

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of Hemingford Grey Parish Council held on Monday 9 November 2020 at 7.30 pm Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic

Present: Cllrs: Richard Allen (Chairman) Tony Jackson
Doug Dew Sarah Jakes
Susan Duma Anne Meredith
Riva Elliott Tim Puttick
Janice Flint Robin Waters

In attendance: 4 members of the public, County Cllr Ian Bates, District Cllr David Keane and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk)

Comments and observations from members of the public and from the County and District Councillors

A resident spoke about a potential planning application off London Road. He was liaising with St Ives Allotments and a developer as to whether the site could be used as allotment land, and suggested compulsory purchase. Cllr Allen declared an interest as the site was near his property. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

County Cllr Ian Bates reported:

- The Council was again heavily involved with Covid-19 support for residents due to the new lockdown. Hemingford Hub was providing local help to the community. He expressed thanks to all those helping.
- The CCC budget. CCC had received Government funding for school meals.

Cllr Jackson arrived during this item at 7.38 pm.

- Cllr Bates indicated he would be happy to answer questions under item 6.4. He explained the different highway sub-sections. However, it was too early to answer questions regarding the budget as it was too soon and it was not known what Central Government was going to give.

District Cllr David Keane reported on:

- Cllr Keane gave the HDC perspective on the lockdown. One Leisure was closed. Contact Centre staff were working from home.
- HDC was also in the budgetary cycle and it was unknown what Central Government would provide.
- Parking charges were to continue.
- Cllr Keane felt that HDC was in a good position with the support of voluntary organisations, and having been through lockdown before.

Cllr Dew as District Cllr reported:

- The agenda was dominated by Covid. Despite a healthy budget finances had still taken a hit. He had worked with residents to access grants.
- The housing strategy was working well with villages that welcomed housing.
- Day to day operations such as planning, bin emptying and Council Tax collection were still going ahead.
- HDC will approach parish councils in due course regarding their housing strategy.

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

No apologies were received.

Cllr Dew declared an interest in planning applications as Chair of the Development Management Committee.

Cllr Duma declared an interest in item 6.5 as a member of the Rotary Club.

Cllr Waters declared an interest in item 4.2 as his wife was a dog owner.

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 6.9 as a member of Hemingfords' Action Group.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 12 October 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after the following amendments: under public session, paragraph 1, line 1, delete "at its" and alter to read "nesting nightingale population which is the second best in Cambridgeshire;" under item 4.1.1, point 5, insert "the" before "toilet" and under point 9, add "either Cllr Meredith or Cllr Waters will represent the parish;" under item 4.2.6, replace "new application" with "further information;" under item 4.3.2, change "resolved" to "noted;" under item 7.8.3, alter the punctuation in the title; under item 8.1, line 1, change "towards" to "away from the hedge;" ^(Prop SJ, 2nd RW) under 8.7, change "speeding in" to "speeding past;" and to insert the closure time as 9.50 pm. The Chairman is to forward a signed copy to the Clerk. ^(Prop RA, 2nd AM, carried with 2 abstentions)

3. To consider planning applications, decision notices and tree works applications or pre-application approaches received

Cllr Elliott left the meeting at this point.

3.1 Planning applications

3.1.1 20/80269/COND – Sycamore House, 8 Madeley Court – Conditional information for 19/02559/FUL C7 (Biodiversity method statement)

Noted. ^(Prop AM, 2nd RW, carried with 8 in favour and 1 abstention)

Cllr Elliott re-joined the meeting at 8.04 pm.

3.1.2 20/80265/COND – 16 Langley Way – Conditional information for 20/00234/HHFUL C2 (Landscaping plan)

RESOLVED to note. ^(Prop AM, 2nd RW, carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention)

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

3.1.4 20/01784/LBC – 31 Limes Park, St Ives – Removal of ground floor fireplace within kitchen

RESOLVED to note the application but decline to comment due to lack of experience with listed building applications. ^(Prop AM, 2nd SJ, carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention)

3.1.3 CCC Minerals and Waste Local Plan consultation – Proposed Main Modifications Consultation

RESOLVED to respond that having considered the proposals the Council believes that it has been tightened up and that the changes make sense. ^(Prop RW, 2nd AM, carried with 8 in favour and 2 abstentions)

3.2 Decision notices, appeals notices, enforcement notices and planning correspondence

3.2.1 20/01305/HHFUL – 38 Marsh Lane – Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of replacement single storey extension. Single storey extension to form lounge. Replacement roof with raised eaves and ridge height. External cladding and rendering. Replacement bay window. Replacement garage including office – Permission granted.

3.2.2 20/01106/HHFUL – The Old Dairy, Long Lane – Proposed single storey extension to domestic dwelling – Permission granted.

3.2.3 20/00975/HHFUL – 38 High Street – Erection of corner gazebo – Permission granted.

3.2.4 20/00569/S73 – Agricultural buildings, Long Lane Farm, Long Lane - Variation of condition 2 (approved plan) and condition 3 (Construction materials) on application 19/01917/FUL to amend elevation finishes and construction material specifications – Permission granted.

3.3 Tree Works applications

3.3.1 20/01930/TREE – 1 Oakfields

RESOLVED to note the Tree Wardens' response including their comments and reservations.

4. To consider matters arising from the last or a previous meeting for info only unless detailed

4.1 (5.1) Homes England – to note correspondence and report on meeting regarding Phase 2 of Houghton Grange

At 8.21 pm the meeting was temporarily closed to enable District Cllr Keane to comment. The meeting re-opened at 8.22 pm.

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Waters's verbal report and correspondence received, to write to the Town Mayor of St Ives that the Parish Council will wait for Houghton and Wyton to make contact and will then respond at the appropriate time.
(Prop RA, 2nd DD, unanimous)

4.2 (8.1) Resident – Dogs at Daintree Green – suggestions for measures

RESOLVED, as the Parish Council wishes everyone to enjoy the area, to place a note in the next newsletter asking dog walkers to remove dog waste and keep their dogs under control.

RESOLVED, since HDC have a Public Spaces Protection Order and the Daintree Green play area is an enclosed area and a dog exclusion zone, to erect new signs reminding owners that they need to remove dog fouling waste.

RESOLVED that Cllr Jakes should implement signage before and after football games.

RESOLVED to write to HDC asking for the Dog Control Officer to visit Daintree Green and see if and how dog owners are complying.
(Prop RA, 2nd AM, carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention)

4.0.3 (8.4) Resident – Request that Braggs Lane be made a one-way street

RESOLVED to note that CCC had removed the misleading sign.

4.0.4 (8.5) Resident – Request that action be taken regarding a tall ivy covered tree in Braggs Lane

RESOLVED, noting that CCC have said the tree is not their responsibility, to inform the resident.
(Prop RW, 2nd RE, unanimous)

5. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

5.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED to receive the financial report and that the invoices and bank statements be checked before the payments are made at bank.

RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the finance report should be paid, plus K&M Lighting Services (Reposition MVAS) £60.00 and SSE (Street light electricity) £167.37 and to note that the payment to K&M Lighting Services (Street Light maintenance) should be £87.88 not £88.88 as shown in the finance report.
(Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

Salaries and Pension	£1381.10
NALC (Training – Building sustainable communities)	£38.93
Wave (Allotments water)	£112.45
N Gray Building (Bins – Mitchell Close, Shop & London Rd bus stop)	£720.00
CAPALC (Training – Finance)	£120.00
K&M Lighting Services (Streetlight PC4 Church Street)	78.00
Parish Online (Online mapping)	£108.00
K&M Lighting Services (Streetlight maintenance)	£87.88
HDC (Daintree Green rent Oct-Dec 20)	£37.50
LGS Services (Admin support October)	£2234.82

Credits, including allotment rents, cemetery fees and bank interest, were noted.

5.2 Clerk report on any action taken using delegated powers or because of risk or health and safety

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk used delegated powers for the following:

- Cemetery – to sell exclusive rights and authorise the interment in NEW 196, OLD 570B memorial and transfer.
- To arrange free of charge dog exclusion signs from HDC for Daintree Green.

5.3 To consider any matter that is urgent because of risk or health and safety

RESOLVED having considered a request from Fergusons that the hedge at the south side of the Cemetery was too high, to write to the owners of the hedge and ask them whether they would be willing to reduce the height by 1 metre. (Prop RA, 2nd RE, carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention)

6. To receive reports and items from Committees, working groups and members for information only unless stated

6.1 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Neighbourhood Plan update including report on Steering Group meeting on 20 October 2020 – for information

RESOLVED to note Cllr Meredith's previously circulated report.

6.2 Finance & Policy Working Group – to consider report and recommendations including

The minutes of the meeting were noted. It was noted that the cost of moving the MVAS was £60 x 4 per annum. On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied.

6.2.3 Proposal that the Council reviews the amount of its funds in its various bank accounts and have regard for FSCS and to maximise interest

RESOLVED to transfer the sum of £50,000 from Santander Bank into the new savings account with Unity Trust Bank, to spread the risk. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

6.2.5 Proposal that the recommendations for the Parish Council's budget for FY ending 31 March 2022 be approved

RESOLVED that funds be earmarked for the LHI contribution, drainage, cemetery, height restriction barrier and play park. (Prop RA, 2nd SD, unanimous)

6.2.6 Recommendation that the Parish Council adopt the budget for FY2022 by resolution of the Council

RESOLVED having considered the Finance and Policy Working Group's report and recommendation, that the budget for FY2022 be approved. (Prop RA, 2nd JF, unanimous)

6.2.7 Recommendation on the precept required to balance the budget and to set and demand the precept for FY2022

RESOLVED to set and demand a precept of £120,062.25 as being the amount required for the Parish Council to balance its budget. (Prop RA, 2nd RE, unanimous)

6.2.4 Proposal that the recommendations on the Parish Council's current budget for FY ending 31 March 2020 be approved including funds to be earmarked

RESOLVED to note that the heading should read 2021.

RESOLVED that the rent for Daintree Green and the Yes Estate should be paid by Direct Debit. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

6.2.1 Proposal that the Parish Council updates its Child Protection Policy to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy for vulnerable adults

RESOLVED following a request from the Hemingford Hub, to update the Child Protection Policy to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy for Vulnerable Adults. (Prop RA, 2nd RE, unanimous)

6.2.2 Proposal that an audit of bins be undertaken and that the missing dog bin be written off and to write to HDC to ask them to install a dog bin at the Yes Estate

RESOLVED that Cllr Waters should undertake the audit and update the list with the new bins. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

- 6.3 EWG report and recommendations (not detailed elsewhere on this agenda)
Noted.
- 6.4 To consider Road and Traffic Log and if the Parish Council should lobby the County Council for increased highways funding
RESOLVED to note the Road and Traffic Log and that whilst some works had been marked up such as Meadow Lane, others might be outstanding.
RESOLVED, noting that the Parish Council had spent funds on highways matters, such as at The Thorpe, that Cllr Waters together with the Clerk should draft a letter and highlight the issues important to the village, raising concerns such as why works should be awarded to Skanska when local contractors were available at a fraction of the cost and lobbying for increased highway funding. (Prop RW, 2nd JF, unanimous)
- 6.5 St Ives Rotary Club Santa Sleigh route – to consider any feedback on proposed arrangements as the route normally goes around the Yes Estate
RESOLVED having noted the route, and given that the Round Table covers Hemingford Grey, that Cllr Duma should report back that the Parish Council would be delighted if the Rotary Club's plans were to spread Christmas joy around the village. (Prop RA, 2nd TP, unanimous)
- 6.6 Autumn community events report and proposals for 2021 events
RESOLVED to note the report.
- 6.6.1 A litter pick on Saturday 20 or 27 March 2021 (Mother's Day Sun 14)
- 6.6.2 Planting 2,000 snowdrops in various locations throughout the parish in October 2021.
- 6.6.3 Coordinating a non-perishable food collection for Godmanchester Food Bank at a date in 2021 to suit the Food Bank (and the demand on its services) and the council.
- 6.6.4 To approve in principle tree planting and tree pruning events on Saturday 20th (recommendation of Tree Wardens) and Wednesday 24th February 2021. It is hoped that fruit trees will be planted in the conservation area adjacent to the allotments.
On a proposition by the Chairman, items 6.6.1 – 6.6.4 were taken together.
RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees to all actions in items 6.6.1 to 6.6.4 subject to Covid-19 restrictions and that the cost of the snowdrops should come from next year's budget which is when the planting will take place. (Prop RA, 2nd AM, unanimous)
- 6.7 Proposal that the Parish Council records its condolences to the family of Sandy Smith who was a councillor for many years
RESOLVED to write expressing the Parish Council's condolences. (Prop RW, 2nd RA, unanimous)
- 6.8 Proposal that the Parish Council records its thanks to Vid Soni for his service as shopkeeper and postmaster to the village for 18 years on his retirement from the Village Stores
RESOLVED to write to Vid Soni thanking him for his 18 years of service running the village stores, especially during the last few months during the Covid-19 pandemic, which is much appreciated, given that the shop is a key element of the parish and valued by the village and its residents; amended^(RE) to include Mrs Soni. (Prop AM, 2nd RE, unanimous)
- 6.9 Proposal that the Parish Council has a standing item on its monthly agendas "To consider report from Hemingford Action Group" so that the Parish Council or Planning Committee may note it and take any other decisions it thinks appropriate. Their report to be attached to the papers published on the website so that residents can see what information they have provided to the Parish Council
The proposal in this format was withdrawn.
RESOLVED to write to remind the Hemingfords' Action Group that a representative would be welcome to speak in the public session of the Parish Council's meetings to

update the Council on the issues, and that the situation will be reviewed in a few months' time. (Prop AM, 2nd JF, carried with 9 in favour and 1 against)

6.10 Proposal that the hinges on the cemetery gate be realigned

RESOLVED noting that the gate post on the south side has moved and it will be necessary to remove the gate to realign the hinges, that Cllr Flint should investigate grants since the lych gate is the village war memorial.

RESOLVED that two further quotations should be sought for consideration in February when the Parish Council should review its budget to see whether and how this could be funded. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, carried with 1 abstention)

7. To consider correspondence/communications received

7.1 Jonathan Djanogly MP – LLA and NATS Airspace Change Proposal

RESOLVED, given that at 8000 feet the area will be minimally impacted and consultation is only required below 7000 feet, to thank Mr Djanogly and HDC for consulting the Parish Council and to respond that the Parish Council believes there will be minimal impact on the parish due to the proposed aircraft height of over 8000 feet, but to ask that there is no impact on the Spitfires in the area. (Prop AM, 2nd RW, carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention)

8. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.44 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)