

MINUTES OF THE HILTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 04 NOVEMBER 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs P.Balicki (Chairman), J.Perez, G. Barradell, A.Goodridge, W.Wilson, S.Whyte, K. Dunk and Jo Perez (clerk)

In Attendance: 10 Parishoners plus Alan Williams (Ward Councillor for the Hemingfords) HDC

1. To note Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs S. Perry, D. Bates

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.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th October and 29th October 2013.

The minutes of the 7th October 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on the 29th 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 – to consider the survey and costs for a crossing on Potton Road if received

The Chairman read out an email received from Ross Hamilton from CCC to say that although it looks as if this matter has not progressed, it is progressing and will report further once he has more information. J.P asked if the Parish Council should reiterate it is subject to cost. G.B will put drawing of proposed crossing on Village notice boards.

3.2 Streetlight Removal in Grove End – to consider the quotation received from Balfour Beatty

K.D asked if the work had to be carried out by Balfour Beatty as their quote is very expensive. S.W suggested alternatives were looked at. J.P & S.W suggested that Balfour Beatty are advised the quote is not acceptable. W.W said a letter should be sent to the owners of the property concerned. It was proposed to defer this matter to report on at the next meeting.

3.3 Damaged play area edging – to consider quotes for repair

4 quotes have been received, there was a question on the date from one quote received. P.B suggested we need to establish what the Companies were asked to quote on. S.W suggested it is unlikely that any of the Companies other than Wicksteed had been to visit the area concerned. G.B pointed out that the Wicksteed survey says that it is a medium risk so perhaps we hold off on work to be carried out. J.P commented that the area is entering into a period of less use during the Winter months. S.W did not think the edging was dangerous but was mindful that if left could be more expensive to repair. S.W suggested more investigation should be done and Jo Perez will speak with Wicksteed to ask what would happen if left.

3.4 HDC invitation to participate in the Parish Planting Scheme 2013

K.D suggested the Village is self-sufficient, so no reason to participate, so it was agreed that we will not be participating. No action required.

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

4.1 HDC – affordable housing and housing needs

P.B invited Alan Williams – Ward councilor for the Hemingford's HDC to speak. Alan explained that this is housing that would have to be built on Rural Exception Lane. G.B Asked Alan to send the clerk more information. There were lots of questions raised from various councilors. Alan agreed to send more information and also see if Frank Mastrandrea or another would be available to attend the December or February Parish Council Meeting.

4.2 HDC review of polling places and district

Nothing to action.

4.3 Ditch clearance – to consider quotations for the work

K.D advised that Ian Stott has advised that the work to be carried out is as in previous years and the cost is in keeping with previous years. A.G asked if the work would include clearing the gullies? K.D & G.B confirmed that this is not included and that Cambridge county Council has been contacted regarding this. K.D advised this is seasonal work and John Carter intends to carry out the work after Christmas. G.B raised concerns about how the waste will be destroyed? S.W asked if any negotiations with John had been entered into. K.D advised No but it was the same cost as last year and suggested that this is discussed at the next 3 year renewal of John Carter's contact with the Parish Council.

Proposal – accept quotation as long as it includes removal of waste. It was agreed by P.B, G.B & K.D that one burn will be allowed in order to dispose of waste as long as it is cleared within one month of burn.

It was also pointed out by K.D & G.B that the Council have not asked for 3 alternative quotes although the amount exceeds £1000 due to the fact that John Carter had been approved by a previous council as a 'Preferential Supplier' and therefore unless there is a dramatic increase in his charges from previous years then there is no need to seek alternative quotes.

Please see clause below:-

c. When applications are made to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition the reason shall be embodied in a recommendation to the council

J.P Prop, W.W 2nd
6 in favour, 1 against

4.4 CCC Local Highway Improvement Scheme invitation to bid

No proposals of any projects this year.
P.B Proposed, G.B Seconded
All in favour

4.5 CCC Parish Paths and Rights of Way matters

Hilton is not included, no action required.

4.6 HDC New community Infrastructure Levy

P.B & G.B recently attended training that gave them more information about this. P.B read out a letter from HDC regarding this subject. It advised that a minimum of 15% Community Infrastructure Levy could be applied for. S.W asked if it applied to affordable housing? P.B advised that it did not. It was explained that the Parish would have to justify why it was wanted. A.G asked if there is any benefit to making Parishioners aware. P.B Advised that HDC would advise Parishioners when applying for planning and also likely that build contractors would also advise.

5 Committee, Working Groups and Members' items

5.1 To receive the report and recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee on the budget and precept for FY2015

5.1 PB presented the work of the working group in a table that covered 2012/2013 sums, actuals and suggested figures for 2014/2015. This was debated by the council. PB suggested that any proposed increase (in total) for the precept should be c.2-3%)

SW commented that the bulk of the spend/precept was in fact made up of 6 key areas/repeated year on year.

Concerns around our interest bearing account; that the rate of interest was very low? GB to take up an action to speak with the local branch of Barclays to discuss the rate and feedback at the next meeting.

We currently enjoy a reduced sum for our insurance due to being part of LGS collective buying power/leverage with the insurer. GB took an action to look at alternative insurers and suggested talking with Hemingford re: combining buying power?

5.2 To consider and approve a budget for FY2015 and to set the precept

It was agreed that the working party would take onboard the discussion and meet again third Tuesday in November and report back with a recommendation to put to the vote at the next full meeting of the HPC on the 2nd December.

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

6.1 To consider the finance report and approve payment on bills

PB and the council ran through the outstanding invoices. It was noted that R Makeham was due a payment and PB took an action to look at how to expedite a payment. PB/The Clerk took a collective action to discuss the direct debit situation with John Carter and agree with Mr Carter a mechanism to bring payments back in line with his contract. PB/The Clerk took an action to review outstanding payment to HDC and agree a payment/payment schedule. Both these would be brought to the full council for discussion and approval.

6.2 Wicksteed – Annual playpark inspection report

GB ran through the report highlighting the items/activities that were deemed/ranked most pressing (medium risk)

GB took an action to look at the Gate and assess/repair if possible

The action to clean away the buildup of algae on the tiles has been historically 'jet washed away' – SW commented that this was a lengthy process and came with collateral damage/impact to the surrounding soil that supports the tiles (erosion) SW suggested that perhaps a spray on algaecide should be considered? As a quicker less invasive alternative?

SW took away an action to source such an algaecide preferably with the least environmental impact and feedback to the council. When sourced and agreed perhaps this could be applied by Bernie Ashby as part of his duties?

7. Closure of meeting

The meeting was closed at 20:45

The date for the next meeting is the 2nd of December, 2013