

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of the Environment Group meeting on Wed 18th Jan 2017 at The Reading Room at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Janet Brasnell (JB), Convenor; Cllrs Richard Allen (RA), Derek Clifton (DC), Keith Duncan (KD), Robin Waters (RWat) (No members of the public present)

1 Apologies for absence: Julie Dew (JD), Ray Woodward (RWood)

2. To consider trees from HDC

RWood has reported that not only is HDC losing its Tree Warden but is also closing the nursery in Godmanchester. As a result parish councils can request 12 trees from the stock which will be cleared in the next few months. This is in addition to the 5 already received and awaiting planting. The meeting recommends that the PC takes up this offer and that consideration be given to planting some of these in Daintree Green, Glebe Road and Vicarage Fields; that one should be offered to the Church; and other suggestions would be welcomed. It was also recommended that long serving councillors Peggy Seamark and the late Bridget Smith should be honoured with plaques near two of these trees. **Action DC & JB**

3. Litter bins

The meeting agreed to recommend that new bins were required on the riverside (to replace the temporary bin near the kissing gate) and at the junction of the Long Lane footpath with Gore Tree Road. **JB will discuss with JD** who has volunteered to help with this issue. A proposal for purchasing suitable bins should be brought to the PC asap for action this FY. Budget? It was also noted that HDC charge £189 per annum per bin for emptying them fortnightly. For our 20 bins that would cost £3780 per annum for the job currently carried out by our handyman at least weekly (and more often when required). [REDACTED]

4. Notice Boards

The meeting recommends that:

- both PC and open notice boards at Armes Corner be replaced with a joint (half locked; half open) board similar to that in the YES development
- the open notice board at the Parish Centre be replaced
- a new locked PC notice board be purchased to go alongside the open board at The Thorpe.

JB will discuss with JD who has also volunteered to help with these. A costed proposal is needed for the PC for action this FY. Budget?

5. Toad crossing sign

RWat reported that he had talked to William Seale who is responsible for the Froglife web site and for the road signs and other measures taken in Madingley which have been noted by a resident. It was recommended that the Clerk should write back to the resident asking for any evidence – locally or from wildlife organisations – that would be needed for the PC to take any further action. Bearing in mind that there is already a culvert under Marsh Lane and that the arable fields opposite the lake are not thought to be a likely habitat for amphibians.

6. Overgrowing vegetation at Braggs Lane

It was agreed that Cllrs would talk informally to the residents either side of the walled part of Braggs Lane to ask them to trim the overhanging ivy/trees. **RWat to approach No 56 High Street and JB to approach No 58 High Street.** The latter (who is elderly) has also

requested help with grass cutting on his High Street frontage but the meeting did not think this was a PC responsibility. **JB/DC** would report this to the resident.

7. Dog spray paint

JB now has 24 cans of genuinely degradable white paint for dog poo marking. It was decided that **JB would experiment** before we dare hand these out for general use!

8. Chicanes on the Weir Road/Apple Orchard footpath

We understand that a contractor has been appointed to replace the chicanes but concern has been expressed at the spacing of the fences at the Weir Road end of the path for use by mobility scooters. **DC will liaise with the contractor** to ensure that this is taken into account.

9. Consider the Environment log

See attached

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.