

Minutes of a meeting of Hildersham Parish Council held in the Village Hall, High Street, Hildersham, Cambridge, on Wednesday 18th November 2009.

Present: Keith Day (Chairman), Dan Gresham, Jean Kelly, Andrew Westwood-Bate, District Councillor Trisha Bear, Paula Harper (Clerk), and 7 members of the public

A public meeting about the proposed wind farm public appeal in February 2010 preceded the meeting, so there was no open forum at the start of this meeting.

Formal meeting started at: 7.46pm

52. Apologies – County Councillor John Batchelor

53. The minutes of the last meeting on 30th September 2009 were approved and signed.

56. Feedback on actions from the last meeting

Lynne Roberts, Housing Officer at SCDC had only written to one resident of Meadowlands about parking on the grass in Meadowlands, as opposed to all the residents as requested by the Parish Council. However there had been less parking on the grass.

The Clerk had made an appointment for another tree company to look at the work required on the trees.

57. Report from District Councillor Trisha Bear

The Planning department at the District Council were reviewing the methods it had used for more controversial and larger planning applications after complaints from Parish Councils. The chairman's delegation group had decided such applications in the past. The Council should have been consulted about this review- **Action: Clerk** to find out when we would be consulted.

The rural rate relief would discount bills by 50% and could be highlighted by Councils to local businesses.

Andrew Westwood-Bate asked why the Councils contractors were cutting the grass in the village so last in the season (last week).

58. Report from County Councillor John Batchelor – did not attend the meeting

59. Village Hall Charitable Trust (VHCT)

The Trust was preparing to make a presentation at its AGM on 15th January to show the plans for the new village hall. In January the hall would be painted internally, to brighten it up.

60. Update on Councils request to meet with Linton Parish Council to discuss construction traffic using the Back Road to Linton and the protected verges. **Action Clerk** to contact Richard Preston of the Highways Department at Cambridgeshire County Council to ask him to arrange a meeting between representatives from Hildersham and Linton Parish Councils to discuss the Back Road before the Local Councils Liaison Consultation ends (20th November – 20th January).

61. Tree work update

a) The soundness test undertaken on the pine tree by the bridge recommended that specific work should be undertaken to safeguard the tree. The Clerk needed to obtain a further two prices before a contractor could be selected. The work should be undertaken as soon as possible- **action: the Clerk** was authorised to accept the lowest quote for the work and to get the work undertaken.

b) Two further quotations were to be sought at the same time as work on the pine tree, to trim a sycamore. This work would be undertaken at some later date.

62. Report on meetings attended by Jean Kelly

a) Jean Kelly attended a meeting at Cambourne about the role of a Tree Warden within the parish. A Tree Warden would direct people to the correct body for advice on trees and help decide where new trees could be planted.

Anyone interested in becoming a Tree Warden could find out more from Jean.

b) Jean Kelly also attended a course on creating community orchards, which including the care and maintenance of trees. Although this was an interesting course, the Council had previously decided that the time was not right to create a community orchard near the allotments.

63. Village maintenance

a) 3P's footpath maintenance – The last three monthly meeting of local village representatives of the Parish Paths Partnership was held in Hildersham. The Partnership had been asked for maps indicating which footpaths were trimmed twice yearly by the County Council. **Action: Clerk** to find out the best way to ensure that the footpaths were cut regularly. Establish whether the Council could manage this with funding from the County Council.

The redundant gate from the recreation ground had been moved to the front of the recreation ground. Thanks were expressed to Robin Meikle, Brian Cunningham and Andrew Rouse for undertaking this work. An extra handrail was required on the bridge.

b) The oak tree, in memory Ivor Levitt, would be supplied by the Binney Estate at the appropriate time for planting trees.

c) Derek Patten had given the Clerk a verbal price to supply a metal bench to surround the memorial oak tree. There were two options for a bench allowing for the tree to have a 2.5 metre circumference; a metal bench would cost £150 or a galvanised version £200. The Council agreed to commission a galvanised version. **The Clerk** was to ask Derek Patten to make the galvanised bench and ensure that the agreed inscription would be included on it.

d) South Cambridgeshire District Council had inspected the bus shelters and found the locations clear of rubbish, so concluded that bins were not necessary. The Clerk explained that the bus shelter window cleaners currently removed the rubbish, but not urine-filled bottles. The Council discussed erecting the bins themselves for the window cleaners to empty, but nothing was agreed. **Action: Trish Bear** agreed to talk with Stuart Harwood- Clarke of SCDC about the need for bins

e) The willow tree in the corner of the recreation ground needed attention as it roots had damaged drains and these could affect the new village hall. As a representative of the Village Hall Trust, Andrew Westwood-Bate suggested that the tree should be removed and the cost shared between the Council and Trust. It was suggested that the Trust would organise the project and that a replacement tree would be planted elsewhere.

This action was agreed, by a proposed from Keith Day, which was seconded by Dan Gresham.

Andrew Westwood-Bate thanked those concerned for cutting back the walnut tree on the green opposite the pub.

64. Risk management of Parish Council's assets

Action: Clerk to continue trying to get a price for a light at the bus shelter on the A1307. The company suggested by Tony Hull of Cambridgeshire County Council had not replied. The forthcoming budget should include a cost for a new light.

65. Correspondences

a) SCDC Local Development Frame work public participation – statement of community involvement & supplementary planning documents would be circulated

b) The letter from a parishioner about overgrown trees in Blench Lane was a reply to the Clerks request for trees to be cut back.

66. Working for Quality Status

The working party met recently to progress their various tasks. However to attain the quality status it was essential that the Council had the full complement of Councillors.

67. Annual external audit

The audit has been completed successfully without any problems. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work.

68. Finance

The Council authorised the payments and approve the financial statement dated 18.11.09 that the Clerk had prepared.

This was proposed from Keith Day and was seconded by Andrew Westwood-Bate Gresham.

69. Planning – there were no new planning applications to consider since the November meeting.

70. Items for the next meetings agenda

Budget, willow tree and Hello Hildersham contribution from the Council to be included in the next agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Open forum started at 8.38pm- public participation

A parishioner suggested that the Council was wasting its time trying to divert construction traffic from the Back Road, as the projects were almost finished. The Chair explained that the Council had a responsibility to raise the issue of the protected verges with the Highways Authority.

The willow tree was reported to be leaning on the British Telecom overhead cables.

Open forum finished at 8.40 pm

Next meeting Wednesday 13th January 2010