

HINXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th March 2015

Present:

Mrs Barbara Fagg – Acting Chairman

Mr Roy Ellis

Mr Mark Alexander

Dr Stephen Trudgill

Mr William Brown

District Councillor: Tony Orgee

Mrs Anne Angell Clerk

1. Apologies for absence.

Mrs Virginia Walker

Mr Julian Bright

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None

3 To approve and sign Minutes of the Meeting on 12th January 2015.

Minutes approved and signed.

4 Matters Arising

a. Ford – meeting with Highways. The meeting on the 27th Feb went well, it was agreed that the whole thing had not been handled well, there had been a lack of communication between different bodies. We were told that gates are shut in advance of predicted heavy rain, the sluice gates at Chesterford had to be opened only when Hinxton gates shut to avoid anyone being caught out by the extra water let through- the river rises very quickly once the sluice gates are opened. One possible option is that the telemetrics could be moved nearer to Hinxton. When asked if local person could be responsible for opening and shutting gates, we were told that that person had to be an employee of the Highways Agency as they needed public liability insurance. Regarding the road closed signs, it was asked if these could be moved nearer to Duxford rather than people having to drive to Hexcel back gate before finding out that the road was closed. These points to be looked into.

b. Footpath repair near Village Hall, this was due to be done before Christmas, it has now been finished and looks much better and also safer. Letter of thanks sent to Highways.

c. Village Hall Carpark. Following recent muddy conditions and also a car getting stuck, Quotes are being sought to put down hardstanding, probably a path going to the playground and then a concrete grid which grass will grow through but strong enough for cars to drive on.

d. Allotments and water use. It was asked if Parish Council could transfer some funds from allotment rents to pay towards water use, however as so little rent is taken, it needs further discussion on whether to ask allotment holders to pay a small extra charge for this facility.

e. Village Hall- it was decided to only paint the windows doors and fascia boards for the time being. The quotes were discussed and it was agreed that the work be offered to Adrian Dellar. Clerk to apply for a grant from Community Chest to fund this.

f. Street Lighting. There are still 3 lampposts not connected, these are waiting for UKPN to connect them. Clerk to contact Council to see about the replacement of the dog fouling notices which were removed along with the old lampposts.

g. May elections. Nomination packs are now available from the Clerk.

h. Hinxton Website. Julian Bright not able to attend but this is in progress.

i. It was with regret that Roy Ellis's resignation letter had been received. Roy has been a Parish Councillor for 30 years and will be very much missed on the Council. However it is hoped that he will still be available for help with his extensive knowledge of Hinxton!

j. Hexcel lorries – Peter Topping spoke to Hexcel and it seems that they have now changed their postcode so that deliveries are directed to the main Ickleton Rd entrance. However this depends on lorry drivers updating their satnavs etc. If anyone sees a large lorry using Duxford Rd, please can details (time, any names on the lorry etc) be sent to Clerk. Hexcel have indicated that they may be able to help with cost of Weight Limit signs for Hinxton, however this can be quite a long process due to notices in paper etc but something we will look into.

k. Wellcome Trust Liaison meeting. Hedges along Ancient Lane have been cut back properly now. Wooden railings have been repaired and also the fence behind the Manor House has been repaired. Wellcome Trust scientists have agreed to put on a talk about their work later in the year, to be held in the Village Hall. Details will be advertised in the Hinxton News.

l. ROSPA inspection of play equipment due soon.

m. There have been complaints regarding dog fouling around Hinxton. This may be people walking their dogs from neighbouring villages, but we urge everyone to clear up after their dogs. Letters will be sent to Duxford and Ickleton asking the same. Clerk to look into getting more dog bins.

5 Chairman's Report

Nothing extra to add.

6. Public Session. Sue Elliott gave a very informative perspective of living close to the river. Councillors asked if she would write a piece for Hinxton News.

7 Finance

Current position of Bank Balances at 1st March 2015

Current A/C : £4109.81

Business A/C: £11009.05

Bridge A/C: £2000.

Payments made

MD Landscapes £180

CPRE £36

EON £246.63

Money to pay out-

ACRE subscription £54

8 Planning Applications

Tree works- Long view and Old Parsonage, approved by HPC

9. Correspondence.

A letter has been sent to Alpha Roofing regarding the damage one of their vans had caused to it. No reply yet, Clerk to follow up.

10 Councillor Reports.

Tony Orgee. attached
Peter Topping attached

11 AOB.

Roy Ellis has arranged for the felt on the Bus shelter in the High Street to be repaired.
Clerk asked if dispenser/holders for leaflets etc could be put up in the Village Hall porch to distribute literature which may be useful to residents. Clerk to find prices etc.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The next Parish Meeting will be on 11th May 2015 at 7.45pm.

From Tony Orgee

The District Council's 2015-16 budget

The District Council discussed its budget at its meeting on 26 February, and agreed by a majority of 31 votes to one with 13 abstentions to an increase of 1.99% for its portion of the Council Tax.

The Council Tax payable for a band D property in Hinxton is as follows:

County Council	1,144.26	
District Council	125.31	
Parish Council		63.73
Police Authority	181.35	
Fire Authority		64.26
Total	£1,578.91	

Local Highways Improvement scheme

I was surprised to attend the Parish Council's January meeting and see that the local highways improvement scheme (repair of the footway near the Village Hall) had not been carried out. I followed up the matter with the appropriate council staff, and am pleased to see that the work has now been carried out.

The Community Chest

The District Council's Community Chest continues to be a source of funding for projects in villages and the repainting of the Village Hall would be an ideal candidate for a bid to the Community Chest (maximum grant £1,500).

Report from Peter Topping

1. **Council Finances and Council taxes** - Both the County and District councils have to find big savings: £600k by the district and a whopping £30m by the County, out of its total budget of £550m. In order to balance their budgets both councils voted to increase council tax by 1.99%, which is the maximum without triggering a referendum.

The county's road repair, potholes and gritting budgets are not affected for this winter. But there have been cuts to a number of services, such as the rights of way team and education, and **libraries services are now under review**.

The District Council has committed to preserve its ability to offer grants of up to £1,000 for community based applications, known as the **Community Chest Grant scheme**.

2. **City Deal (and cycleways)** - the City Deal is going to be – more and more – an important element in the planning for big transport and infrastructure developments that will be needed in and around Cambridge to cope with the growing economy.

The first list of projects to be tackled has been agreed: much of it is happening within Cambridge: such as bus priority lanes along, Maddingley Road, an A428 to M11 segregated bus route / A428 corridor Park and Ride, /cross-city cycle improvements. It was disappointing that no rural **cycleways** made their way through the first selection. But at the meeting of the City Deal Assembly last Friday the proposal was agreed that:

infrastructure schemes not funded from the Cycling City Ambition Fund or any other external source should be treated as reserve projects within tranche 1 of the City Deal programme, due to the acknowledged high risk of many of the bigger prioritised schemes, the cycling projects' attractive value for money in terms of enabling economic growth, their deliverability and 'spade ready' status and the role they can play in connecting people with jobs within the specific demographic of the Cambridge technology cluster.

I want to make sure that if there are cycleway plans for south Cambridgeshire, they are **not** just the proposal to build a £7m cycleway along the A10 to Cambridge. I have emailed the county cycling team asking for a meeting.

3. **Roads** I am being kept informed of the investigation into the terrible fatal accident along the A505 at Thriplow Heath. It appears that neither vehicle was turning in or out of a side road prior to the accident. At the moment the County has no plans to do a lot of improvement along the A505, such as dualling it. But it is increasingly busy and blocked at all times of the day, and I have written to the transport head at the county council pointing out how many people, not just residents, use the A505 each day, especially given the number of bio-tech hubs in this area. I have asked that the long term plan is for this locality.

4. **Planning** - The Planning Inspector is continuing her review of the District's long-term plans for housing. The developers are attending in large numbers to try to persuade her to allow lots more housing to be built. I supported the district's argument that the Green Belt needed to be protected. These issues (and locally the bid put forward by Savills to build in Duxford) means that Hinxton might do well to consider working with other villages to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to control (but not to stop) development.

5. **Hinxton ford and Hexcel** - I was glad that the meeting we arranged with Mike Cooper of the county highways team and attended by Hinxton PC members was positive. I have written to Hexcel, following

their reasonable response re the sat-nav issue to suggest a meeting, to further decide what could be done to control heavy goods traffic through Hinxton, including the weight limit issue. This last will probably require the highways weight limits person to be there too.

6. **Flintcross Fire** - The owner of the site that went up in flames at Flintcross in November last year was fined for the Dottrell Hall breaches brought against him by the County Council. The Environment Agency have given him until April to clear the Flintcross site. I am continuing to press for answers about the long term future of the site, and the risk of contamination to the water supply if the ash and waste is left on site for much longer.

7. Duxford air museum has teamed up with Boeing to run a schools project based on the WWII airplane, the B29. This is a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) module. I attended the launch and would encourage local schools to try to get involved.

Peter Topping
Mar 2015
County Councillor