

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Time: 7 pm Date: Monday 9th December 2024.

Venue: Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, High St, Hemingford Abbots, PE28 9AH.

PRESENT: HAPC Cllrs: Marcus Whewell, Rie Hargreaves, Glenda Perrott, Phillip Cooke, Peter Keen, Shaun Reinson. HDC Councillor Brett Mickelburgh. Clerk: Maxine Blewett

Members of the Public: 22



2024	Minutes
126	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>At the 'Meet your HDC Councillor' session at the weekend, parishioners were made aware that 4 residents, including the Chair of HAPC, had received letters from Kastle Solicitors representing the owners of Hemingford Park.</p> <p>During the extraordinary meeting, many parishioners raised their concern over the content of the letters and the date the letters were received, and also asked HAPC councillors what action the parish council had taken to support the Chair and the other parishioners that had received letters.</p> <p>Cllr PC responded to say that the Chair had the PC's full support and that HAPC had sought advice from NALC to determine the status of the letter. NALC have confirmed that HAPC have the power under Section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972 to instruct a solicitor to verify whether this is a PC or personal matter.</p> <p>A representative from Houghton and Wyton Parish Council spoke about the Code of Conduct (a set of principles that outline how a councillor should behave). Highlighting two of the principles: Integrity and making decisions in the public interest he also praised HAPC councillors for respecting the principles and for their collective decision making in carrying out all parish council business. Given that the parish council make decisions by majority vote, he believed that the letters from Kastle Solicitors were for the parish council to respond to and not a personal issue for the Chair to manage. Furthermore he encouraged the parish council to respond rather than seek legal advice. These sentiments were echoed by parishioners.</p> <p>Parishioners suggested that HAPC take the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HAPC to take responsibility for the response to Kastle Solicitors as soon as possible. - HAPC to contact the Police to report the letters and other behavioural issues from the owners of HP, which threatens local democracy.
127	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>None</p>
128	<p>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</p> <p>MW declared an interest (item 130) and will remove himself from the meeting when discussions commence.</p>
129	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising</p> <p>Resolved to approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th November 2024. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.</p>
130	<p>Response to Kastle Solicitors</p> <p>HAPC to consider the recommendations provided by NALC in relation to the two letters addressed to the Chair and copied to the clerk, and agree the next steps.</p> <p><u>The Chair left the meeting at 20.20</u></p> <p>Resolved that HAPC appoints an independent solicitor specialising in Local Government law to verify the status of Kastle Solicitor's letters to clarify if it is a matter for the parish council or the Chair to respond. If it is confirmed that the parish council has the power to legally respond to Kastles Solicitors HAPC will seek support from Buckles Solicitors, who are familiar with the issues. Proposed by Cllr PC, seconded by PK, all in favour.</p> <p><u>The Chair rejoined the meeting at 20.30</u></p>
131	<p>Planning Applications & Appeals</p> <p>NEW (Property)</p> <p>a) 24/01857/LBC Abbots End High Street Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AA. Proposal: Addition of a patio and garden path. Resolved neither for nor against this planning application. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr PC, all in favour.</p>

	NEW -Trees
b)	24/02132/TREE 24 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. Proposal: G1 Lime to be reduced by 3-4 metres to bring the tree back into shape. Received: Fri 15 Nov 2024 Validated: Mon 25 Nov 2024. Resolved neither for nor against this planning application. Proposed by Cllr PK, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.
c)	24/02231/TREE The Hermitage Rideaway Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AG. Proposal: Beech - crown reduce branches to improve the shape of tree by 1-2m but in case of one over-extended branch by 5m and removing pegs from previous pruning. Received: Thu 28 Nov 2024 Validated: Fri 29 Nov 2024. Resolved neither for nor against this planning application. Proposed by Cllr PK, seconded by Cllr GP, all in favour.
	Noted:
d)	24/02239/TRCA 20 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. Proposal: T2 Amelanchier on front boundary: reduce crown by 50-60cm to form rounded shape. Ref. No: Received: Fri 29 Nov 2024 Validated: Fri 29 Nov 2024. <i>HAPC was asked to comment.</i>
e)	24/02241/TRCA 18 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. Proposal: T1 Gleditsia - Crown lift to 6m to clear lower roof by 2m. Ref. No: Received: Fri 29 Nov 2024 Validated: Fri 29 Nov 2024. <i>HAPC has not been asked to comment.</i>
f)	24/02200/TRCA Littlecote Rideaway Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AG. Proposal: Remove x3 lime trees leaving the stumps ground level & x1 silver birch leaving the stump ground level. Received Mon 25 Nov 2024 Validated: Mon 25 Nov 2024. <i>HAPC was not asked to comment.</i>
g)	24/02133/TRCA 40 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. :Leylandii conifer - fell Status. Received Fri 15 Nov 2024. <i>HAPC was not asked to comment.</i>
132	Finances
a)	Resolved to approve the payments for December , Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr SR, all in favour. Subsequent to the meeting two additional invoices for CPRE (£36.00) and Buckles Solicitors (£3,801.60) were included in the payments made in December, these will be ratified at the next meeting.**
b)	Resolved to approve and accept the bank reconciliation for November. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr PK, all in favour.
c)	Resolved to approve budget for 2025/26 (an increase of 10% on the Precept) and for the Clerk to request the Precept from HDC. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr PK, all in favour.
133	Matters for future consideration N/A
134	Closure of the Meeting 8.55 pm
135	Date of the next Meeting: <u>Note that since the meeting on the 9/12/24 the next PC meeting has been moved to:</u> Monday 20th / Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7 pm in the Village Hall, High Street, Hemingford Abbots PE28 9AH.

Payments for December

An additional payment was approved (item132a) to CPRE for £36.00 and a late invoice received from Buckles Solicitors £3801.60.

Payments to be approved & paid:			DECEMBER 2024 PAYMENTS		
			Net	VAT	Total
BACS	4220 Bradgates	Strimming and grass cutting in November	£ 120.00	£ 24.00	£ 144.00
BACS	4070 Parish Online	Annual subscription	£ 37.50	£ 7.50	£ 45.00
BACS	4275 Town and Parish Council Websites	Annual website hosting and maintenance 1/12/24-1/12/25	£ 350.00		£ 350.00
BACS	4020 HMRC	PAYE for December	£ 4.20		£ 4.20
Sub Total			£1,082.10	£ 31.50	£1,113.60
DDM					
DDM	4250 Yu Energy Direct Debit Mandage	November's electricity supply	£ 159.23	£ 7.96	£ 167.19
DDM	4250 Yu Energy Direct Debit Mandage	September's electricity supply	£ 12.61	£ 0.63	£ 13.24
Total			£1,253.94	£ 40.09	£1,294.03
**BACS	4096 Buckles Solicitors	Planning Appeal Hearing	£3168.00	£633.80	£3801.60
**BACS	4070 CPRE	Annual subscription	£ 35.64	£ 0.36	£ 36.00

New Total payments for December

£4457.58 £673.89 £5131.63