

Hatley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2017

In attendance: Cllr M Eagle (Chairman), Cllr M Astor, Cllr N Jenkins, Cllr H Nickerson, Clerk to the Council K Wilde, District Cllr B Smith (arrived later), County and District Councillor S Kindersley (arrived later) and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr A Pinney.
2. Interests or dispensation applications: None.
3. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 13th December 2016 were approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising from the meetings held in October and December: **i)** The Clerk confirmed that most of the Parish Council's statutory notices need not remain on the notice boards for more than 14 days but in future the Clerk will note a removal date in the bottom corner of all notices to help keep the boards uncluttered. **ii)** The Chairman confirmed that the trees near East Hatley junction still need to be cut back as agreed in October. **iii)** The Chairman confirmed that a letter was issued to Mr Banks regarding the speed of farm vehicles passing through East Hatley. **iv)** The Clerk confirmed that the election fees for Hatley Parish Council, if the Councillor seats are contested, will be a minimum of £700 and that South Cambs District Council (SCDC) advises a budget of £1000. The Clerk intends to raise 50% ahead of an election year with the remaining 50% only being raised following a contested election. **v)** The Clerk confirmed that additional information has been provided by the Planner for the Barn Farm application with regards to stock. The Clerk confirmed that the consultation remains undetermined with a new deadline of 17th February to allow SCDC's planning officer to review the case following her site visit last week. The Parish Council will not reconsider the application to account for the new stock data because the reasons for objection were much broader.
5. The meeting was opened to members of the public, for a maximum of ten minutes, to enable them to address questions to the Parish Council. **i)** Peter Mann had a question relating to item 10. concerning the HVA and summer fête but chose to wait to discuss. **ii)** Peter Mann advised that a section of the highway between East Hatley and Croydon is unsafe for cyclists due to overgrown hedges that were not cut back during the previous cutting. **Clerk to contact the County Highways team.** **iii)** Mervyn Lack advised that some residents in East Hatley have received a second letter from Cambs County Council (CCC) instructing residents to cut back trees along the border of their property that are overhanging the road. However, some of the trees are situated on the verge, outside the residential boundary. **Clerk to contact Cambs CC and SCDC for information on tree ownership.** **iv)** Cllr Jenkins spoke on behalf of East Hatley resident Janis Ryall who has recently complained to Yodel regarding the dangerous speed of their delivery vehicle in East Hatley. The complaint was not accepted by Yodel as the vehicle registration could not be given. **The Clerk will notify residents of this issue in the next**

newsletter and if residents note a repeat offender they can contact the Clerk who will liaise with the delivery company if required.

6. County and District Councillors were both unavailable to give reports at this time. Item 6 was postponed, pending their arrival.
7. Churches: **i)** Hatley St. George church – There were no updates available. **ii)** St. Denis’ church – The Clerk confirmed that the £500 donation from the Parish Council has been received by the Friends of Friendless Churches and their Director, Matthew Saunders, sends his thanks to the Councillors. It has been confirmed that work on the site will commence in the summer and residents will be given further information in due course. A handover ceremony is also expected in the spring.

Cllr Smith arrived at this time and was invited by the Chairman to speak.

Item 6 (deferred): Cllr Smith provided an update on SCDC’s Local Plan and the five-year housing supply, now being proposed in conjunction with the City of Cambridge, which is currently under review by the Inspector. Fly tipping has worsened, especially on New Road. The mayoral elections are due on 4th May, bringing significant costs in terms of the election and set up costs for the mayor’s office. SCDC is currently recruiting a new Chief Executive. Workplace Parking Levies are being proposed as an alternative to a city congestion fee in Cambridge but there are concerns that this will hit students and low paid workers and will work to create a revenue rather than reduce congestion. Issues concerning the A428 Busway project and a new Park and Ride proposed near Madingley Mulch are still ongoing, as are the contentious planning applications for West Road in Gamlingay and Bourne Airfield.

8. Village Enhancements: **i)** The new speeding sign has been delivered. The Local Highways Improvement team has questioned whether the siting of the socket outside the hall would be better placed in the direction of the play area. The **Council resolved** to purchase and install a fourth socket so that the sign can be placed on either side of the road outside the village hall. **Clerk to notify LHI team.** **ii)** The Clerk confirmed that the photos illustrating the preferred locations of the dog waste bins have been resent to a new contact at SCDC and hopes it is actioned with some urgency. **iii)** The Councillors discussed the accident ‘hotspot’ in Hatley St. George on the bend near North Lodge, where vehicles crash through the fencing due to speed on the bend. Some vehicles lose control and cross the road crashing into the opposite fence. As such there is a risk to other road users and to any animals grazing in both fields that may escape onto the highway when the fence is destroyed by the driver. Several speed-reducing solutions were considered but it was agreed that chevron signs may be most effective on the bend. **Cllr Astor agreed to provide the Clerk with a report of recent accidents. Clerk to contact Highways for advice.**
9. Planning: **i)** The Clerk gave notice that a Planning Committee meeting took place on 11th January to determine the application for 2,350 homes at West Cambourne. The Councillors were previously invited to attend to share their objections but none accepted. **ii)** There were no items to consider from SCDC’s monthly planning updates.
10. Hatley Village Association: Mervyn Lack introduced himself as the new HVA Chairman and presented the Chairman of the Parish Council a copy of the recent HVA meeting minutes. Mervyn Lack confirmed that plans are progressing for the summer fête which is being organised by the HVA this year and not by Hatley St. George’s church. The Parish Council, as overseers of

the HVA accounts, was asked to consider whether the takings from the summer fête should be shared with Hatley St. George's church and by what percentage. The Councillors consider the request to share the funds as a favourable proposition, as the church and village hall are the only two community places in the Parish. However, it was agreed that further consideration was required and a decision would be made at the next Parish Council meeting in March.

11. Village Hall: Mervyn Lack asked the Parish Council to purchase a First Aid Kit for the hall. **The Clerk agreed to action.** Mervyn Lack offered to create a user guide for hall users so that issues concerning the hot water and heating system could be resolved promptly. He also commented that it would be useful to know who is using the hall at given times so that arrangements can be made as to when the heating is turned on and off to avoid wasted energy and associated costs. **The Clerk agreed to speak to Clive and Jill Weightman** to see what arrangements can be made for an 'electronic' booking system. The Clerk reminded the Council and HVA members present that there is a direct cost to hall usage which is not always being offset with hall fees, due to the increasing number of hall uses without booking fees. The Chairman confirmed that free use of the hall by the HVA for meetings and events is supported; however, a paid booking would take priority. The Clerk has made enquiries for a new 'Hall for Hire' sign that will exclude a phone number for bookings as it was agreed to be unnecessary. More information will be available for the meeting in March.

Item 6 (deferred): Cllr Kindersley arrived at this time and was invited to speak by the Chairman. It was confirmed that a number of cutbacks have been reversed to include street lighting and road gritting. The Cambourne West development was approved last week, which will see £8.6m from S106 monies contributed to the Cambridge Busway. Congestion issues at the A428 have not been addressed. Dualling is possible though not yet confirmed. Cllr Kindersley will be urging residents to make their dowry payments in relation to St Denis' church and is hoping that those who did not make pledges in 2014 will now reconsider. Cllr Kindersley asked the Chairman what decision was reached by the Council regarding the Barn Farm planning application. The Chairman gave a brief outline of the reasons why the application was not supported. **Clerk to forward the Parish Council's response to Cllr Kindersley.**

12. Village Play Area: **i)** The Clerk proposed that the Working Party discussions and decisions take place at Parish Council meetings until a time when a separate meeting may need to be called. The Councillors agreed. The inspection in April will reveal whether the play tower must be the next item to replace. **ii)** Cllr Nickerson confirmed that he is due to inspect the Play Area this month and will make any necessary repairs. It was suggested by a public member that Amey may be a possible funding provider for the play area. **The Clerk will investigate eligibility for this fund.**
13. Website: The **Council resolved** to apply to NALC's Transparency Fund for £500 to help finance a new website (financial year 2017-18). Peter Mann will make further investigations regarding the technical specifications for the website. £500 remains pledged by the Parish Council.
14. Community Highways Volunteering Scheme: The **Council resolved** to join the scheme and the Chairman agreed to be the main contact on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk will promote this scheme in the next newsletter to invite volunteers to come forward. **Clerk to forward details to the Chair and prepare information for the newsletter.** The annual litter pick event

will take place in March, with the date to be confirmed on the website and in the newsletter in due course (possible dates 12th or 19th). A member of the public left the meeting.

15. Community-Led Plan: Cllr Jenkins gave a summary of her review of plans created by other parishes and outlined the goals and benefits of creating a community statement of interest. However, the plan has no legal standing against housing or planning applications, plus the project is very time consuming, taking up to two years to complete. The Councillors acknowledged that many of the issues tackled by other parishes in the CLPs are already actioned by Hatley Parish Council. It was agreed that the Councillors would approach residents at this summer's fête to gauge whether there is an appetite for a CLP and to discover what other aspects could be covered by the Parish Council that are not already covered. This would also be an opportunity to seek volunteers for the project if the need for a CLP is supported by residents.
16. Parish Newsletter: The Clerk confirmed that nobody has contacted Philippa Pearson to take-over the production of the newsletter and as such the Clerk will produce a basic newsletter at least three times a year (possibly February, June and November) to share news and key dates for forthcoming events. All residents and groups will be welcome to contact the Clerk to add items to the Parish Newsletter. **The Council resolved to support a Parish Newsletter with the Chairman of the Council as editor.** The Clerk will investigate whether any residents will prefer electronic copies. Ideally the newsletter will be available by month end for delivery with the Gamlingay Gazette. **Chairman to contact Mr Buckingham** regarding deliveries in Hatley St. George. **Clerk to prepare a newsletter by the end of February.**
17. Consultation on Draft Corporate Energy Strategy for Cambridgeshire County Council: It was agreed that the Council would not respond and that the Councillors would each provide their own responses.
18. Correspondence: **i)** SCDC's proposed tree health and safety surveys – the Council agreed that this would not be a requirement for Hatley but supports the proposal in principle. Cllr Astor confirmed that he inspects all trees in Hatley St. George annually which could affect places to which the public have a right of access. **Clerk to respond to SCDC and enquire about the ownership of trees in East Hatley.** **ii)** CCC has reinstated full gritting routes as of Friday 13th January. **iii)** Dates and locations for SCDC's SPEP Repair Cafés. Events are not held close to Hatley but anyone wishing to join as a repairer or wishing to host a repair café can contact the Clerk for more details. **iv)** News from MP Heidi Allen sharing details of the People's Postcode Lottery. The Clerk confirmed that there are three strands of funding available with full details online (Postcode Local Trust / Postcode Trust.Org / Postcode Community Trust). **v)** MP Heidi Allen has undertaken a review of public transport in South Cambs. The deadline for responses was 13th January 2017 but it may still be possible to send comments at this late stage.
19. Broadband: Connecting Cambridgeshire expects the roll out of broadband to be completed in March. Nine houses at the end of East Hatley were left off the original proposal in error and are currently due to be completed by the end of June. Connecting Cambridgeshire will push for all properties to have broadband by the end of March.
20. BT Payphones: Following SCDC's objection to the removal of the two payphones in Hatley, the phones will remain unless the objection is challenged by BT. The phones will be under review again in late 2018.

21. SCDC waste services: Following a review of bin routes by SCDC it is expected that 82% of South Cambs will see a change in the day of their bin collection or the sequence of their collections, coming into effect from Monday 27th February. It is not yet known which parishes will be affected but it will be publicised in advance. **Clerk to ensure it is also published on the village website.**
22. Finance update: **i)** The **Council resolved** to approve the following payments:
 - a. *K Wilde* – Salary Payments January 2017 and February 2017
 - b. *K Wilde* – Overtime October to December 2016
 - c. *K Wilde* – Expenses October to December 2016
 - d. *e-on* – Direct Debits 27th November 2016 £9.75, 12th December 2016 £15.50 and 16th January 2017 £13.53**ii)** The income and expenses account and the Barclays bank statement for Oct-Dec 2016 were reconciled. The **Council resolved** to approve the accounts for quarter 3, which were signed by the Chairman. The difference is due to the late clearance of four cheque payments. **iii)** The **Council resolved** to approve the budget and a precept of £4,798.00 for 2017-18, a 20% increase.
23. Time and date of the next meeting: **7.30 pm on Tuesday 21st March, 2017.**
24. The meeting closed at 9.56 pm.