

**Minutes of the Hemingford Grey Annual Parish Meeting
held on Thursday 15 May 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Pavilion**

In attendance: 19 members of the public including Parish Councillors, County Cllr Ian Bates, District Cllr A Donaldson and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Cllr Robin Waters presided and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied.

4. Reports

4.1 The Parish Council Chairman's report including presentation of the last audited accounts¹

Cllr Robin Waters conveyed the apologies for absence of the Chairman, Cllr Doug Dew, who was unwell. His report, which is appended in full, covered:

- Vacancies on the Parish Council. Thanks were expressed to John Jenkin, Don Costello, Steve Herring and Peggy Seamark, for all their hard work on the Council. Tributes were particularly paid to Peggy Seamark for her 23 years' service. There are currently eight members and Cllr Waters encouraged residents to consider applying for co-option or volunteering to help.
- Thanks were extended to those who helped with trees, road safety, lighting, drainage and footpaths, and to the Clerk.
- The accounts for the financial year ended 2016 had been audited and were available from the Clerk. The accounts for 2017 had undergone internal audit.
- The precept had increased by 5% for the year in order to maintain the recommended level of general reserves.
- The contingency for a payment to the Local Government Pension Scheme had been finalised with a payment of £4500, with no further commitment by the Parish Council for the future.
- All the mandatory policies required of a parish council had been reviewed and adopted.
- Security in the village, including discussions with the Police and HDC CCTV centre. A decision by HDC on the future of their CCTV system is awaited. Anti-social behaviour appears to have reduced.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Doug Dew (unwell), Jason Hall, and Derek Clifton.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 16 May 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 16 May 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop Janet Brasnell, 2nd David Carter)

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Reports (continued)

4.2 District Councillor

District Cllr Alison Donaldson reported on:

- Community Chest grants of up to £5000 for community groups or voluntary organisations. Applications are open until the end of May. Details are available on the HDC website grants section, and other types of grant are also available.
- Mick George was holding a public meeting regarding the proposed waste centre on the former golf course at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 17 May at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall.

4.3 County Councillor

County Cllr Ian Bates reported on the CCC budget of £781M and gave figures for expenditure on the disposal of household waste; looking after elderly people in their own homes; maintaining the roads, bridges and street lights; transporting children to school; library services; Freedom of Information requests; and assistance with giving up smoking and air quality issues, under its public health remit. The Council Tax had been raised by 2% which had been earmarked for social care. 80% of the budget is spent on the care of the elderly, vulnerable people, and children including those in care. The number of councillors had been reduced from 69 to 61.

Cllr Waters congratulated Cllr Bates on his re-election for a further four years.

4.1 The Parish Council (continued) Environment report²

Cllr Brasnell reported on the activities of the Environment Working Group. The report (appended in full) included:

- Thanks to volunteers who were not Parish Council members for their assistance, and encouragement to residents to come forward to help.
- The agreement from the Police for the installation of double yellow lines in Manor Road.
- Clearance of the old footpath entrance to the Memorial Field and uncover the original footpath sign.
- The formation of a new Flood Group and thanks to John Hesp for his advice.
- The installation of new street light columns and new LED bulbs. Thanks were expressed to David Stewart for tree trimming.
- Clearance between the houses in Sadlers Way and the allotments and pruning of the trees.
- Renovation of the wooden benches, repair of the chicanes and the bus shelter roof, and reinstatement of the gate and fence at the path from Norman Court to the Pavilion.
- Three new notice boards at Armes Corner, the Parish Centre and The Thorpe.
- New dog bins for the river, Gore Tree Road and Manor Road.
- The decision to retain the bus shelter outside the School and repair the roof, as residents had valued this as a place to rest and shelter. The installation of two more modern shelters will be considered in the future.
- The tree at Pound Road roundabout is to be cut down to ground level and planting carried out to allow visibility. Volunteer help would be appreciated.
- Trees - the role of the two Tree Wardens, Ray Woodward and David Carter; the receipt of free trees from HDC, and the plans to plant them over the year, for which volunteer assistance would be welcomed.
- Thanks to Jane and Don Walton for agreeing to be footpath monitors for Public Rights of Way.
- The Apple Orchard drain is to be inspected again by CCC later in the week.

Questions were invited.

A resident of The Thorpe asked whether any yellow lines at The Thorpe could be extended round the corner as well, and asked that one of the residents be asked to cut back a thick hedge. It was explained that the process was due to commence and had been discussed with the Police.

The need for a new notice board for The Thorpe was queried. It was explained that a larger, closed notice board was needed for Parish Council matters.

County Cllr Ian Bates was asked who to approach about potholes. Cllr Bates explained that these issues should be reported on the CCC website, but could also be reported by telephone on 0345 0455 212.

A resident of The Thorpe stated that the humps were badly maintained and damaged tyres, despite being repaired three months ago, and suggested that they be removed. Cllr Brasnell explained that the Council was looking into the feasibility of electronic speed signs.

4.4 Village groups and organisations

4.4.1 Neighbourhood Watch³

Esther Harrod presented her report (appended in full) which covered:

- Incidents in the village since January, and Police statistics for 2016 for the whole of the Hemingfords Ward, including the numbers and types of crimes
- Meetings with the HDC's CCTV centre managers with a view to installing four digital CCTV cameras, and liaison with the Parish Council
- The digital upgrade and testing of equipment in the District, the outcome of which is awaited before it is rolled out in Huntingdonshire
- Persons gaining entry to the homes of elderly residents using distraction
- Anti-social behaviour
- A meeting with Inspector Rogerson to raise residents' concerns about crime and the subsequent village crime plan
- The temporary loan of ANPR cameras for a month
- Visits from the Police, distribution of leaflets and discussions with residents
- The Hemingford Grey Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page which can be used to post sightings of suspicious behaviour and vehicles, and which contains weekly updates and security tips.
- A presentation from Trading Standards
- A column in the village newsletter
- Meetings and discussions with the new Cambridgeshire Crime Commissioner to express residents' concerns about crime statistics and safety in their homes
- The creation of new volunteer roles to process intelligence received
- Regular communications and an excellent working partnership with the Police.

The meeting responded to the report with applause.

A resident asked whether ANPR and CCTV could be interchanged on a monthly basis. It was explained that the ANPR was temporary but CCTV could be portable and moved around, although signs were mandatory. Ms Harrod felt CCTV was the best way forward.

4.4.2 Hemingford Grey Gardeners' Society⁴

Annie Waters presented her report (appended in full) which covered:

- Meetings and visiting speakers, including a Gardeners' Question Time session with experts, a Christmas social and a quiz night
- Visits, to Wimpole including a tour with the Head Gardener; to the Botanical Gardens in Cambridge; and to Kew Gardens with the Somersham group.
- Working with the children at the school on gardening projects, and assisting with the purchase of tools and garden equipment via a donation from the Bridget's Bursary fund. The School garden will be open on the Open Gardens day.
- An eco-greenhouse has been donated to Thorndown School.
- Membership and changes to the Committee
- Training courses with the Wildlife Trust.

4.4.3 Goldies

Cllr Riva Elliott outlined the proposals for a Social Enterprise Club, to be known as Goldies, in the village. The background was explained, whereby it was aimed to create a centre in the parish to care during the day for people at home all day or who were reliant on carers. This would relieve the pressure on CCC funding on care. It would be

a Club rather than day care, operating on a not for profit basis, and promoting smooth communication with the NHS and getting people home. It was proposed that the Club could be held in the Parish Centre, and the Church were enthusiastic. Advice and guidance regarding funding applications was being provided by CCC. The scheme would cover care visits, activities, doctors' visits, checking of medication, and the provision of proper meals, and also social time, not only for the elderly but to combat loneliness and provide a venue for people to get out and feel part of the community. A full time person will be needed for administration. It was proposed to use new technology to monitor activities and relieve stress for families. It was hoped that the scheme would be trialled and rolled out in Cambridgeshire and eventually nationwide if successful.

A question was asked about finances and it was suggested a village charity might be able to help. The scheme is in the early days but discussions were welcomed.

A resident made the point that carers were often unable to leave the elderly people in their care and this scheme would enable them to attend courses, etc. Time banking could be used. County Cllr Ian Bates indicated that CCC could help with seed funding.

4.1 The Parish Council (continued) Planning report⁵

Cllr Waters outlined the work of the Parish Council's Planning Committee which had dealt with some 40 applications during the year. The report (appended in full) covered:

- The need to represent the Council at the HDC planning meeting on one occasion only.
- Notable applications including the de-listing of River cottage, the Parish Council's objections to the temporary offices for the Cambridge Water pumping station in London Road.
- The proposed waste handling facility on the Hemingford Abbots Golf Course, for which a formal planning application was awaited. A meeting will be held at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall on 17 May at 7.00 pm, where Mick George will present their proposals. The attention of the meeting was drawn to the magnitude of the development and potential traffic movements. A well attended meeting of the action group, which is independent of the Parish Council, had taken place.

4.4.4 Reading Room⁶

The report from the Reading Room (appended in full) was read by the Chairman. There has been some expenditure on improvements during the year. A stone plaque has been commissioned for the front of the building to replace the existing eroded plaque. The Reading Room will be redecorated in August. More hirings were encouraged to support these projects and ensure the continuing availability of the amenity for the community.

4.4.5 The Hemingfords' Peace Memorial Field Trustees

A verbal report was given, covering:

- The ongoing work of the trustees and the management of the facilities.
- Efforts to encourage residents to join in.
- The summer festival to be held on the weekend after the Regatta weekend.
- Parking issues which it was hoped to alleviate by gaining access to the Regatta field, the use of temporary signage, and asking the Club members not to park on Manor Road and on the bends. The yellow lines had been welcomed.
- The organisation was non-profit making and all funds were ploughed back. Subscriptions were kept to a minimum. A small surplus had been achieved. Grants had been made by both Parish Councils. The Chairman of Trustees is Chris Young.

5. Any other parish matters including any resolutions

Esther Harrod thanked Cllr Waters for all his hard work for the village, especially on the street lighting, over the last two years.

Another resident expressed appreciation to the District, County and Parish Councillors for all the work they do.

A resolution was made that the Parish Council should write to the Shop recognising the contribution the shop has made to the village over the last fifteen years. ^(Proposed John Rolfe, 2nd Riva Elliott)

6. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)

¹ Report of the Parish Council Chairman's report and presentation of the audited accounts

² The Parish Council (Continued) Environment report

³ Neighbourhood Watch report

⁴ Hemingford Grey Gardeners' Society report

⁵ The Parish Council (Continued) Planning report

⁶ Reading Room report