

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 24 October 2022 at 7.00pm at the Hemingford
Abbots Village Hall



Present: Parish Councillors: Marcus Whewell (Chair), Zoe Ryall, Phillip Cooke, Peter Keen

County Councillor: Doug Dew

Members of the Public: 4

| 2022-2023 | Minutes |
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| 98 | <p><u>Public Participation (4 members of the public)</u></p> <p>The Chair (MW) opened the meeting at 7 pm and welcomed all the attendees.</p> <p>Representing The Hemingford Action Group (HAG), Iain Muspratt provided a brief update as follows: the American Golf lease runs for 10 years from August 2020 with options to renew. HAG's latest report has been added to the parish website.</p> <p>Susan Painter gave an update on the activities of PROVE. A new case officer for the Hemingford Park planning application has been appointed by HDC (Richard Sakyi). There is no news to report on the application itself. It was stated that the new tarmac road in front of the house was built without planning permission and is currently under investigation by HDC enforcement. HDC has requested new drawings for the lodge entrance from the applicant, but so far these are not available to view on the HDC planning portal. PROVE is in the process of becoming a limited, community company.</p> <p>Jo Wills and Sue Henderson requested that HAPC consider adopting the planters created for last year's jubilee celebrations as its own assets, in order that they can be covered under its existing insurance. The alternative is that the Jubilee committee insures them at a cost of £112 per annum. The planters are expected to be in use until after the coronation in summer 2023.</p> |
| 99 | <p><u>County/ District Councillors' Reports</u></p> <p>CCC Cllr. DD commented that issues remain in the Highways Dept, who are still in the process of recruiting a new highways officer. There is a proposal to create a separate budget specifically for LHI bids to speed up the approval and delivery process. CCC Cllr. DD also agreed to follow up again with HDC Cllr. Sarah Conboy regarding activities at the former Little Chef building.</p> |
| 100 | <p><u>To receive apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Cllr Glen Perrott and parish clerk Maxine Blewett sent apologies for absence.</p> |
| 101 | <p><u>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None</p> |
| 102 | <p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>There are no NEW planning applications.</p> <p>It was noted that the application for No 48 Common Lane (new garage and outbuilding) that was refused by HDC has gone to appeal via the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Also, HAPC wishes to inform parishioners that the proposed masterplan for Saint Ives is available to view on the parish website, with a deadline for comments of Monday 14th November.</p> |
| 103 | <p><u>Minutes of the previous meeting</u></p> <p>RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th of September 2022, including the proposed amendment with regard to The Hermitage (tree application).</p> |
| 104 | <p><u>Review and update the Action Plan.</u></p> <p>The Unity Bank paperwork for authorised signatories has now been completed.</p> <p>The proposed speedwatch leaflet will be addressed via the new communications sessions.</p> |
| 105 | <p><u>Consider and agree if Councillors should have an HAPC Business Card</u></p> <p>It was agreed that any councillor can have a business card on request, and also that a general card should be sourced providing details of how to contact the parish council clerk.</p> |

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| 106 | <p>Review of the Summer Sports Programme</p> <p>PC presented his report including the take-up by parishioners and (positive) feedback obtained. All agreed that the event was worthwhile, and well managed. The only significant issue was the high number of 'no-shows' which prevented other families from taking advantage of the sessions.</p> <p>Action: PC to contact HGPC to discuss their assessment and investigate whether this programme might be repeated in 2023.</p> <p>Action: PC to contact HDC to investigate potential solutions to the issue of late absences (such as a deposit scheme).</p> |
| 107 | <p>Analysis of the Streetlight Audit</p> <p>Action: PK will circulate his report in the next 10 days for discussion. This matter needs to be resolved ahead of HAPC setting its 2023 budget and the recommended precept (both to be completed in November).</p> |
| 108 | <p>Feedback from the Communications Meeting</p> <p>All agreed that the session was positive and productive.</p> <p>Action: All agreed actions from the session to be added to the Council's Actions List.</p> <p>Action: Communications to be added as a standing item at the monthly HAPC meeting, with appropriate time allotted.</p> |
| 109 | <p>Parish Book of Condolence</p> <p>It was agreed to store this at HDC, subject to HAPC securing guaranteed access in the future (for example, if it elected to put the book back on display in the future such as during the expected Coronation in 2023).</p> <p>Action: Clerk to investigate with HDC and report back</p> |
| 110 | <p>Meetings Attended</p> <p>MW summarised the various events attended. The main finding was the increasingly challenging financial situation at HDC, which may lead to a review of the services provided. Further notes are available from the clerk.</p> |
| 111 | <p>Councillor Recruitment</p> <p>Work continues to attract potential applicants for the current two vacancies.</p> |
| 112 | <p>Councillor Training</p> <p>PC confirmed his attendance in January 2023.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to check latest position for GP with respect to new councillor training.</p> |
| 113 | <p>Consider and agree whether HAPC should opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements</p> <p>Agreed that HAPC should NOT opt out and remain within the current arrangements.</p> |
| 114 | <p>Finance</p> <p>a) RESOLVED to approve the October payments and standing orders.</p> <p>b) RESOLVED to accept and approve the Quarter 2 bank reconciliation.</p> <p>c) Quarter 2 performance against budget will follow this week from the clerk.</p> <p>d) The annual inspection report of the play equipment from Wicksteed Leisure Ltd was discussed. It was RESOLVED to progress with the recommended repairs to the soft floor (cost £332), and in addition to obtain quotes for the repainting of the slide.</p> <p>e) The request from the Jubilee committee to add eleven of their planters to HAPC's Register and Public Liability Insurance Cover was discussed.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that on this occasion, HAPC cannot agree to this proposal. The Jubilee Committee have advised that they have obtained permission from CCC for the planters to remain in situ. However, HAPC have been engaged for a number of years in an unresolved dialogue with Highways / CCC regarding the responsibility for the siting of kerb stones on various verges throughout the parish. If HAPC were to now voluntarily adopt assets that are similarly sited this would create an inconsistency with the previously taken position and so create confusion in our ongoing discussions.</p> |
| 115 | <p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>Emails:</p> <p>17/10/22 MW – notes from HDC Engagement Session.</p> <p>17/10/22 Request to amend draft minutes by the homeowners of The Hermitage on planning application 22/01810/TRCA (Chair agreed the changes and the draft minutes were amended for approval at the PC meeting.</p> <p>17/10/22 Stacey Miller, Lead Transport and Infrastructure Officer. Request to complete survey on the Transport Plan.</p> <p>4/10/22 HDC Pre-application planning service - change in approach to amendments to planning applications and details the 'Planning Blitz' being undertaken by the District Council's Planning Services Department, which commences 4th October.</p> <p>3/10/22 Jessica Lancod-Frost, Policy officer, National Association of Local Councils. Article on The Summer Sports Programme in their Points of Light Magazine.</p> <p>3/10/22 HDC Council Meetings being streamed online from 12/10/22.</p> |

