

# Hatley Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th September 2019

In attendance: Cllr A Pinney (Chairman), Cllr M Astor (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Eagle, Cllr N Jenkins, Cllr H Nickerson, Clerk to the Council K Wilde, Reverend Hilary Young and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: County Cllr Kindersley.
2. Interests and dispensation applications: None received.
3. Questions from the public: A resident expressed his disappointment that the problem of poor visibility at the East Hatley junction has not been improved. The Chairman reminded the meeting that highways safety is the responsibility of the County Council and all future complaints should be directed as such. The Chairman will take action to cut back the immediate hedges and awaits a response from another landowner in that area.  
It was also mentioned that a muck heap fire continues to burn in East Hatley and the Environmental Health Officer has been contacted. The Parish Council was advised that the landowner has apologised for the impact of the fire and has been unable to resolve the issue. Thanks were reported on behalf of a Hatley St George resident for the replacement 'children playing' signs close to the playing field.
4. The Chairman welcomed the Reverend Hilary Young to the meeting. Revd Hilary Young explained the issues currently facing Hatley St George Church and expressed her hopes of securing the support of Hatley parishioners. Currently there are no Hatley representatives on the Parochial Church Council, although help is given for special occasions at the church which is evidenced by the residents' desire to use the church. Questions have arisen regarding the future of the church, as some members in Gamlingay might consider it to be a financial burden. It is possible to make Hatley St George Church a 'festival' church but the Reverend's aim is to ensure this place of worship remains available to its rural community.  
The church requires a great deal of repair and maintenance work which has been identified in an architectural inspection that takes place every five years. The most significant issues relate to the roof and the drainage system. There are concerns that the rising water level is a result of the original drains having collapsed and as such a full survey is required. It is also desirable to make the church more comfortable in winter months, as the current heating system is not very effective. The Parochial Church Council is keen to get an improvement project started in the next couple of years but requires support and expertise for such projects from the Hatley community.  
The Parish Council recommended the monthly coffee morning as a good starting point to approach residents on this subject and the Clerk offered to include an article on this matter in the next Hatley newsletter. The Chairman suggested that details of the running costs of the church and required project work are shared with the community and informed Revd Hilary Young that there is a concern among some in Hatley that funds raised for Hatley St George Church are placed in the Gamlingay 'pot' for spending. Revd Hilary Young advised that St Mary's Church in Gamlingay pays for itself whereas Hatley St George Church only raises approximately half of the funds it requires to operate each year. Revd Hilary Young will gladly oversee a maintenance project but needs help to write grant applications and to see the project through at ground level. Cllr Astor offered to approach a number of residents to see if they might help to kickstart a project. The Chairman thanked Revd Hilary Young for joining the meeting.

5. The Parish Council considered the following Zero Carbon Community projects for South Cambridgeshire District Council grant funding:
  - i. The possible installation of an electric vehicle charging point at the Village Hall. The Councillors were concerned about the potential maintenance costs for a charging point, estimated at £390 every three years. It was questioned whether Hatley residents would benefit from this solution as they would be unlikely to spend time parked at the Village Hall to charge their car when they are so close to home. It was agreed that the charging point may only benefit people on rare occasions when passing through Hatley in need of charging their vehicle to continue their journey. It was agreed that more information was required to determine how successful and profitable existing vehicle charging points are in other locations. However, it was considered that a charging point in Hatley would not be cost effective at this time.
  - ii. The construction of a public drinking fountain on the playing field. The estimated installation costs were £2,000 - £3,000. Maintenance costs would need to be met by the Parish Council. It was questioned how much the fountain would be used for drinking or bottle refills with footfall to the area being quite low. The Parish Council agreed not to proceed with this idea.
  - iii. The modification of the speed sign to be solar powered. The cost to convert the current sign to a solar powered sign by the manufacturer was in the region of £400, being too low a sum for the grant application. Cllr Eagle suggested that two new solar powered signs could be purchased. The Clerk advised that County Council Highways will not support the attachment of solar panel technology to the existing moveable sign due to weight and safety issues.
  - iv. Cllr Astor suggested a tree planting project for every garden in Hatley. He also suggested solar panels on the roof of Hatley St George Church to help with the heating issue, but it was questioned whether the panels would generate enough energy to warm the church.  
Cllrs Eagle and Jenkins agreed to obtain further information ahead of the next meeting, with the focus on options for a new solar powered speed camera and the tree planting project.
6. The **Parish Council resolved** to object to BT's consultation on the removal of the public payphones in Hatley on the same grounds as in previous years. The Clerk will additionally make reference to the addition of the defibrillator cabinet in the community which requires telecommunications for access, as well as the deterioration of mobile phone network services in Hatley in the past year.
7. The **Parish Council resolved** to respond to the consultation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Local Transport Plan expressing its disappointment with the lack of transport solutions being offered in this rural area, the duplication of services in other areas and the supposition in the plan that the East West Rail line will pass through and benefit the area to the south of Hatley. The Councillors agreed to also respond to the questionnaire individually.
8. The **Parish Council resolved** to proceed with the Chairman's recommended quotation for new internal doors for the Village Hall, with an expected cost of £2,172. The discussion included the consideration of fire regulations for the hall, relating to fire doors, and it was agreed that the number of exits from the hall and the short distance of travel from any given point to those exits was sufficient to ensure the swift and safe escape of hall users should a fire occur. The Clerk agreed to prepare a formal fire risk assessment to be adopted by the Council and a fire notice will also be placed at the hall for review by all users. The landlord has agreed to install detectors and the annual review of the fire-fighting equipment is due in October. The grant funding project for new disabled-access toilets was also discussed. A funding application written on behalf of the HVA will be submitted by the Clerk before the month end.

It was agreed that Cllr Nickerson would be the main contact name on the application, should any queries arise.

9. To agree the time and date of the next meeting: **7.30 pm on Tuesday 15th October 2019.**
10. The **Parish Council resolved**, under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and in view of the confidential nature of the business due to be transacted, that the public would be temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw from the meeting whilst matters pertaining to item 11 were discussed. Revd Hilary Young and 3 members of the public left the meeting.
11. The Clerk's annual appraisal was discussed, with the Clerk also temporarily excluded from the meeting for this purpose. The Clerk was invited to return and the **Parish Council resolved** to revise the Clerk's pay scale.
12. Time of meeting closure: 9.31 pm.