

Hatley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held on Tuesday, 19th January 2021

In attendance remotely via Zoom video/telephone conference call technology: Cllr M Eagle (Chair), Cllr M Astor (Vice Chair), Cllr H Nickerson, Cllr A Pinney, County Cllr S Kindersley (arriving late), District Cllr H Williams (arriving late), Revd Hilary Young, Clerk to the Council K Wilde and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr N Jenkins.
2. Interests:
 - i. Declarations of interest: none.
 - ii. Dispensation applications: none.
3. The **Parish Council resolved** to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th December 2020. The minutes will be signed by the Chair at the next possible opportunity.
4. Matters arising: None.
5. Questions from the public: A question was raised about when the Covid-9 vaccinations will take place and why the Village Hall is not being used for this purpose. The Chair advised that official NHS guidance should be followed, which can be found on Facebook and on the local GP surgery's website. The Village Hall is not being used as no request has been received. The vaccination centres seem to be at much larger venues. The Chair has been approached regarding the increasing amount of litter on the verges in the parish, with one resident recently filling a wheelbarrow with litter in a very short walk to the west side of Hatley St George. The resident who collected the litter has suggested that the installation of signage warning of a £500 fine may be a helpful deterrent. The Councillors agreed this topic being on the next meeting agenda for a full discussion.
6. Councillor reports: Both Councillors were unavailable at this time. (Their arrival and reports follow agenda item 11.)
7. Churches:
 - i. St Denis'

Cllr Jenkins shared a report with Councillors ahead of the meeting. It included information on a discussion with a qualified tree surgeon about tree work and the recent ITV news report on St Denis' church. A schedule of works is still due from the Friends of Friendless Churches. Revd Hilary Young advised that any work to St Denis' churchyard is unlikely to be actioned unless specific funding is available, as the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has no funds for this. The horse chestnut trees are in an unsuitable location and in a diseased condition but this shouldn't kill the trees. Clearing some space to add compost around the roots should help them. A report on the trees will be shared with Cllr Jenkins.
 - ii. Hatley St George

Revd Hilary Young reported that it has been nearly one year since the meeting with the architect concerning the drainage issues but Covid-19 closed the project down. Issues with asbestos will be dealt with in a more economical and affordable way. The architect provided some sensible solutions to the drainage problems, which will be actioned in due course. Cllr Astor questioned whether there has been a response from the PCC about the trees, which the Revd agreed to follow up. A resident spoke to

suggest that grant funding sources are revisited as grants are no longer centred solely on Covid-19 projects. Revd Hilary Young advised that priorities are focused on the repair of the lead roof at St Mary's Church, Gamlingay, which is now letting in water, but welcomes any help from residents who may wish to revisit funding opportunities and help with applications.

8. Planning:
 - i. The Parish Clerk confirmed that South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) granted approval for planning applications **20/04598/FUL** and **20/04599/LBC** for the reinstatement of three leaded light windows to the chancel north and south elevations, and localised masonry repairs to window surrounds in St Denis' church, East Hatley, SG19 3JA.
 - ii. The Parish Clerk confirmed that SCDC granted approval for planning application **20/03582/S73** for the variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 7 (materials) for the approved planning application **S/3309/18/FL** for the erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling at Barn Farm, East Hatley, SG19 3JA.
 - iii. The **Parish Council resolved** to make no comment on the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan.
 - iv. The **Parish Council resolved** to support Cambourne Town Council's preferred location for the proposed East West Rail (EWR) station at Cambourne. **Clerk to action.**
 - v. There were no other planning items or updates to note.
9. The **Parish Council resolved** to respond to the consultation on Luton Airport's arrivals airspace change, favouring Option 2 which would allow flights to switch across two different flight paths on a regular basis, thereby reducing the impact on the villages below. The Parish Council acknowledged that the holding stack north of Hatley would be a certain outcome, for safety reasons, and were reassured by Cllr Astor that flights would descend as they leave the stack, thereby reducing the noise impact. **Cllr Astor and Clerk to action.**
10. The Chair provided a summary of recent action and poor communication by BT Openreach about the proposed installation of a new telegraph pole near the East Hatley junction. The **Parish Council resolved** to issue a letter of complaint as the public and Parish Council had not been adequately consulted. **Chair to action.**
11. BT Public Phone Boxes and Mobile Phone Network:
 - i. The Clerk advised that Cllr Jenkins was liaising with SCDC however no update has been provided from SCDC in time for the meeting.
 - ii. The Clerk gave a summary of parish survey responses on mobile network service reliability. The majority of respondents stated that the connection frequently drops out during a call. Examples of other network issues were also given. However, since the survey results were received, Cllr Pinney has discussed the connectivity problems with O2, the main network provider in the area, and alterations have been made to the mast in the Gransdens. Cllr Pinney has received a perfect mobile phone service since that time and expects this applies to many other residents. Cllrs Astor and Nickerson said they have also noticed an improved service. The Chair proposed that a wider sweep takes place to see if the service has improved for many others in the parish and will do this by contacting her neighbours in East Hatley and via Facebook. This was accepted by all Councillors.
 - iii. It was agreed that for the time being posters would be placed on the notice boards giving the contact details for complaints to mobile phone service providers. **Clerk to action.**

District Cllr Williams joined the meeting and was invited by the Chair to share her report, which she said will also be shared by email soon. The main point of concern related to SCDC's planning service, especially the lack of trust in this service by the public and Parish Councils. A

new Cabinet has been set up by SCDC to consider recommendations and changes to the planning service but Cllr Williams would prefer this to be undertaken by a non-political reporting body. The internal audit on SCDC's planning performance, which they have measured as 85% of cases being determined on time, has been undermined by a 3rd party who is suggesting just 9% made the required time frame. Cllr Williams urged people to take care to prevent the possible spread of Covid-19 via wheelie bin handles. No questions were raised.

District Cllr Williams left the meeting.

County Cllr Kindersley joined the meeting and welcomed questions relating to his report which had been shared with the Councillors by email. A discussion followed relating to Thakeham's 'South West Cambridge' proposal for 25,000 new homes outside the Local Plan and without formal consultation with SCDC. County Cllr Kindersley expects planning papers to be submitted by Thakeham in April and it is thought they could possibly be seeking some form of national designation for housing. South Cambs MP Anthony Browne has been asking questions in parliament as to who had prior knowledge of Thakeham's proposal. The East West Rail Cambourne to Cambridge route has not been finalised and there are campaign groups in the general area. Landscaping issues continue to prevent the consideration of freight transport on the EWR line. Potholes in East Hatley have been reported by County Cllr Kindersley. Cllr Nickerson shared some details of the research he has undertaken relating to speeding and reducing the speed limit, and has been in discussions with a member of Everton Parish Council and the Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)'s Highways team for further information. Costs of up to £19,000 are suggested. County Cllr Kindersley offered assistance with future discussions.

With no further questions raised, County Cllr Kindersley left the meeting.

12. Trees:

- i. Cllr Astor provided an update on the felling of four diseased trees on the verge in East Hatley and their replacement by eight trees contributed by CCC. There will be a power outage at nearby properties whilst the trees are felled on 29th January. Canes have been placed along Main Street between the Village Hall and Parkers Farm to indicate positions and species of chosen replacement trees, with the two close to Swifts having been relocated across the highway, further to consultation with the occupants of Swifts.
- ii. The **Parish Council resolved** not to proceed with SCDC's Three Free Trees Campaign as it is not cost effective because of the high cost of the trees the Parish Council wished to purchase. Furthermore CCC is now planting eight trees with no costs to the parish.
Clerk to inform SCDC.

13. Speed Monitoring Sign:

- i. Cllr Nickerson reported earlier in the meeting that discussions are underway with CCC Highways in an attempt to gauge the price of a project to reduce the speed limit. Investigations will continue with the assistance of County Cllr Kindersley. It is still uncertain when and why the speed limit was increased to 40 mph approximately 30 years ago.
- ii. The Clerk provided a brief summary of the speeding data for the period June to December 2020. It was noted the data may not be a true representation of local traffic volume due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on travel. However, the data show a slight reduction in the number of speeding vehicles.

14. Play Area:

- i. The Clerk shared details of recent inspections which highlighted the deterioration of the side nets. Cllr Nickerson has researched suitable suppliers and the **Parish Council**

resolved to purchase two side nets measuring 2.5 metres by 1 metre with an estimated cost of £40.00. **Clerk to action.**

- ii. No further points were noted.
- 15. Public Access Defibrillator:
 - i. The Clerk confirmed that the logbook details have been received up to the end of December.
 - ii. The Clerk will check whether any minor items in the first aid kit are nearing their expiry date. **Clerk to action.**
- 16. Hatley Village Association:
 - i. An update was provided to confirm that the handrail work has been completed. Spare parts will need to be removed from the bar area before the hall becomes available for hire again.
 - ii. The Landlord and leader of the toilets project met with the chosen contractor. The costings will be updated because a change in the toilet design could create a saving of between £520 and £730 depending on the final design chosen. A National Lottery Community Fund application has been submitted and the deadline for spending the first grant (from the National Lottery Awards for All fund) is October 2021. If the second grant is successful and processed promptly there is an opportunity to undertake the toilets project as one complete job rather than two separate jobs, which could see a saving of £3,000. Decisions will need to be taken on how to proceed once the outcome of the second grant application is known.
- 17. The Clerk advised that the annual service inspections of the boiler and the fire safety appliances in the Village Hall will be taking place in February. Service providers used in recent years will be returning. It is expected that at least one fire extinguisher will need replacing.
- 18. Correspondence:
 - i. The Clerk shared details of a consultation on the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm with the Council ahead of the meeting. No comments were made.
- 19. Finance:
 - i. The Clerk confirmed receipt of the SCDC Covid Grant of £100.00.
 - ii. The **Parish Council resolved** to approve the reconciliation of the bank statement with payments and receipts for the period 1st October to 31st December 2020. The Clerk explained the difference, being uncleared cheque payments.
 - iii. The **Parish Council resolved** to accept the proposed budget and precept for 2021-22 of £6,900 which is the same as the current precept.
 - iv. The **Parish Council resolved** to approve the following payments:
 - *John Wright* – Village Hall improvements – £100.00
 - *M Eagle* – Zoom meeting fees January to May – £43.17
 - *The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal* – Wreath – £18.00
 - *K Wilde* – Salary payments January and February
 - *K Wilde* – Overtime October to December – £165.49
 - *K Wilde* – Reimbursements for travel costs October to December – £15.48
 - *E.on Next* – Direct Debit due 7th Jan 2021 – £16.12

A resident spoke to ask if the Parish Council would consider agenda item 23 at this time so that residents would not need to rejoin the meeting following the meeting closure under agenda Item 20. The Parish Council agreed that this was a reasonable request and moved the meeting forward to agenda item 23.

- 23. (Brought forward) The **Parish Council resolved** to set a new date for the Annual Parish Meeting as remote meetings are continuing because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The APM

will now take place ahead of the Annual General Meeting, starting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 18th May 2020. **Clerk to action.**

20. The **Parish Council resolved** that, under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business due to be transacted, the press and public should be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw from the meeting whilst matters pertaining to item 21 were discussed. All public members left the meeting.
21. The **Parish Council resolved** to approve the Clerk's request for sick pay for the period noted.
22. The meeting was re-opened to the press and public but no-one joined the meeting.
23. (Follows agenda item 19).
24. Time and date of the next meeting: **7.30 pm on Tuesday 16th March 2021.**
25. The meeting was closed at 9.48 pm.