

HINXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th July 2014

Present:

Mrs Barbara Fagg – Acting Chairman
Mr Mark Alexander
Dr Stephen Trudgill
Mr Roy Ellis
Mrs Virginia Walker
District Councillor: Tony Orgee
County Councillor: P Topping -

0 Village Residents present

1. Apologies for absence.

None

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None

3. To approve and sign Minutes of the Meeting on 12th May 2014.

Meeting approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Chairman's Report

A letter has been received from Hexcel to say that they are in talks with Royal Mail to see if the Postcode can be changed

6. Wellcome Trust Liaison Meeting.

Affordable Housing, at the present time there seems no requirement for these, but it was decided to revisit this next year to see if needs have changed

Duncan Parsley has offered HPC a donation towards the village hall roof repairs on behalf of Wellcome Trust.

The flint wall repair is in hand, it was decided that the wall would be repaired/patched up as needed.

ST to contact Bidwells/Environment agency regarding the 2 trees which have fallen into the river and also to see whether the river could be cleared of some of the reeds to allow a better flow.

Knights Close-

This land has now been let to Anthony Dockerill as part of a larger grazing regime throughout the Water Meadows, Hinxton and Duxford. Capital works to be taken prior to October 2015 are the provision of 20 new trees/shrubs with shelters and 10 bird boxes.

The new planting of trees will be undertaken during the Autumn and the bird boxes will be established at the same time.

Ash Die Back

ST and Alex Morter carried out a survey for trees contaminated with Ash Die Back.

Those deemed to have significant damage have been recorded with photographic evidence and notification sent to Bidwells. Trees to be removed as part of the Tree Works.

7 Village Hall Repairs.

3 quotes have been received, it was decided that we would go with the quote from AHC Roofing and RE will contact them to make a start in Sept if possible. Clerk to make an application for a Grant from Community Chest. Applications for grant from Amey Cespa will also be investigated

8 New Parish Councillors

One application has been received, unfortunately he was not able to attend the meeting so a letter will be sent to invite him to meet the Council before co-opting at the next meeting.

9. Path in front of Village Hall.

Applications for funding via the Local Highway Improvement Initiative will be made for the path in front of the village hall and also improving the surface water being discharged into the overflow ditch on Wellcome Trust land from the high street & restricting flow down northend road from the A1301 which adds vastly to the amount of water that the soakaway has to deal with.

MA has reported the recent flooding at corner of NorthEnd/High St to Highways to investigate. MA to look into making the applications, as well as changing speed signs at Hunts Road. Peter Topping to also look into this. MA to contact Stuart Rushby for advice on all the above.

10. Ford depth signs & gates.

A site meeting to be arranged with Chris Foyle from Highways & Peter Topping to discuss the depth signs being put in to record depth in the middle of the ford, access around the gates Duxford end and also to put in place a better system for shutting and opening of the gates when the river rises.

11 Gas pipes.

It was decided that these are to be moved inside the hall, plus testing to see if a problem with pipes or meter as the gas bills are still high. RE/Clerk to arrange the work.

12 Empowerment of PCs to sell electricity.

Although this does not affect Hinxton, we will support this motion.

13. Playground Fencing.

PC will pay the cost of fencing from the field gate, but it was decided not to take the fence along the allotments. SCDC to inspect litter bin and may replace, if not PC to buy a new bin

14. Playground Financing

PC will pay the shortfall of the cost of benches, fence and refreshments for the opening ceremony, to be recovered when VAT refunded.

15 Public Session

No-one present

16 Finance

MA to be added as a signatory

Current position of Bank Balances at 14th July 2014

Current A/C :£ 8024.58

Business A/C: £11005.35

Bridge A/C: £2000.
Playground A/C:£35.01
Money to pay out- Landscaping – awaiting invoice

17 Planning Applications

Wellcome Trust R&D buildings (plus amendments)- approved
Conversion of Cart Lodge to domestic accommodation, 10 Hunts Lane- no recommendation
101 High St, retrospective application-approved
Tree applications-Oak House (conifer), 87 High St (Ash), approved

18 Correspondence.

None

19 Councillor Reports.

Tony Orgee. (see below)
Peter Topping Possible review of opening times at the Thriplow Recycling site.

20 AOB.

Margaret Hardy sent message to express her thanks for the card and gifts.
We cannot switch our gas account to EON, due to our contract which doesn't end until next January.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

The next Parish Meeting will be on 8th Sept 2014 at 7.45pm.

From Tony Orgee

Hinxton Parish Council

14 July 2014

Proposed Solar Farm

Pre-application public exhibitions were held recently in Sawston and Babraham regarding the proposed solar farm situated north of the road between the two villages. The planning application has now been submitted. The site is situated in the Green Belt, but the developers argue that the special circumstances in this case are about meeting national targets for generating energy from renewable resources.

The key issue is therefore the relative weight that is given to these two principles in this specific case.

SCDC Community Chest

I would, once again, encourage appropriate bids to be made for funding from this source. Parish Councils should not feel that because they have had a successful bid that they cannot bid again. Each bid will be considered on its own merits.

Local Policing issues

Temporary Chief Inspector James Sutherland gave a presentation on local policing issues at a meeting of Sawston Parish Council last week. He referred to the approach taken to speeding issues in villages, and said that he was changing the police's approach so that they would be more active in the use of speed checks. Many more of the local police were being trained in the use of speed guns, and he himself had been trained just a few days ago. The police would be very happy to carry out speed checks in villages, particularly at times suggested by local residents.

Local Highways Improvements

This year bids have to be submitted by 12 September (an earlier deadline than in previous years). The panel that will consider the bids submitted will meet on 29 and 30 October (likely venue Whittlesford Depot), and, in my view, it is important that the Parish Council is represented when its bid is discussed.

I am chasing up the council officer responsible for the Local Highways Improvements scheme to see if there is any likelihood of Hinxton's scheme put forward last year being implemented - it was the first reserve in the priority order.

Cambridge City FC planning application

This planning application was considered at the June meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee. SCDC planning officers recommended that this planning application be refused. However, the SCDC Planning Committee supported the application, being of the view that community benefits outweighed the arguments against the application. The decision was for **delegated approval**, with a number of issues, for example, ecology and access issues, still to be resolved.

SCDC planning officers organised a meeting (held earlier today) to discuss these issues, particularly the access issues. The members of Babraham PC who were present at this meeting felt that a number of comments had been unhelpful, and continued to be concerned about the volume of traffic through Babraham village and the number of vehicles that would use the Babraham crossroads junction and the Pampisford Wych junction, both of which had poor safety records.

Tony Orgee
District Councillor

