

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of Hemingford Grey Parish Council held on Monday 8 November 2021
at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, High Street

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

In attendance: 16 members of the public, and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk)

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

A resident, on behalf of the residents of Vicarage Fields, spoke regarding the Help for Green Spaces consultation and pointed out that the plans under consideration by the Parish Council did not include what was discussed, but that other elements had been included, namely a rough cut and a wildflower meadow, which the Parish Council had not consulted on. The Parish Council's budget was inadequate, as the RHS recommended four mows per annum and removal of arisings. He urged the Council to leave wildflowers to the next five year plan and to mow the rough cut areas.

Another resident of Vicarage Fields supported the review of village maintenance and would welcome a picnic table. He asked for clarification of the rough cut specification and frequency, the area around the bollards and its maintenance, and asked when the Parish Council would review the outcome.

The Chairman clarified that the proposals had not as yet been approved by the Parish Council, which would take into account all representations received. It was explained that the rough cut are might include bulb plantings.

A member of the public referred to the Queen's Green Canopy proposals and suggested that the new woodland area be established on the field behind the School, including paths accessible from the School and including wildflowers.

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

Cllr Dew's apologies (village emergency) were approved. Apologies were also received from District Cllr David Keane.

Cllr Elliott declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.1 as Deputy Chair of Hemingford Hub.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 11 October 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop RA, 2nd TP, carried with 7 in favour and 2 abstentions)

3. To consider matters arising from the last or a previous meeting

3.0.1 RESOLVED to note that the Regatta Committee had taken the decision that the Carol Concert should not be held this year. The Christmas lights licence had been refused and K&M Lighting Services were looking at connection to either the Glebe Road or Braggs Lane lights if it can find someone to dig a trench.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take items 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 next.

5.1.1 Proposals that Parish Council notes the proposed plans for improvements to our three green spaces (Vicarage Fields, Daintree Green and the YES estate) and that these include changes to the maintenance specification – with implications for ongoing

expenditure – as well as some one-off and/or capital expenditure on furniture, planting, hedges and trees

RESOLVED to approve the proposals with an initial formal review of the contract after two years and after consultation. (Prop RW, 2nd AM, unanimous)

5.1.1.1 Proposal that detailed grounds maintenance specifications be provided by the Green Spaces team during November with authority being given to the Chair and Clerk to sign off for tendering before Christmas

RESOLVED that it be delegated to the Chair and Clerk to seek tenders based on the EWG specification which will be ready by the end of the year.

5.1.1.2 Proposal that the Parish Council consider how the maintenance specification can be met by a combination of a contractor(s) and our handyman

RESOLVED to approve the proposal. (Prop RW, 2nd AM, unanimous)

5.1.1.3 Proposal that the Parish Council owned waste bin near the bench at the Stepping Stones access to Daintree Green be moved away from the bench

RESOLVED to move the bench. (Prop RW, 2nd RA, unanimous)

5.1.1.4 Proposal that the handyman be tasked with sweeping leaves from the pavements/footpaths (eg High Street and Glebe Road) during the leaf fall season to reduce the slip hazard at this time of year

RESOLVED to ask the Handyman to sweep the leaves. (Prop RW, 2nd SJ, unanimous)

5.1.1.5 Note that the Green Spaces team has gathered information on residents' wishes in respect of play area development and ask that they are involved when plans for the play areas are developed

Noted.

5.1.2 Proposal that Parish Council should make contact with CCC Cllr(s) responsible for County Farm Estate and relevant manager(s) to discuss possible use of CCC land in the parish for The Queen's Green Canopy, outstanding requirement for a cemetery and other parish amenities

RESOLVED to approve the proposal and that Cllr Dew should speak to the County Council to be followed by a formal letter as and if required. (Prop RA, 2nd SJ, unanimous)

4. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

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

RESOLVED that the payments listed in the finance report should be paid, plus K&M Lighting Services (Street light maintenance) £88.74 and SSE (Street lighting) £18.56 and £148.42. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

Salaries and Pension	£1789.03
Parish Online (Online mapping)	£108.00
Peace Memorial Field (Room hire)	£27.00
Reading Room (Room hire)	£60.00
Hemingford Handyman (Barrier repair)	£242.00
Hemingford Handyman (Bench install)	£100.00
Hemingford Handyman (Chicane gate repair)	£242.00
LGS Services (Admin support Oct)	£2237.94

Credits, including allotment rents, bank interest and receipt of the precept, were noted.

RESOLVED to transfer by cheque the sum of £145,000 from Santander Bank to the Unity Trust Bank current account and the sum of £65,000 to the Unity Trust Bank savings account. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

Cllr Duma arrived at 8.23 pm.

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

None.

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

None.

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

5.1 Environment Working Group report and proposals

Taken earlier.

5.2 Finance and Policy Working Group report and recommendations including:

5.2.1 A letter be sent to the residents of The Thorpe reminding them to keep the ditch clear

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the residents of The Thorpe reminding them to keep the ditch clear. (Prop RA, 2nd AM, unanimous)

5.2.2 Budgetary headings be updated as highlighted in yellow including the description of the LHI fund in the reserves

RESOLVED that budgetary headings be updated as highlighted in yellow including the description of the LHI fund in the reserves. (Prop RA, 2nd JF, unanimous)

5.2.3 Rather than insure its streetlights from the next renewal the Council self-insure the lights

RESOLVED that rather than insure its streetlights from the next renewal the Council self-insure the lights. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

5.2.4 The level of General Reserves should be 0.75 times the precept, rather than the current policy of one times the precept

RESOLVED having noted the surplus of £7000 in expected receipts over payments and that this will be put in general reserves to support the level of general reserves that the level of General Reserves should be set at 0.75 times the precept, rather than the current policy of one times the precept. (Prop RA, 2nd SD, unanimous)

RESOLVED, rather than increasing cemetery reserves, that if it is successful at finding land, the Parish Council should look to borrow money, leaving the Cemetery Fund standing at £55,000 at the FY year end.

5.2.5 The draft budget for FY22/23 as prepared by the F&P Working Group showing a proposed spend of £126,320 including a 5% contingency as be approved and adopted by the Parish Council

RESOLVED having considered the Finance and Policy Working Group's report and recommendation, that the budget for FY2022 be adopted by the Parish Council. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

5.2.6 The precept be increased by approx 5% thus giving a precept of £126,065 and the Council set and demand the precept for FY2023

RESOLVED to set and demand a precept of £126,065.00 for FY2023 as being the amount required for the Parish Council to balance its budget. (Prop RA, 2nd RE, unanimous)

5.3 Proposal that the Council adopt a policy/guidance for arrangements in respect of Operation London Bridge, to be reviewed annually and to also agree £50 funding for flowers for the signing table

RESOLVED to approve funding of £50.00 for flowers,

RESOLVED that flowers should be laid outside the Parish Centre subject to the Vicar agreeing; Cllr Flint to check..

RESOLVED to purchase another Book of Condolence.

RESOLVED that the books and frame be held by the Chairman.

RESOLVED to review the policy annually. (Prop JF, 2nd TP, unanimous)

6. To consider correspondence/communications received

6.1 Hemingford Hub – request permission to plant a tree in the cemetery

RESOLVED to accept the kind offer from Hemingford Hub to “gift” a small cherry tree, similar to the one in Mitchell Close, to be ordered and planted by the Council to the left of the bench and the new cemetery gate on the condition that the Hub either donate funds for the tree’s maintenance and watering or undertake the maintenance and watering themselves. (Prop RA, 2nd AM, carried with 9 in favour and 1 abstention)

7. **Closure of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____(Date)

DRAFT