

**Minutes of the Hemingford Grey Annual Parish Meeting  
held on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 7.30 pm  
held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic**

**In attendance:** 10 parishioners including Parish Councillors, District Cllr David Keane, and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Cllr Richard Allen presided and welcomed everyone to the meeting, which commenced at 7.35 pm.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from County Cllr Ian Bates and Phyllis Brooks (Hemingford Grey WI).

**2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May 2019**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop Richard Allen, 2nd Ann Meredith)

**3. Matters arising**

CCC had responded that it was not possible to arrange for the No 1 bus to make a loop via Hemingford Grey.

Wakeboarding site – The retrospective application was still waiting to go to the Development Management Committee. The Parish Council had opposed the application.

The advertising hoarding at the junction with the A14 had been reported to CCC and removed.

**4. Reports**

**4.1 The Parish Council including presentation of the Audited Accounts**

Cllr Richard Allen welcomed those present to the first and possibly only remote Annual Parish Meeting; there had not been one during 2020 due to the lockdown. The report covered:

- Parish Council membership. New members Sue Duma, Tony Jackson and Nick Irish had been welcomed. Mark Sheridan and Edward Byam-Cook, who had stood down during the year, were thanked for their contribution. There were now 11 Parish Councillors and two vacancies. Residents were encouraged to consider applying for membership.
- Details of the Planning Committee and working groups were outlined. Thanks were expressed to the members of the community who had helped with trees, road safety, lighting, drainage and footpaths. The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Handyman were also thanked for their work.
- The Council had passed its audit and the Audited accounts were on the website. Approval of the accounts for 31 March 2021 would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.
- The Parish Council had increased the precept by 5% due to increased costs, to allow funding of environmental projects, updates to the play areas and to strengthen reserves.
- Planning Committee. The Planning Committee had dealt with approximately 50 planning applications as well as some tree applications. The tree wardens, Ray Woodward and Martin Collings, were thanked for their work. The formal planning application for the proposed waste handling facility on the Hemingford Abbots Golf Club was still awaited. The Parish Council had objected to the application for the Astro Turf site which was also still outstanding. Comments had been submitted on the Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Two applications for the Liquid Skillz facility had been referred to the HDC Development Management Committee. Liasion was ongoing with

Tarmac, Land Logical and the County and District Councils regarding gravel extraction between Marsh Lane Lake and the old A14.

- The Cemetery Working Group is continuing to look for potential sites in the village for a new cemetery.
- Communications. The newsletter is now being published on a bi-monthly basis. Thanks were expressed to the Webmaster, Kim Loader for his excellent work in keeping the website and social media updated. Councillors now had their own hi-vis jackets to identify them when on Parish Council business. Residents were encouraged to put forward their ideas.
- Environment. A native hedge is to be planted between the allotments and Daintree Green later this year and some fruit trees will be planted. Bollards similar to those on Daintree Green will be installed along the open edge of Vicarage Fields. The Council was successful in its bid for Local Highway Improvement funding from the County Council for a 20 mph zone from Braggs Lane to the School, including the centre of the village. The litter bins in the village are being updated and rationalised. A litter pick is scheduled for 12 June. A bulb planting event and a Food Bank collection also took place. The Council is looking at ways of responding to climate change, one of which is that Vicarage Fields will not be mown in May this year.
- Flood/Emergency Plan Group. The flood warnings over the Christmas period highlighted various issues including the inadequacy of the village sewers. The Council's concerns have been conveyed to bodies such as the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, CCC and HDC. The group will also be developing an emergency plan.
- Neighbourhood Plan. This is led by a steering group, which undertook a residents' survey in 2020. The response rate was low but the replies received indicated a very positive view of the parish. A further survey has since been carried out to see if residents' views have changed. During lockdown Zoom meetings have taken place and open air meetings are planned for the summer to ask residents whether they are in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan, after which a decision will be taken whether to proceed.

#### 4.2 District Councillor

David Keane provided a verbal report, covering: the impact of the lockdown on IT and personnel; the closure of One Leisure; revisions to the budget, and reviews being undertaken on how to work effectively going forward. The Council wished to return to offering as many services as before the pandemic, in a controlled manner. The staff had risen to the challenge. The Council had also liaised with other groups such as time banks, the Hemingford Hub, and other parish councils.

Cllr Dew as District Councillor reported verbally on:

- the commencement of work on strategic projects such as transport re-routing in St Ives and Huntingdon, and the A141.
- Joint working between the Mayoral Authority, County and District Councils.
- Leisure centres now re-opening with one way systems in place.
- Action for Market Towns, the aim being to rejuvenate and promote them.
- The lack of parking enforcement. The District Council is to take over enforcement in towns and villages soon. Teams from the Council or a contractor will enforce such things as parking on lines outside schools.
- Customer services, refuse and planning services had continued.

A resident asked when the final section of the A1307 would be completed. It was thought this would be at the end of next year, ahead of target.

It was suggested that residents be notified in advance through the newsletter, etc, when the parking enforcement was due to begin. Cllr Dew explained that it would be rolled out slowly and the message would be clear and effective.

#### 4.3 County Councillor

County Cllr Ian Bates's written report was read by the Chairman in his absence and is appended in full to these minutes. The report covered:

- Support provided by the County Council for vulnerable people during the pandemic and the redeployment of staff.
- The move to online meetings and the publication of recordings of full Council meetings on the CCC website.
- Regular updates by the Chief Executive and the Director of Public Health and the increasing numbers of people being vaccinated.
- Thanks to all the community volunteers involved in time banks and community hubs, and on an individual basis, to support neighbours.
- The fast growth of Cambridgeshire due to large developments.
- Flooding over the Christmas period and the various bodies involved.
- The CCC budget had been agreed in February with a significant increase for Highways maintenance, including footpaths, verges and gullies. Funds had been received from Central Government for Adult Social Care.
- The forthcoming elections in May. Cllr Bates announced that he would not be seeking re-election as he was retiring after 20 years as a County Councillor.

#### 4.4 Parochial Charity Reports

No reports had been received and no representatives were present.

#### 4.5 Village Groups and Organisations

##### 4.5.1 Gardeners' Society

Michael Henderson reported on behalf of the Gardeners' Society (appended in full):

- Although normal activities were affected by the lockdown, members were able to hold socially distanced garden visits within the group. Thanks were expressed to the members who hosted and enabled members to keep in touch.
- Details were given of other activities, including workshops and demonstrations, and a picnic tea at the Manor. Speakers were booked for Zoom meetings in the autumn, and this is to continue this year.
- There is a new magazine "Hemgards" which will include an allotment blog.
- It was hoped that school gardening would resume in September.
- Information on the committee.

##### 4.5.2 Hemingford Hub

The Hemingford Hub report, which is appended to these minutes along with the financial report, was read by Riva Elliott. She paid tribute to the amazing team and the large increase in help being offered in the village, who had come together strongly during the pandemic. The report covered:

- The background to the organisation and its aims, including pastoral care focusing on the elderly, lonely or isolated, and supporting dementia sufferers and their carers. Details of its activities prior to the pandemic were outlined.
- The increase in the number of volunteers from 14 to 144 when Covid began, enabled essential services to be provided to residents quickly. Residents were informed on how to get help via leaflets, posters and newsletters. A 24/7 hotline was set up.
- The group was accredited by Hunts Forum as a Recognised Organisation. Fundraising from various sources resulted in receipts of nearly £16,000 to provide services. The Hub has applied to the Charity Commission to become a CIO to allow fundraising to continue.
- The community had become closer and more caring. Inter-generational activities were thriving. Other plans included socialising for overcoming

loneliness, addressing the digital divide and mobilising people who have been housebound.

- Details of the donations received and expenditure, including a nutritious hot meal service and a series of tea parties, are included in the financial report.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the Hub on behalf of the village. In the Covid survey, responses had included praise for the Hub and the County and District Councils had also expressed appreciation for the group at meetings.

#### 4.5.3 Hemingfords Memory Lane and Friendship Group

Esther Harrod's report was read (appended in full) by the Minutes Secretary in her absence. Meetings had to be suspended in March 2020 due to Covid but they intend to re-open from July 2021 in a bigger venue at the Pavilion, to ensure social distancing. The Parish Council was thanked for their donation, which has not yet been used but will go towards the monthly room hire of the Pavilion hall.

#### 4.5.4 Hemingford Badminton Club

The Club had not been able to play during Covid and is awaiting information as to when the School will allow letting arrangements to resume.

#### 4.5.5 Hemingford Playgroup

The Playgroup is now in its final stages of transition to being run by Hemingford Grey School and the current charity will therefore be dissolved since it will no longer be required.

#### 4.6 Other

It was observed that Zoom meetings had gone well and should be continued. It had been necessary to bring the next Parish Council meeting forward to fit in with the ending of virtual meetings. A legal challenge brought by Hertfordshire County Council seeking continuation of virtual meetings had failed today.

### 5. Any other parish matters including any resolutions

None.

### 6. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.28 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)