

## HINXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Present:

Mrs Barbara Fagg – Acting Chairman

Mr Roy Ellis

Mrs Virginia Walker

District Councillor: Tony Orgee

County Councillor: P Topping

Mrs Anne Angell Clerk

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Mr Mark Alexander

Dr Stephen Trudgill

**2. Declaration of Members' Interests**

None

**3 To approve and sign Minutes of the Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

Meeting approved and signed.

**4 Matters Arising**

a. Ford Gates, problems persist as gates are not being shut quickly enough and being left closed when no need, this time for almost 3 weeks. Highways have assured that the gates will be monitored regularly in the future.

A concrete pathway to be made around the gate at Duxford end.

Combination locks are still on order and will be placed on the gates for emergency access eg farmer to attend livestock, Railway workers. Martin Fordham has the phone number to advise Council when ford is in flood, as only they have authority to close roads, Whittlesford depot to be responsible from now on.

b. Flooding North End Rd/High St. Problem still occurring, nothing has been done yet. RE suggested that it is probably roots from the willow tree blocking the drain. Peter Topping to be asked to follow this up.

c. Local Highways Initiative. VW gave a very good presentation to the panel and signs are promising for a positive outcome.

d. Allotments. These were measured and although some differences exist between some of the plots, it was decided to leave things as they are at present. The suggestion to put in a path between the plots may be revisited in the future. Renewals due end of November, Clerk to send out reminders

e. Village Hall- further improvements. It was decided to obtain 3 quotes for painting the exterior windows, doors and fascia probably in the spring. The fascia board along the flat roof needs replacing but this will be done at a later date as removing now may damage the felt. Clerk to obtain quotes.

f. Street Lighting. All residents have received information about the replacements of the streetlighting. Keeley Russell from Balfour Beatty kindly came to explain what was going to happen. Hinxton will have all concrete posts replaced with metal as these are safer. Orange lights will be replaced with white lights and lights will be dimmed late evening onwards. If

residents have any problems or questions, Keeley asked that these should be directed to her and not Hinxtton Parish Council.

g. Electoral review, Consultations starting to review electoral boundaries and numbers of Councillors in Cambridgeshire. This may affect Hinxtton in that we may be put into a different group of villages. Residents are asked to give their views and find out more at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/>

h. Hinxtton Website. It was discussed whether Hinxtton should get a website. JB to look into this and find out options available.

i. An invitation was received from the Duxford IWM to attend the launch of the new website for the American Air Museum. Plans for its development following a grant from English Heritage and to see the newly conserved P51 Mustang along with the chance to meet a Mustang veteran pilot. WB had an enjoyable and interesting afternoon and has agreed to become the Hinxtton representative at the IWM

j. WB and JB attended the first session of training for new Councillors and reported that it was informative and well run.

k. A letter was received from SCDC advising Parish Councils to start the process of agreeing a figure for the Precept for the next financial year. BF to look into this and consult with Councillors to discuss.

## **5 Chairman's Report**

Nothing extra to add.

## **6 Public Session.** No members of the public attended.

## **7 Finance**

Current position of Bank Balances at 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014

Current A/C :£ 2829.12

Business A/C: £11007.19

Bridge A/C: £2000.

Money to pay out- PKF Littlejohn Auditor £360

Insurance £1337.61

Grass cutting £180

New edition of Local Council Administration £66

Registration fee CiLCA clerks training £250

Chubb Fire Inspection and replacement fire extinguishers £442.11

CCC street lighting energy bill £66

AHC roofing £9,048

HMRC £219.96

Money received

Village Hall Utilities £136.51

Village Hall Committee (insulation) £528

Community Chest grant £1500

Precept £4575

Roofing Donation £3000

VAT refund applied for £2912.71

All payments approved proposed VW, seconded WB

## **8 Planning Applications**

Application-

Wellcome Trust-

Creation of drop-off area and 9 car parking spaces for nursery, relocation of car park barrier, removal of two trees and associated landscape works. No objections.

Approved-

Demolition of garages Duxford Road

Wellcome Trust, Chiller unit.

## **9. Correspondence.**

Girton PC , advice wanted on adopting their phone kiosk as we had turned ours into library and they want to do the same.

Transport Consultation, asking us for up to date information.

New Model Financial regulations. Clerk to put together Parish Councils version.

## **10 Councillor Reports.**

Tony Orgee. attached

Peter Topping attached

## **11 AOB.**

Flint wall, still waiting for this to be done, RE to contact Builder and look for an alternative if necessary.

Hedge cutting North End, Clerk to follow up.

Litter bin for playground, still no reply from Council.

Join between the 2 roofs , RE said this is OK.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

The next Parish Meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.45pm.

**From Tony Orgee**

### **Local Highways Improvement scheme**

I was a member of the panel that considered bids for local highways improvements in 2015-16. I can tell you that Virginia gave an excellent presentation - it was very clear and focussed.

The Panel members scored each scheme and a priority list based on the scores is being drawn up. The priority list has to go through a formal approval process, so decisions will be made at the January 2015 meeting of the County Council's Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee. However there were certain features of the Hinxton bid such that the Parish Council should be contacted very shortly and in a positive manner about its bid.

I was very pleased to give my full support to the bid.

## **Waste and recycling collections**

My report to the September meeting of Hinxton Parish Council I referred to the redesign of the District Council's waste and recycling collection routes to make them more efficient.

As part of its efforts to be more efficient, South Cambridgeshire District Council is now working with Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council on three service areas: legal services, IT services and waste and recycling.

The first two service areas are internal to the councils but the waste and recycling service deals directly with the public. In the first instance the Cambridge City Waste service will relocate to the District Council depot at Waterbeach, thus releasing the City Council depot in Mill Road, Cambridge.

This move might seem strange, but it should be remembered that all City Council waste and recycling vehicles have to travel to the AmeyCespa site at Waterbeach to unload waste and recyclable materials, so return trips to Waterbeach are part of their existing practice.

By working together the three councils expect to make considerable financial savings.

## **The draft South Cambridgeshire Local Plan**

The inspector has now begun the examination in public, with the first hearings being held last week. The hearings in November will cover strategic issues such as the overall level of development proposed in the District Council's and City Council's draft Local Plans and the broad principles used for deciding where that development should be located. Site specific issues are unlikely to be discussed until late February or early March 2015.

A report published just before the hearings began argued for a much greater level of development, with some large-scale developments in the area south of Cambridge and close to us here. At the hearings the District Council will be robustly defending the figures in its Draft Local Plan as approved by councillors for submission to government, and arguing against the levels of growth suggested in that report.

## **Bus route 7A**

Mark has recently contacted me regarding rumours about the future of the 7A bus route. I am contacting the Passenger Transport team at Shire Hall to find out what is going on.

**Tony Orgee**  
**District Councillor**

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## **Report from Peter Topping**

Local issues

1. I will investigate reports that the 7A bus service is to be withdrawn. I think this is unlikely as the service was only put in to replace the C7 some 18 months ago.

2. The Hinxton ford has been re-opened. Thanks to those residents who came along in October to discuss what could be done to ensure the gates are opened and closed based on local knowledge and insight. The subsequent article in the Cambridge News helped put pressure on the county highways. The county council had a site meeting last week and clarified arrangements with the local farmer, Mr Fordham, who had previously opened and closed the road. The highways team are removing the physical barriers on the Duxford side that have made it difficult for people using the pedestrian bridge. However the county council highways officers remain of the view that only they have the authority to open and close roads. The county will open and close the gates, in consultation with Mr Fordham, sending out a member of staff from the Whittlesford depot to do that.

3. I am hopeful that the bid for the improvement to the footpath under the recent Local Minor Highways Improvements Scheme will be successful. The county is looking to carry out this work quickly to prevent further deterioration. Steve Dighton is the contact and I have emailed him for progress.

4. I was glad that Hinxton was able to send a delegate to the meeting I arranged two weeks ago at the county council highways offices to discuss the streetlighting plans with the county's contractors, Balfour Beatty. The key thing is to engage with BB quickly if the parish wants to replace any of its lights (and pay for them) as William Brown has proposed, or if it is not content with the proposed removals of the 3 lights from the High St. William has already written a comprehensive note from the meeting - but the liaison manager at BB - Keeley Russell is the contact if the parish council does want to follow up.

More generally

5. The County Council has carried out an analysis of the flooding caused recently by sudden and extreme levels of rain. The county is - as part of its response - making sure that gullies and drains etc are properly cleared out and free from blockages such as tree roots. Although Hinxton was not one of the areas badly affected, the flow of water at the end of the High Street after heavy rain is such that we made need to investigate if some checking can be done just to be on the safe side.

6. There is a good deal of discussion at the county - and elsewhere - as to what would be the right structure of local government for Cambridgeshire going forward, with some people arguing for a unitary authority based on Cambridge and taking in local villages. This is still at discussion phase but the one thing that is happening and is for the good is that various back-office functions are being brought together under agreements. This is between county, district and City councils, to try to make savings but also to build in a depth and resilience to what otherwise can be quite small services - a good example is the legal departments.

7. When I have the results of the public consultation on the future of waste and recycling service (and the Thriplow site) I will report back.

Peter Topping  
County Councillor