

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of Hemingford Grey Parish Council held on Monday 11 January 2021 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
 Nick Irish

In attendance: 8 members of the public including Ian Muspratt (Hemingfords Action Group) and John Hesp; District Cllr David Keane and Mr Ben Stoehr (Deputy Clerk)

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

The Chairman wished the meeting a Happy New Year.

Ian Muspratt on behalf of the Hemingfords' Action Group provided an update. It was believed the refusal of the Astro Turf site was critical and points had been raised with CCC. Some vibration tests have been postponed and traffic monitoring as been questioned as the results were invalid due to Covid, which had been accepted. With regard to the draft Minerals and Waste Plan, the group had presented to the enquiry and some of their points had been included.

John Hesp reported that on 23 December up to 53 mm of rain fell on already saturated land. This was the same as in the 1998 Easter flood, which had been described as a one in 25 year flood event and was the catalyst for the Hemingford Grey flood defences which were designed for a 1 in 100 year flood. Calls were made to residents on the Environment Agency list to notify them of possible flooding. Mr Hesp had liaised with Environment Agency officers and assessed that flooding of housing was unlikely. He stated that the EA warnings appeared to be based on old flood data (pre-flood defences) and recommended that the Parish Council write to the EA to ask that the data held is relevant for the current level of defences. There was a lack of EA "boots on the ground" at the time, despite the EA warning.

Mr Hesp highlighted that there was a need to make the landowner a back-up key holder to close the flood gate if the EA was unable to attend.

It was also necessary to ask for the emergency pumping procedure for the Victoria Terrace pumping station.

The event had effectively tested the system to a 25 year flood standard, such as the capacity of generators and power cuts.

Clive Joseph on behalf of the Meadow Close Residents' Association expressed concern that a defective penstock in Meadow Lane could compromise flooding. During the two flood events in the last nine years there had been significant requirement for sand banks to prevent water flowing into two lakes. The Meadow Lane risk on the government website was rated as 1 in 25 years.

There was evidence of water flowing from the penstock or surrounding flood defences. The EA had been informed on numerous occasions but no formal response had been received. Informally the response was that this was caused by a rising water table but this was not supported by the evidence collected. If the issue was not resolved it would be an ongoing problem and it was only a matter of time before a significant flood event in the Meadow Lane area.

In response to a question, Mr Hesp explained that the penstock was for draining the surface water from the land side of the flood defences.

It was believed the old railway embankment was the flood bank.

Mr Hesp was certain that it was not a ground water issue but seepage from the penstock or surround or an unknown pipe under the old railway line.

He recommended that his response should be sent to a fairly high level of the Environment Agency.

District Cllr David Keane reported:

- HDC are still playing a central role in Covid arrangements.
- HDC is currently involved in the budget process and is applying for grants from the Government due to the reduction in operational income, such as from car parks and leisure centres.

Cllr Dew as District Councillor reported that the HDC Flood Review was being undertaken and would include the emergency process, such as sandbags and evacuations. The Scrutiny Panel was looking at this and was likely to involve the Parish Council as it proceeded.

Following the Combined Authority's cancellation of the third river crossing, two groups were being set up to consider options for the A141.

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

No apologies were received.

Cllr Jakes declared an interest in items 5.2, 5.6 and 7.2 as the family business was tree surgery.

Cllr Dew declared an interest in the planning items as Chair of the Development Panel.

Cllr Allen declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5.1 as the site was behind his house, and a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.3 as a friend of the resident.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 9 November 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record after the correction of Waters in item 5. The Chairman is to forward a signed copy to the Clerk. (Prop RA, 2nd AM, unanimous)

3. To consider co-option to fill casual vacancy – Nick Irish, 10 Skylark Place, St Ives

RESOLVED to co-opt Nick Irish as a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Irish signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking his seat. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 7.1 at this point.

7.1 Flooding – reports on actions and timeline

RESOLVED to record thanks to John Hesp for his help during the flood event.

RESOLVED to send the reports from John Hesp and the Meadow Close Residents' Association with a covering letter to the head of the local Environment Agency department, and to recommend that the Meadow Lane group should do the same. (Prop RW, 2nd RA, unanimous)

RESOLVED to set up an Emergency Flood Group and Plan, with the membership of Cllrs Waters, Jackson and Irish. (Prop RW, 2nd AM, unanimous)

RESOLVED noting that it would be helpful if the Flood Group consisted of both residents and Councillors, to appoint John Molyneux and John Hesp to the group. (Prop RA, 2nd SJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED to note that a key for the flood gate, previously held by Derek Clifton, had been passed to Cllr Waters.

Cllr Dew thanked Cllr Waters for co-ordinating the response and expressed support for flood planning. It was noted that Huntingdon Town Council and Alconbury Weston had very well developed plans.

RESOLVED to note that Cllrs Waters, Allen, Dew and District Cllr Keane had attended a meeting at HDC about flooding.

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

4.1 Planning applications

4.1.1 20/80321/COND – Water’s Edge, Meadow Lane – Conditional information for 19/02087/FUL – C3 (Materials) and C4 (Architectural details)

RESOLVED to make no comments. (Prop AM, 2nd RW, carried with 1 abstention)

4.1.2 20/02297/NMA – Sycamore House, 8 Madeley Court – Non-material amendment to permission 19/02559/FUL – Increased height of gallery windows at first floor level in front and rear elevations, and relocation of pedestrian door to garage from SE to NE elevation

RESOLVED to note that this had already been approved by HDC.

4.1.3 20/01950/HHFUL – 7 Dendys – Two storey and single storey rear extensions and part garage conversion – to note response made between meetings

The response was noted: “The Parish Council supports the application, as being at the rear of the property it will not have a significant impact on the street scene and will be constructed with the same materials as the existing house. The Parish Council notes that the two windows overlooking No 6 to the north will be opaque and asks that it be made a condition of approval that these windows be obscured.

The Parish Council notes, however, that the partial conversion of the garage will remove one parking space and as the drive appears too short to accommodate two cars, is concerned that one off-street parking space is insufficient for a 4/5 bedroom house.”

4.1.4 20/02308/LBC – 32 Limes Park – Remedial damp work – to note response made between meetings

The response that the Parish Council was neutral and made no comments, was noted.

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

4.2.1 20/01774/HHFUL – 42 High Street – Erection of single storey extension linking main dwelling house with garage and part conversion of garage to extend the kitchen – Permission granted.

4.2.2 20/01605/HHFUL – 11 Langley Way – Ground and first floor extensions to existing two storey house – Permission granted.

4.2.3 20/80269/COND – Sycamore House, 8 Madeley Court – Conditional information for 19/02559/FUL – C7 (Biodiversity method statement) – Condition reply issued.

4.2.4 20/80265/COND – 16 Langley Way – Conditional information for 20/00234/HHFUL C2 (Landscaping plan) – Condition reply issued.

4.3 Tree Works applications

4.3.1 20/02349/TREE – Ruhpolding, Mill Lane

Noted.

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

5.1 (Open) Resident proposal for allotment site off London Road

RESOLVED to note the Chairman’s report outlining how the Parish Council was seeking land for several other projects including social housing and a cemetery, although land could be multi-use and could include allotments.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would need to see increased demand from residents for allotments.

RESOLVED that all 14 remaining full plots be split when they become available. (Prop RA, 2nd TJ, unanimous)

5.2 (5.3) Cemetery hedge – to consider response from resident

Cllr Jakes, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the meeting at 8.36 pm.

RESOLVED having considered correspondence from the resident Cllr Waters report on a meeting with Fergusons and the resident, in principle to remove two feet of growth from the top section that overhangs the Cemetery in the autumn after Cllr Waters has spoken to the resident as to the logistics of the work and the costs are known. Deferred to a future meeting when the costs will be considered. (Prop RA, 2nd JF, carried with 1 abstention)

Cllr Jakes rejoined the meeting.

5.3 (6.1 of 14.9.20) Appointment of a member to oversee the defibrillator at the School and consideration of possible dates for defibrillator training

RESOLVED that Cllr Irish be appointed to carry out the role of monitoring the defibrillator and to send him details. (Prop NI, 2nd RE, unanimous)

RESOLVED that consideration of the training be deferred for three months pending any change in the Covid situation, noting that a link had been posted on the website with regards to online training. The link is also to be published in the next newsletter.

5.4 (6.3 and 6.4 of 14.9.20) To consider options for Christmas lights in Vicarage Fields in 2021 including electricity connection

RESOLVED, noting that the new lights worked very well, to investigate with K&M Lighting Services and UKPN the possibility of installing a box to allow the installation of a safe power supply for the Christmas lights. (Prop RW, 2nd DD, carried with 10 in favour and 1 abstention)

Deferred to a future meeting when the quote from K&M has been received.

5.5 (6.3 and 6.4 of 14.9.20) To consider options for the Yes Development Christmas lights in 2021 including electricity connection and correspondence from the Yes Development Residents' Committee and report from Cllr Puttick

RESOLVED that the Play Equipment group should consider the suggestion of planting a suitable conifer, to be a focal point for the Yes Estate at Christmas, when the development of the play area moves forward, and to bring a recommendation to a future meeting.

5.6 (8.2 of 14.9.20) To consider quotations for allotment hedging

Cllr Jakes, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the meeting.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from St Ives Tree Surgery for the sum of £2450.00. (Prop RW, 2nd AM, unanimous)

Cllr Jakes rejoined the meeting.

5.7 (8.5 of 14.9.20) Proposal that the Parish Council rescind its decision made on 14th September 2020 agenda item i.e. 8.5 Proposal that the Parish Council purchases 12 polo shirts (bright blue to stand out and reflect the river) that has our logo on the front and HGPC and Parish Council printed across the back and that 12 Hi-vis jackets are also purchased with Parish Council printed on the back. RESOLVED that the Finance and Policy Working Group should consider this and make a recommendation for next year's budget.

Then, subject to the Parish Council agreeing to rescind its decision, we propose that the Council purchases 18 high-vis gilets with Hemingford Grey Parish Council on the back. (this would enable each councillor, the handyperson, 2 tree wardens and the clerk and deputy to have one each).

RESOLVED to rescind the decision made on 14 September. (Prop RA, 2nd AM, unanimous)

RESOLVED to purchase 18 hi-vis gilets with Hemingford Grey Parish Council on the back. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

5.8 Operation London Bridge – to review any arrangements outstanding

RESOLVED to purchase a book of condolence and a photo frame. (Prop JF, 2nd RA, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Flint should look into drawing up a policy for the arrangements, and that Cllr Elliott should provide support in her capacity as representing the Hemingford Hub. (Prop RA, 2nd DD, unanimous)

- 5.0.9 (6.4) Road and Traffic log and if the Parish Council should lobby the County Council for increased highways funding

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Waters report that this had been superseded by the CCC survey and also his report on comments received about speed limits and road repairs, with drainage of the roads being a priority that Cllr Waters should submit a response including the comments received. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

6. **Finance, procedure and risk assessment**

- 6.1 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 (Street light maintenance Jan21) £87.88, HDC (Public Open Space rent) £37.50, N Gray Building (Allotment notice board) £220.00 and SSE (Street light electricity) £20.01 and £162.38. (Prop RA, 2nd SD, unanimous)

Salaries and Pension	£1964.70
CPRE (Affiliation fee)	£36.00
Reading Room (Room hire)	£69.00
CME (Payroll)	£97.20
PKF Littlejohn (Audit)	£480.00
K&M Lighting Services (Street light maintenance)	£87.88
Victoire Press (Newsletter printing)	£520.00
Mick George (Cemetery skip)	£256.00
Greenbarnes (Yes Estate notice board header)	£178.43
Greenbarnes (Allotments notice board)	£1297.97
LGS Services (Admin support November)	£2238.34
LGS Services (Admin support December)	£2179.89
K Ferguson (Grass cutting)	£8772.00
Wave (Allotments water)	£64.98

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

- 6.2 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:

- To order a 6 cubic metre skip for the cemetery from Mick George at a cost of £155.00 plus VAT plus a £70.00 permit, at a total cost of £256.00.
- Cemetery and allotment administration fees as detailed in the finance report.

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

None.

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

- 7.1 Flooding – reports on actions and timeline

Taken earlier.

- 7.2 Proposal that the Council considers trimming around street lights

RESOLVED to notify residents whose trees are obscuring street lights asking them to trim the trees back and if this is not done, that the Parish Council should consider action.

RESOLVED to seek advice about whose responsibility it is to cut back and whether the Parish Council can undertake this if residents cannot. (Prop RW, 2nd DD, unanimous)

7.3 To consider appointment of Trustee to the Langley Trust

RESOLVED to thank Pat Douglas for her term as Trustee.

RESOLVED that the Chairman should speak to Hemingford Hub to see if they would like to put anyone forward. (Prop RA, 2nd RE, unanimous)

7.4 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. To consider correspondence/communications received

8.1 Resident – Complaint re litter in cemetery and problems with bins not having a lid

RESOLVED to ask the Handyman to fix wooden slats on the flower bin to prevent wrappers blowing away. (Prop RA, 2nd DD, unanimous)

8.2 Resident – Parking outside 45 Marsh Lane and request for yellow lines

RESOLVED, given that this appears to be a temporary issue due to works at the fishing lakes, to write to the Fishing Bailiff to ask the fishermen to park considerately.

8.3 Resident – request that a tree on the allotments is trimmed as it is overhanging the boundary

RESOLVED that Cllr Waters should speak to the resident and bring a report and a recommendation if required back to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED to ask the Tree Wardens to review the Huntingdon Town Council Tree Policy to see if it would be appropriate for Hemingford Grey and consider this in three months' time. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

8.4 Resident – Request for proper signage at junction of Marsh Lane and Pound Road

RESOLVED to report to CCC that the signage is not clear and that vehicles turning the wrong way end up down a dead end and request a sign into Marsh Lane saying "All through routes" or similar.

8.5 Resident – Request that the Parish Council liaises with the Football Club to encourage them to put up advance advisory signage as to when they are going to play, and also to clear up litter following games

RESOLVED noting that the issue seems to relate to training which is more ad-hoc depending on the weather, to look into the tidying up of the area, as after Covid the pitch is likely to be used every weekend.

8.6 Cemetery fee refund – to consider proposal from applicant that the Parish Council appoints a charity of its choice for the donation of the £10 refund fee

RESOLVED to nominate the Langley Trust to receive the donation. (Prop AM, 2nd TJ, unanimous)

8.7 HDC – Activities for Older People

RESOLVED, noting that the Hemingford Hub is looking into this along with the School and Pavilion, that the Parish Council is happy for Daintree Green to be used if necessary. (Prop RA, 2nd DD, unanimous)

9. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____(Date)