

Hatley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th July 2017

In attendance: Cllr M Eagle (Chairman), Cllr A Pinney (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Astor, Cllr N Jenkins, Cllr H Nickerson, Clerk to the Council K Wilde, District Cllr B Smith, County and District Councillor S Kindersley (late arrival), Richard Halsey (FoFC) and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies: None.
2. Interests or dispensation applications: None.
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting held on 16th May 2017 were approved and signed.
4. Matters Arising: **i)** Superfast Broadband – remains available to all, however a range of issues are still due to be resolved for a number of residents. These can be raised with the Clerk.
ii) The NALC funding application was successful and £500 has been granted for a new website that can be directly accessed by the Parish Clerk. An update on this will be provided in October.
5. Questions: Peter Mann questioned the logic behind the recent road markings on the newly-surfaced road through the Parish, whereby Cambridgeshire County Council has missed an opportunity to address road safety. The Parish Council agreed and will contact CCC. **Clerk to action.**
6. District Cllr Smith advised and updated the Council on the following issues:
Public consultation on changes to the structure of Children’s Centres; Public consultation on Central Bedfordshire Council’s Draft Local Plan, to include the proposal of a new town at Tempsford, closing date 29th August. Cllr Smith urged the Council and residents to respond; Improvements resulting from shared planning services between SCDC and the City of Cambridge; Sunshine Preschool in Gamlingay is closing as of July 2017 and discussions are taking place for the possible establishment of an Early Learning Centre at the First School site from September 2018; Changes may be made to the blue bin collections as some lorries shared with Cambridge City Council do not have the capability of handling separate paper waste; Beverly Agass is the new Chief Executive for South Cambridgeshire District Council; A business app will be launched by mid-2018 as part of the Gamlingay and Hatley Business Hub which will be launched on 21st September.
7. Planning: **i)** Planning application S/1444/17/LB for the installation of three vents at Unit 11 St. Georges Tower, Hatley St. George, SG19 3SH was approved by SCDC. **ii)** Applications S/1703/17/LB and S/1701/17FL were considered by the Council. The Friends of Friendless Churches is planning, as phase one of the restoration of St. Denis’ church, to install replacement windows to the nave, install a replacement door to the north porch and undertake internal and external repairs. Richard Halsey (RH) welcomed questions from the room. Mervyn Lack questioned the detail in the ‘Location and site plan’ concerning Legend 1 and Legend 2, being the proposed main access route to the church by contractors and the proposed siting of the skip

on the highway. RH agreed that the easement that had been arranged with Cllr Kindersley was intended to be the main route and will ask the contractors to adhere to this. The **Council resolved** to request that the reference to the public footpath (FP 12) is removed from the planning application to avoid misunderstanding and to ensure that the agreed easement on private land is used. The Chairman advised that she would be willing to allow contractors to park on her drive to avoid congestion on the narrow road. RH also advised that permission has been granted by Cllr Kindersley to place the skip on his land. The **Council resolved** to request that the planning application and proposal be revised to correct the location of the skip from the highway to private land, to prevent further congestion. Cllr Astor referred to the Bat Survey that was undertaken in 2014 and questioned whether an ecological impact assessment could be actioned. RH explained that Purcells are very experienced with church work and will not work if they feel it will disturb the bats, plus the project involves floors and windows only. Cllr Jenkins questioned why the planning application did not acknowledge the site as a Country Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve, stressing that damage is possible to the plants. RH explained that the architects are aware and he was surprised it hadn't been ticked on the form. Questions were raised about the area immediately around the footings of the church and it was confirmed that a two- to three-foot French drain and shingle will help to prevent weeds and reduce the need for trimmers that might damage the stonework. The **Council resolved** to request that the planning application is revised to account for the designation of the site for the conservation of wildlife and plants and to request that action is taken to prevent damage and disturbance before work commences. RH confirmed that a new FoFC Director is due to be appointed and will be the main point of contact during the work. Clerk and Cllr Jenkins also offered to be a point of contact for any local issues that may arise. Thanks were given to RH and the FoFC for supporting the church and RH then left the meeting. **iii)** SCDC's monthly updates – nothing to consider.

8. Churches: **i)** There were no further updates regarding St. Denis' Church. An event to celebrate the handing over of the church to the Friends of Friendless Churches, organised by the Parish Council, had been held in a marquee outside the church earlier the same evening during which Roger Evans, Chairman of the FoFC, received the keys of the church from Cllr Nick Wright, Business and Customer Services Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council. **ii)** An update about services and events at Hatley St. George Church was provided in the recent Parish newsletter.
9. Village Enhancements: **i)** Speeding Sign – The Council considered the leasing of the sign to neighbouring parishes and **resolved** that the sign should remain in the Parish for the foreseeable future to ensure that the residents benefit from improved road safety and data can be collected and analysed in the longer term. **ii)** Traffic accidents near North Lodge – The **Council resolved** to contact Cambs CC regarding additions to the recent road work but if this is unsuccessful a Local Highways Improvements application will be submitted for three new reflective marker posts in the autumn. **Clerk to action.** **iii)** Deer Crossing Sign – The Council has been granted donations from both Croydon and Gamlingay Parish Councils for the purchase of the signs and posts. They will be delivered in early August. The Clerk will need to source a contractor that has suitable liability insurance and can access the road stats plans. There are also traffic management fees to cover. **iv)** Damaged verges in East Hatley – Mervyn Lack confirmed that he had spoken to Mr Banks regarding the damage caused by his farm vehicle drivers. Both Mervyn

and the Chairman agreed that there is no obvious solution and that communication must be encouraged when a problem arises.

10. Hatley Village Association: The HVA Chairman, Mervyn Lack, gave a brief update about the fête which was well attended, with many commenting on the day about the great atmosphere. The Chairman of the Council congratulated the HVA and Cllr Pinney was applauded for his efforts both leading up to and during the event. The Coffee Mornings continue to be a success and draw visitors from neighbouring parishes.
11. Village Hall: **i)** The Clerk confirmed that there were not many new bookings for the Village Hall at present but, despite this, the hall takings are already higher in the first quarter than had been estimated for the whole year. Feedback has suggested that some potential hirers were put off by the lack of a refrigerator in the kitchen area. The **Clerk will investigate** options and costs. **ii)** The Clerk has made enquiries regarding payment for deep cleans at the hall but there was no ideal solution. Future deep cleans will be done voluntarily or by cheque payment to an external service provider. **iii)** The Clerk has contacted Chris Flinders who will help to source suitable lighting for outside the hall and still needs to action the portable appliance testing (PAT) of the electrical appliances in the hall. The extractor fan will also be examined to see why it is ineffective.
Cllr Kindersley arrived at the meeting and invited questions relating to his report, of which there were none as everything had been covered by Cllr Smith.
12. Village Play Area: The Clerk has not had sufficient time to make progress with the play area project but aims to do so in August.
13. Community-Led Plan: Residents were invited to consider setting up a CLP group during discussions at the Hatley fête on 9 July. Many thought it was a good idea but no volunteers came forward and there were concerns as to how long it would take to produce. It was agreed that the Council will continue to engage with residents outside of the meetings and at local events such as the Coffee Morning and the fête and will maybe make the annual litter pick event more of a social occasion too. Cllr Kindersley left the meeting.
14. Correspondence received: **i)** Scam Awareness month – details shared and available online. **ii)** SCDC Let's Talk – inviting residents to engage with the District Council regarding their five-year plan for the area. Councillors and residents were encouraged to submit contributions by 28 July. **iii)** Community clothing recycling banks organised by the East Anglia Air Ambulance and the Salvation Army. The **Council resolved** that this would not be practical in Hatley due to the size of the Parish.
15. The **Council resolved** to approve the reconciliation of income and expenditure against the bank account Q1, Apr-Jun 2017.
16. The **Council resolved** to approve the following payments: **i)** *John Wright* – £40 work at Hatley Village Hall. **ii)** *K Wilde* – Salary payments July, August and September. **iii)** *K Wilde* – Overtime May and June. **iv)** *K Wilde* – Travel expenses May to July. **v)** *K Wilde* – Reimbursement for purchases made May to July. Itemised summary provided. **vi)** *e-on* – Direct Debit: £15.27 June.
17. Time and date of next meeting: **7.30 pm on Tuesday 17th October 2017.**
18. The meeting was closed at 9.26 pm.