

# Hilton Parish Council

Report from the Meetings of the Council dated Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 & Monday 1 March 2021

## Christmas Lights



The Christmas lights were installed at the cricket pavilion by volunteers and feedback from parishioners has been overwhelmingly positive. The Council resolved to thank the volunteers involved in their installation.

## Parish Council Email Addresses

Councillors agreed to use their parish council email addresses for all PC business, in line with GDPR and the Freedom of Information legislation. Councillors' email addresses can be found on both the council website ([www.hiltonparishcouncil.com](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.com)) and the noticeboards. The Clerk's email address remains unchanged – [clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com)

## Green Open Spaces

The Council resolved to spend £2,380 for the necessary annual tree work across the village. A copy of the tree report is available on the Council website in the supporting documents for the December meeting. The Council also agreed to spend £600 planting a small copse of trees on the north side of Wraggs Row, at the entrance to the Wilderness. The Council have agreed to purchase the materials required to improve the surface of the car park at the village hall, at a cost of £168. This work will be carried out by volunteers.

## Hemingford Grey Quarry Reopening

The Clerk has contacted the operator of this quarry who has advised that the majority of the vehicles to/from this quarry will be using the A1307. They have kindly agreed to commit to putting in a standing instruction that any trucks that travel through Hilton are requested not to exceed 20mph whilst traveling through the village.

## Google Maps

It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council by a parishioner that Google Maps and other navigation applications are directing traffic through Hilton as the fastest route from St Ives to the A1 south and the A14 west. Hilton Parish Council has instructed the Clerk to write to Highways England, Cambridgeshire County Council, and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to ask whether this was an expected outcome of the A14 southern bypass and what their organisation intends to do about it.

At the next meeting, the Council reviewed the response from Highways England, who stated that the signage on the A1307 was not yet complete, as was the work in Huntingdon. The Council asked the Clerk to contact Google Maps and advise them of the issue that they are causing for Hilton.

## A14 Traffic Modelling Review

As part of the planning for the A14 southern bypass, local traffic modelling was carried out in Hilton in 2015 with the assurance that this modelling would be reviewed once the scheme was opened. Hilton Parish Council has resolved to write to County Councillor Ian Bates to ask for his help in ensuring that this modelling review is carried out.

## Petition to achieve a 24hr HGV Ban on B1040 & LHI Bid

Hilton Parish Council have resolved to distribute a petition to all households in Hilton to illustrate the support within the village for a 24hr HGV ban on the B1040. This will be used to support the current LHI (Local Highways Improvement) bid for funding for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to prohibit HGVs from the B1040 through Hilton.

At the next meeting, the Council asked the working group to prepare the 500-word document for the Clerk to send to support this submission. The Council resolved to include the response to the HGV petition which received responses from 416 residents. Thank you to those residents who responded to this petition. Cllr P. Balicki represented the Council at the panel meeting in February.

## Equals Corporate Card

The current prepaid MasterCard used by the Council has introduced a monthly fee, so the Council have resolved to switch to the Equals Corporate Card which has no monthly fee.

## Census 2021

Hilton Parish Council have resolved to promote Census 2021 on their website and Facebook page. For the first time this will be a digital-first Census, but paper copies will be available for those who need it.

## Slow Ways Initiative

Hilton Parish Council has passed a formal resolution to support Slow Ways.

Slow Ways is a project to create a network of walking routes that connect all of Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages.

Using existing footpaths, people will be able to use the Slow Ways routes to walk between neighbouring settlements or combine routes for long distance journeys.

During lockdown 700 volunteers from across the country collaborated to produce a first draft of the Slow Ways network, creating a stunning Slow Ways map in the process. This incredible effort has led to the creation of 7,500 routes that collectively stretch for over 110,000km.

They are currently working on building a website that will host all of the Slow Ways routes and plan to launch that at the end of January.

Further information can be found on their website: [www.slowways.uk](http://www.slowways.uk)

### Councillor Resignation

Cllr Laura Chorlton has resigned from Hilton Parish Council. The proper notice of vacancy was issued and there was no request for an election

### Councillor Co-Option



The Clerk issued the advertisement for co-option after the expiry of the notice of vacancy. Two candidates put themselves forward for co-option and the Council resolved to co-opt Ettore McCarthy. Ettore (Ett) is serving his second term as a Councillor, having served nearly 5 years during his first. He moved to Hilton in 2007 with his wife Fiona and their son Tom. Their daughter Francesca was born very soon after. Ett has always been village focussed, previously having been on the Hilton Feast Week and Hilton Ball Committees for several years. His professional life is in aviation, working for easyJet as a Captain on the Airbus fleet. In his spare time, he is a keen cyclist and loves to ski when the chance permits. He says "I look forward to hearing from parishioners on their views, ideas or concerns. Hilton is a great village and I look forward to being part of a team that continues to keep it flourishing."

### NATS Consultation response regarding the London Luton airport holding stack relocation

Cllr P. Balicki and Cllr E. McCarthy have drafted a negative response to this consultation which the Clerk has sent. A copy of the Council's response can be viewed on the website –

[www.hiltonparishcouncil.com/nats-london-luton-airport-consultation](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.com/nats-london-luton-airport-consultation)

You can also view copies of the responses sent by CCC and Jonathan Djanogly MP.

### NMU Route from Hilton to Fenstanton

The Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Transport Committee has met and decided that the NMU (non-motorised users) route from Hilton to Fenstanton is not included in the first round of funding. There will be a second round of funding and it is hopeful that this project will be included. The Council asked the Clerk to write to the Highways and Transport Committee to ensure that this route is included.

### Rural Community Energy Fund

There is a fund available to encourage the use of sustainable energy sources in rural communities. The Council has instructed the Clerk to engage with the providers of this fund to establish what is feasible for Hilton.

## Consultations

The Council asked the Clerk to respond on their behalf to the consultations from CCC regarding their Highways Service and from NALC regarding land ownership.

## Living Sport Grant

The Council have resolved to apply for a grant from Living Sport to organise community sporting events. The Clerk is working with Cllr H. Chambers to submit this application.

## Policies

The Council has updated their Equal Opportunities Policy (formerly the Equality and Diversity Policy) and approved new policies for the Reserves Policy, General Risk Assessment and an Action Plan for 2020/21. Copies of these policies, and all the other policies, can be viewed on the Council's website – [www.hiltonparishcouncil.com/council-documents/policy](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.com/council-documents/policy)

## Heavy Rainfall 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Hilton Parish Council has produced a report regarding the events of 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> December and their effects. You can read a copy of this report on the Parish Council website - [www.hiltonparishcouncil.com/news/heavy-rainfall-23rd-and-24th-december-2020](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.com/news/heavy-rainfall-23rd-and-24th-december-2020)

## Community Library in the Bus Shelter

The Parish Council has received evidence that a fire has been set in the bus shelter and a special motion was presented to reconsider the installation of a bookcase in the bus shelter for the community library. The Council has asked for further information including:

- Proof of ownership of the bus shelter to confirm liabilities
- Risk assessment
- Structural assessment including asbestos
- Further clarification from the insurance company
- Alternative locations such as the Church or the Village Hall

## Dates for Future Meetings

The current legislation that allows the Council to meet remotely expires on 7<sup>th</sup> May and the roadmap does not allow face-to-face meetings until 21<sup>st</sup> June (at the earliest). NALC, CAPALC and the SLCC are currently lobbying the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to extend this legislation. To date, the MHCLG have not responded. Hilton Parish Council has resolved to hold their April meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April (to avoid Easter Monday) and their Annual Meeting of the Council in May on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, prior to the expiry of the legislation. They have also resolved that the Chair should convene the Annual Parish Meeting (this is not a Council meeting but a meeting of the electorate) on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March via Zoom.

## Playground Inspection

The Council have appointed Wicksteed to carry out the annual playground safety inspection at a cost of £60.

## Internal Auditor

The Council have appointed Able Accounts to carry out their internal audit at a cost of £200.

## Village Map



In 2016, Hilton Parish Council produced a map initially used as reference material for the environment management plan and the green spaces management policy. The Parish Council have now agreed to publish this map in a pdf format at a lower resolution (as the original file size is too large). You can view a copy of the map on the parish council website – <https://hiltonparishcouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HGS-Village-Map-A2-09.pdf> High quality printed A2 copies of the map are still available for £5 – if you would like one please contact the Clerk – [clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com)

## Rotary Club Walking Trail

The Council gave their permission for the images of Parish Council assets to be used in the Rotary Club walking trail and asked that they note that the maze is currently closed.

## CAPALC Membership

Hilton Parish Council has resolved to renew its membership of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils.

## Planning Update

The Planning Committee has considered the outline application for rural exceptions housing for up to 18 dwellings with all matters reserved, except access, on land west Of Wychwood, Church End and has resolved again that it recommends this application for refusal as it does not comply with the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 and could not address a housing need in Hemingford Grey or Hemingford Abbots. You can read the letters that the Parish Council have sent in response on the Planning Portal - <https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>

*The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website [www.hiltonparishcouncil.com](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.com). Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.*