed the committee that 2 years ago CCC stopped giving money to Cambridgeshire Transport. He advised that this year 1.5 million has gone back into transport and it gives Hilton Parish Council an opportunity to look to see if we can make use of some of this money to help with our transport needs.

He also mentioned the launch of super-fast broadband in the Village.

### **2. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were approved, Cllr J.P proposed, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr K. Dunk as a true record and signed by the Chairman, all Cllr's were in favour apart from D.Bate who abstained as she was not present at the November meeting. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were not available and will be brought to the next meeting.

### **3. Matters arising or carried forward from the last meeting for discussion and decision**

#### **3.1 Cambridgeshire County Council Minor Improvement Scheme – update on the proposed crossing on Potton Road**

Cllr J.P advised that he had received the latest plan from Ross Hamilton on this day and that he would upload this information onto the website and will send G.B a copy to print and put on the Village notice boards. J.P Advised the Council that Ross Hamilton is waiting on revised lighting from Balfour Beatty with an update to the lighting scheme. Also possible changes in signage? J.P will go back to Ross Hamilton with questions on whether the project is still on track? Whether the time taken so far will affect the timeline and cost? He will also to clarify the location of the crossing and whether the location was something that came from the survey conducted or a Parishioner?

P.B Advised the Council that Julie Briggs has offered a donation of approx. £1,000 from the Hilton Wildlife Fund that no longer exists. This will be gratefully received.

**3.2 Streetlight Removal in Grove End – discuss any response from Balfour Beatty to query over cost.**

Clerk advised Committee that a letter has been sent to Balfour Beatty to ask if there is another solution to the light issue or any movement on cost as their quote was too expensive. As yet no response has been received. Clerk has updated the owner of the property. G.B checked if the work could be carried out by another but this is not possible as it is owned by Balfour Beatty. A.G Asked if just the bulb could be removed to disable light on the house but keep the other street light on? It was suggested in discussion that the transform could possibly be moved. It was decided that G.B and the Clerk write another letter to Balfour Beatty suggesting possible other solutions. Action- Carry forward to next meeting.

**3.3 Damaged play area edging – update.**

The Clerk has spoken to all 4 Companies that quoted on the work to be carried out, all confirmed that they did not visit the site before quoting and they all agreed that their quotes would remain valid until March 2014. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Wicksteed to ask if they could clear the site of leaves and treat/repair rubber matting if given the go ahead to make other repairs. S.W proposed that we vote for medium risk repairs to be carried out. Prop S.W 2<sup>nd</sup> A.G , All were in favour

**3.4 (5.1 & 5.2) Receive recommendation from the Finance and general purposes Committee regarding Precept for financial year end 2015 & proposals for Budget for financial year end 2015**

P.B Advised that last year the Precept was £22,595, and that the F&GP committee had recommended that an increase of 2% was sort and would be presented at the February meeting. P.B also highlighted that by February we will have  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year's spend so could possible look at areas that could be trimmed. He advised that the deposit account had a very low interest rates and this an area to be looked into, P.B explained that the Parish council will not receive the tax grant that was received last year. A.G asked what would happen if the 2% increase was declined? P.B Explained that cuts would then have to be made somewhere? J.P Pointed out that asking for a higher percentage had been discussed but it was decided that hopefully by asking for a smaller rise it would be accepted and would stay off the radar. P.B explained that any unforeseen cost would have to come from reserves. Precept has to be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013. P.B Prop J.P 2<sup>nd</sup> All were in favour.

**4. To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring decision or action**

**4.1 Correspondence received from Mr G Buck, Aspen Environmental Ltd**

P.B gave some background information on this, explaining that this account should have been approved for payment in April 2013 but due to that meeting having to be closed and then further issues regarding the Parish Council it had not been paid. He explained that although Mr Buck had been emailing monthly the previous Clerk had not responded. Action – to pay invoice as soon as possible. P.B prop S.W 2<sup>nd</sup> and All were in favour.

**4.2 Invitation to attend Huntingdonshire Local Compact Launch 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

D.B asked if we needed to go. She explained that she didn't feel that it was a necessary requirement as Hilton already has a lot going on and the WI and other organisations in the Village are aware of what goes on and we are good at looking after one another.

**4.3 Parish Council Assets- consider need to inspect**

P.B suggested that between now and March the Parish Council should inspect it's assets. It should look at the assets register and check around the village to see if any repairs are required. Action – P.B will email a list of dates to all the committee to arrange for groups to check on assets.

#### **4.4 Consider request from Clerk for a mobile phone for incoming calls**

P.B told the committee that the Clerk is receiving calls during the evenings and at weekends when she is not working. The Clerk would like a mobile phone for incoming calls so that she does not have to answer them when she is not working, which can be difficult if the calls go to her home phone. K.D asked what if a matter is urgent. The Clerk said that she would still check messages and respond accordingly. G.B Suggested that hours the clerk can be contacted be made public. It was agreed that this would happen. Action – to purchase a cheap mobile phone a suggestion of no more than £10 was made. D.B Prop, S.W 2<sup>nd</sup> 5 in favour, 1 abstained.

Meeting closed 8.30pm to invite Neil Sunderland from the Fireworks committee to report on this year's display:- Neil gave a handout of the report to all committee members

Neil explained that the Fireworks Committee had used Craig Fleming's Cousin directly this year instead of going through Kimbolton Fireworks. The Company is called Titanium Fireworks and they received approximately 20% more extra. He explained that conditions were difficult due to the high winds on the evening and there were a few problems but he didn't think the crowd noticed. He told of all the work involved in pulling off the wonderful display.

Neil was thanked for his report.

Meeting re-opened at 8.42pm

### **5 Committee, Working Groups and Members' items**

#### **5.1 To receive report on the Fireworks event**

G.B reported that this year the Firework event had lost money. The Fireworks cost £2,040 inc vat and the takings on the gate were £1,285 the overall loss excluding the vat is £415. G.B said that numbers were down and it is difficult to appeal to other Villages due to the lack of parking. K.D & S.W questioned if the financial loss made the event a big financial risk to the Village. P.B suggested looking at possible fundraising events. It was also suggested more advertising and possible date change should be looked into. P.B suggested a Working Group be put together to look at this more closely – Cllr Bates, Cllr Balicki, Cllr Whyte and Cllr Dunk agreed to be part of a working group, Neil Sutherland from the Fireworks Committee and Sharon Walker from the Feast Week Committee also agreed to be part of the working group. It was agreed that the working group would meet after Christmas.

Meeting closed 8.48pm to here from Sharon Walker of the Feast Week committee:-

Sharon reported that Feast Week had made a profit of £270 but there was a lot of food left over.

Meeting re-opened 8.50pm

### **5.2 To receive feedback from Councillors Dunk and Goodridge regarding the CFT Meeting**

A.G & K.D reported that bus subsidies are disappearing. Cambridgeshire County Council has a small fund of 1.5 million to help support local communities that are affected. Hilton will lose one bus service, the service 3 that runs on a Saturday as this is the only subsidised service Hilton has. CCC has provided a questionnaire to be distributed through the Village to establish if there are areas in which the fund could potentially help with transportation. There are various ideas that can be considered. There is a tight deadline as completed surveys have to be in by 17<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The Scheme is being explained at various meeting places locally and there is a leaflet explaining when and where these are taking place. It was discussed amongst the committee how best to distribute the survey. S.W expressed concerns of the validity of the survey if not enough responses came in. K.D explained that in order for the survey to be effective and successful it would require a lot of work from all councillors and their families. 400 surveys will be supplied. Action:- a working group to be set up Cllr A.G, Cllr K.D and Cllr J.P will be on the working group.

### **5.3 To receive feedback from Councillors Balicki and Barradell on other Parish Council Meetings they have attended.**

Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots were the Parish Council meetings attended. P.B said that they had some ideas that he liked, one idea was to list on the Agenda and Minutes all correspondence the Parish Clerk receives. He suggested he may be something he proposes at a later date. G.B commented that he like that only 2 members of the planning committee went to speak to parishioners. Both found the meetings good and interesting.

## **6. To Consider and decide upon matters relating to finance and risk assessment**

### **6.1 Authorise payment of any bills**

Cllr J.P declared an interest in payments 6a & 6j

6a	Jo Perez	Clerk's November Salary	£ 404.95 chq
6b	Rodney Makeham	Grass Cutting – Village Green	£ 40.00 chq
6c	LGS Services	Clerking Service	£1,388.79
			£1,474.46
		Total	£2,863.25 chq
6d	Guilden Morden P.C	CALPAC Training (Sept & Oct)	£ 140.00 chq
6e	Hilton Village Hall	P.C Meetings (July-Nov 2013)	£ 300.00 chq
6f	Geoff Buck (Aspen Environmental)	Fens-Hilton	£ 159.60 chq
6g	HDC	Electoral Services	£1,695.96 chq
	HDC	HPC invoices paid by HDC	£5,816.90 chq
6h	Peter Balicki	A14 Flyers	£ 15.00 chq
6i	Bernie Ashby	Handyman duties	£ 85.05 chq
6j	Jo Perez	Toner for printer	£ 55.35 chq

S.W suggested that the Council do not pay the 2 invoices (6c) for LGS services due to the issues and poor service the Council received. All Councillors were in agreement that the service received was poor and therefore should hold back payment of these invoices. Action – Not to pay LGS Invoices

P.B has a copy of the contract with LGS and will circulate to the committee, it was agreed to write a letter to LGS stating our position and asking for a reduction in costs. P.B & Clerk to action.

It was agreed to pay all invoices other than 6c – S.W Prop, W.W 2<sup>nd</sup> , all in favour other than J.P as declared interest.

#### **7. Closure of meeting**

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm

The date for the next meeting is the 3rd of February, 2014