

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Minutes of the Hildersham Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, High Street, Hildersham, Cambridge, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010.**

Keith Day (Chairman), Andrew Westwood-Bate, Dan Gresham, Jean Kelly, Councillor John Batchelor and Councillor Trisha Bear and 3 members of the public.

Open forum started at: 7.34pm

Open forum

No one had questions or concerns to put to the Parish Council at the start of the meeting.

Meeting started at 7.35pm

**19. Apologies** – David Palmer had been invited to attend the meeting, but had sent his apologies

**20. The minutes of the last meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010** were approved and signed.

**21. Co-option of new Parish Councillor.** Paul Fisher had agreed to become a Parish Councillor, although he was unable to attend this meeting. He was proposed as a Parish Councillor by Jean Kelly and seconded by Andrew Westwood-Bate.

**Action Clerk:** to send him the forms to complete and a copy of ‘The good Councillor’s guide’.

**22. Feedback on actions from the last meeting**

Andrew confirmed that the missing signs from Back Road were ‘protected verge’ signs.

**Action Clerk** to forward this to the Highway Dept.

The grass at Meadowlands had been cut recently to a better standard, so the Clerk was asked not raise a complaint.

The bus stop cleaning rota needed to be prepared by the **Clerk**.

Andrew had emailed the Clerk suggested the best location for the salt bin in Meadowlands–

**Action: Clerk** to forward details to SCDC.

The Clerk had started putting notices on the Beech Row notice board as requested.

**23. Report from District Councillor Trisha Bear**

South Cambridgeshire Housing – The District Council was considering a proposal raised by the previous Government that seemed likely to remain, that at District Council level the housing debt of the country (£197 million) be divided amongst the Councils, to be repaid over 30 years. In return for taking on this new debt, the Council would receive all the income from housing rentals to refurbish and possibly build more local authority housing.

The District Council was concerned about the extent of the debt that they would be required to accept, as this District Council’s housing debt is lower than the national average.

Trisha asked the Parish Council if it wanted to take responsibility for cutting the grass at Meadowlands and opposite the pub. The Councillors agreed that they were satisfied with the present arrangement.

**24. Report from County Councillor John Batchelor**

The freeze on Council tax increases would mean that 20-25% needed to be taken out of the budget. Youth Services would see a 1/3 taken from their budget, with an end to open access Youth Clubs and money allocated upon the basis of need and deprivation. It was hoped that local communities and Parish Councils would help contribute to youth work.

The budget cuts were likely to mean that over the next 3 years 350 jobs are lost within the police service, of which half are likely to be police officers.

Work had started on the speed cameras on the A1307, with the new one at Horesheath installed, but waiting power. So the camera for the Hildersham junction area would be installed soon.

Work on the cycleway to Sawston was well underway, so if the project was completed as planned there would be sufficient funds to create the right turn lane into Hildersham from the A1307.

#### **25. Village Hall Charitable Trust (VHCT)**

The District Council had approved the planning application to build a new village hall on the existing site. This approval would enable the Trust to put the project out to tender to various builders, to establish the cost of the work. As it would take many years to raise the funds to build a new hall, the kitchen floor had been retiled.

Andrew Westwood-Bate explained that the financial side of the village hall was going well.

The Parish Council wished to express its appreciation to all those that helped smarten up the village hall, as it had noticeably improved.

#### **Dan Gresham declared an interest in the next item on the agenda and did not participate in the discussions**

#### **26. Allotment update- concerns raised by David Palmer, who was unable to attend the meeting**

- a) Having a single water supply was a problem for many allotment holders. Several people had asked if the other tap by the barn could be used again. The meeting was reminded that the Binney Estate supplied the water without charging but this could change. It was agreed that the stopcock would be found to establish whether the water could be turned on – **action: Andrew Westwood-Bate**. If this was not possible **Keith Day** would talk to Mrs Binney-Killander about reinstating the barn tap.
- b) There were still lots of rabbits causing a nuisance. David Palmer was planning to ask Jim Tarry if he could help with reducing the rabbit population.
- c) Could an area be identified for composting on the allotments? It was agreed that it would be best if allotment holders were responsible for managing their own waste. **Action Clerk** to ask David Palmer include in his next allotment newsletter, a request that people stop dumping waste behind the barn.
- d) **David Palmer** had agreed to prepare another newsletter for allotment holders. It was suggested that the newsletter include a reminder that allotment holders drive thoughtfully through Blench Lane and avoid parking on the path.
- e) A half plot (approx. 6.25 rods) had become available and the Long family have requested it, as it is next to their plot. **Action: Clerk** to offer this small plot to the next person on the waiting list, if they decline it, it would then be offered to the Long family.

#### **27. Tree work update**

- a) Roz Richardson, the District Councils Trees Officer, recommended that the Council pollard the willow at the corner of the recreation ground, and three quotations had been obtained. However once pollarding had been undertaken a programme needed to be set up to maintain the tree.
- b) Carol Sinclair, the Parish Tree Warden, asked if an allowance for tree work had been included in this year's budget. As this had not been included, it was agreed that Councillors should meet with Carol Sinclair in November to agree a programme of tree work for the forth-coming year to be included in the next budget- **Action: Clerk** to remind Councillors.
- c) **Action: Keith Day** to ask the owner of the pine tree at the cross roads towards Balsham, when it would be cut down.

## 28. Village maintenance

- a) Blocked ditch – Andrew Westwood-Bate had met with a plant hire contractor but had not received a quotation. It was agreed that the cost of replacing the pipe with a large one should be established – **action: Andrew Westwood-Bate**. There would be an obligation for all the neighbouring landowners to share the costs of unblocking the ditch, and they would be contacted once the costs had been established.

## 29. Risk management of Parish Council's assets

- a) Clerk had checked that the current insurance for the two bus shelters was appropriate and had asked the insurance company to add the Ivor Levitt memorial bench to the policy. This additional item was not likely to incur any extra charge.

## 30. Correspondences

- a) Section 106 funds from land adjacent to Rosedean would to be used for Public Open Space contribution. Keith Day and Andrew Westwood-Bate agreed to sign the indemnity letter on behalf the Parish Council, to accept the £2,244.90 section 106 funds. The Council wondered whether the funds could be used to unblock and improve the drainage ditches on the recreation ground.
- b) Email from Mr Hunter about holes in the path outside Bridge House. These repairs had been added to the Highways Dept. list of jobs.
- c) Community Pride Awards from South Cambridgeshire District Council. Councillors agreed to nominate a villager, if it was possible to propose someone posthumously – **action: Clerk**.

## 31. Finance

- a) The Council authorised the payments and approved the financial statement dated 14.07.10. Proposed by Keith Day and seconded by Andrew Westwood-Bate.
- b) The internal auditor's report was reviewed. Councillors agreed with the Clerk's suggestion that the current account bank balance threshold should remain at £1,500 and that she would endeavour not to breach this limit in the coming year. The Clerk had contacted the bank to reclaim the tax paid on the two interest accounts over the last two years, as Councils should not pay tax. To resolve the inconsistency in the paperwork over a cheque for £280.00 to help fund the 'Hello Hildersham' publication, **Andrew Westwood-Bate** agreed to send an email to the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed that VAT would be reclaimed in the next few weeks.
- c) The Clerk had asked the Highways Dept to send the grass-cutting rebate for 2010-2011.

## 32. Planning

Reference:	For:	At:	Proposal:	Decision:
S/0618/10/F	Mr & Mrs Darren Long	11 Beech Row	Extension	Parish Council recommended approved
S/0916/10/F	Mr Keith Day	Four Winds, Linton Road	Extensions	Parish Council recommended approved

## 33. Items for the next meetings agenda

- The ditch on the recreation ground
- Repair to the ford
- Quality Status
- Update from Carol Sinclair

**Formal part of the meeting closed at 9.00pm**

Open forum started at: 9.00pm

The sewage works was still overflowing onto the path at Ladies Walk, although Keith Day stated that they had tried to fix the problems on several occasions to his knowledge. Any further leaks should be reported to Anglian Water immediately.

Open forum closed at 9.05pm

Next meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010-08-04

Clerk to the Council