

Hemingford Grey Neighbourhood Plan

Steering Group meeting Tuesday January 19th 2021 7pm by Zoom

In attendance

Anne Meredith, Peter Quest, Roger Mitchell, Robin Waters, Libby Wilkin, Janice Flint and Richard Allen

Notes

1. Apologies for absence

Chris Bowden and Amy Wales-Durran

2. Agree notes of November 17th 2020 meeting

Agreed

3. Survey reports- general and school

Minor amendments were made to the 2 reports which were then approved. To be posted on the HGPC website and sent to Clerk of Parish Council.

4. Business Survey Update

Peter Quest updated the meeting and reminded all members of the need for them to provide information on businesses, people working from home either permanently or as a result of Covid.

The Lockdown and the increased transmissibility of the variant meant that activity was seriously affected. The impact of Brexit and the introduction of ELMs meant that local landowners were not probably in a position to engage with the NP.

5. Website update

Janice Flint reported that not much progress had been made but hoped to report to the February meeting. Meanwhile the Parish Council website would be used to provide information to residents etc.

6. Hemlocs and Character Update

Peter Quest reported that Covid restrictions and other priorities had meant the Hemlocs had been unable to make progress.

7. Verges and Greenspace update

The cataloguing of the photos taken had not taken place. Robin Waters suggested that he liaised directly with Roger's daughter who had taken photographs.

8. Grant funding update

Anne Meredith informed the meeting that the minimum grant the NPSG could apply for was £1000 and that the NPSG was only allowed to apply for 4 grants in total. A grant had been given for the financial year 2019-2020, no applications for 2020-2021. The intention was to apply for one grant to cover all activities from April 2021 to April 2022. An outline grant application would be brought to the March meeting as by then the situation re Covid will hopefully be clearer. In the meantime Richard Allen, Chair of the Parish Council and Newsletter editor had offered the NP additional space in the Newsletter for the next two issues

9. NP insert for next two Parish Council Newsletter

A copy of the article for the forthcoming Newsletter had been circulated to with the papers for this meeting.

Covid survey in March issue

After wide ranging discussions about the purpose and content of the survey it was agreed that Libby Wilkin and Anne Meredith would draft a second version of the survey with Janice Flint setting it up as a Newsletter article so that spacing and lay out could be refined.

10. Covid, NP and future activities

It was agreed with the current lockdown and the increased transmissibility of the variant that very little activity was possible apart from zoom meetings and desk based work. Any consultation with residents, businesses etc would not be viable until the current situation was improved and vaccines widely available as all would be apprehensive about any indoor meetings until such time. The situation would be reviewed at the meeting on March 16th. See also Agenda item 8.

11. Publicity

The meetings are advertised on the Parish Council notice boards and information is posted on the Parish Council Website with articles going in the bi-monthly Newsletter of the Parish Council.

12. AOB

Roger Mitchell raised two matters relating to the natural environment- The Fens Biosphere and Natural Cambridgeshire aim to double nature in the county. Both issues while potentially relevant to any NP were more relevant to the Parish Council and so Robin Waters as co-ordinator of the Environment Working Group was asked that his group include the two issues in its next meeting.

13.Preparation of action plan for February 16 2021

1. Surveys to be amended and sent to Parish Council website and to the Clerk for information. A report to be submitted to the February meeting of the Parish Council. AM
2. Information to Peter Quest for Business survey etc ALL
3. Website development JF/ZA
4. Verges and green spaces, photographs to be catalogued RW/RM
5. Covid survey revision LW/AM
6. Publicity- (on going) relevant information to HGPC website and Newsletter AM/JF

March 2021

1. Preparation of outline grant application for 2021-22
2. Review of Covid, NP and future activities.

Meeting ended 8.03pm

Notes agreed 16.02.2021