

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of Hemingford Grey Parish Council held on Monday 9 January 2023
at 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, High Street

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public, County and District Cllr Doug Dew, Cllr Marcus Whewell (Chairman, Hemingford Abbots Parish Council) and Mr Ben Stoehr (Deputy Clerk).

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

Cllr Whewell, the Hemingford Abbots Chairman introduced himself and offered to answer any questions on the Summer Sports Scheme. He thanked the Parish Council for its support.

A resident outlined his objections to the proposed hedge cutting at Vicarage Fields which he felt was unnecessary, as the area was obviously a public open space. He expressed concerns at “over-neatness” and “over-management” as this was not in the interests of biodiversity.

Cllr Dew as County and District Councillor reported that both councils were preparing their budgets. All costs were increasing and central Government grants were unconfirmed at present, but this is to be resolved by the end of the month. They were expecting a deficit in the budgets as things stood.

In his role as County Councillor, Cllr Dew reported on:

- Highways – there were concerns about the operation of the Highways Department. There was still no Highways Supervisor.
- LHI – Both bids were still progressing slowly due to the staffing levels. The Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots schemes needed to be joined together, as otherwise there would be a gap.
- The Government was looking to free up hospital beds but there was no funding being offered at the moment.

As District Councillor, Cllr Dew reported on:

- The HDC Local Plan was about to be re-launched. Parish Councils would be invited to become involved. It was hoped that the requirement for electric car chargers would be included.
- Cllr Dew indicated his willingness to investigate the backdated lease proposals and details are to be sent to him.

The Parish Council asked whether the Local Plan review would impact the flood plain restrictions. Cllr Dew thought this was unlikely but there might be some individual exceptions.

Asked whether he had any influence on the Vindis site sewerage/drainage matters, Cllr Dew replied that it was not clear what was happening on site but this was being investigated. Cllr Waters outlined the Vindis drainage plans and explained that the Murketts site position was still to be confirmed. An update was awaited from Anglian Water on the drains at The Thorpe.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Duma (work commitment). Apologies were also received from District Cllr David Keane.

There were no declarations of interests.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 14 November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop RA, 2nd TJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting on 28 November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop RW, 2nd AM, carried with 5 in favour and 3 abstentions)

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

RESOLVED to receive the Chairman's verbal report that the LHI bid had not been submitted due to the timing.

4. Finance, procedure and risk assessment**4.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills**

It was noted that HDC wished to review the Daintree Green rent and backdate the increase to 2019.

RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk together with Cllrs Allen, Waters to make a decision on the Daintree Green lease increase when the legal position is known. (Prop RA, 2nd SJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the payments listed in the finance report should be paid. (Prop RA, 2nd RW, unanimous)

Salaries and Pension	£2004.89
Glasdon (Picnic table)	£1203.35
K & M Lighting Services (Street light maintenance)	£88.74
LGS Services (Admin support Nov)	£2500.41
LGS Services (Admin support Dec)	£2179.90

Payments approved between meetings:

Salaries (Dec 2022)	£2583.44
Leeds Day (Legal fees)	£1800.00
Buchans (Grass cutting)	£1986.00
HDC (Election fee)	£222.58
Reading Room (Room hire)	£60.00
Wave (Allotment water)	£72.50
K & M Lighting Services (Street light maintenance)	£88.74
Victoire Press (Newsletter printing)	£611.00
Fieldfare (Community engagement)	£1045.00
CAPALC (Training)	£75.00
Buchans (Grass cutting)	£1751.40

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

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

RESOLVED to note the following use of delegated powers

The Clerk has used delegated powers to:

- Accept a quotation from Buchans for £228.00 plus CPI in Year 2 and 3 for the hedging at Mitchell Close, this being less cost than the other quotes received.
- Bins- order 100 litre bins rather than the 90 litre bins as 90ltrs are not available and 100ltrs are the same size as the others in the village.

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 Proposal that the Parish Council makes changes to the mowing specification to create a uniform hedge height and to open up Vicarage Fields so that it becomes more inviting to residents

RESOLVED, noting Cllr Meredith's report that there was a perception that Vicarage Fields was private, and that the Braggs Lane hedge was due to be re-laid with a greater biodiversity focus, and that reducing the hedge height would be beneficial for encouraging public use, to approve the proposal to make changes to the mowing specification to create a uniform hedge height and open up Vicarage Fields so that it becomes more inviting to residents. RESOLVED if this involves additional cost, to delegate to the Clerk to progress this (Prop AM, 2nd JF, carried with 6 in favour and 1 against)

RESOLVED that the Environment Working Group would look at the entrances to see whether they can be improved. (Prop AM, 2nd RA, carried with 5 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention)

- 5.2 Proposal that the Parish Council considers the request from Hemingford Abbots Parish Council that the invoice from One Leisure for the costs of the Summer Sports programme be split

RESOLVED having received Cllr Meredith's report on the scheme and that the costs had not yet been received from the Pavilion and Hemingford Abbots Parish Council, that Hemingford Grey Parish Council is interested in principle, but the operation of the scheme and an improved booking/non-attendance procedure were still to be decided.

RESOLVED to accept the proposal that the invoice costs be split as proposed by Hemingford Abbots Parish Council i.e each Parish Council paying for children attending from their parish and the others being split 50-50. (Prop RA, 2nd NI, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllrs Meredith and Jakes should liaise with Hemingford Abbots Parish Council regarding future events.

6. To consider correspondence/communications received

None.

7. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.16 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____(Date)