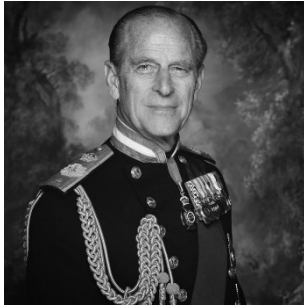




Hilton Parish Council

Report from the Meeting of the Council dated Monday 12th April 2021

His Royal Highness Prince Philip The Duke of Edinburgh



The Chair opened the meeting with a statement regarding the death of HRH Prince Philip and there was a period of silence. Due to the current national guidelines, the Council will not be providing a physical book of condolence. Instead, an online book of condolence was made available on the Parish Council website and the Clerk has put notices up to this effect. In accordance with the wishes of the Duke of Edinburgh, the laying of flowers is discouraged and parishioners who wish to do something are encouraged to donate to charity instead.

Ivy Cutting

Cllr Ian Stott organised remote working ivy cutting where he assigned different areas to volunteers to ensure there was social distancing. A thank you message has been sent to the volunteers that took part.

Pavilion Street Light (PC26)

The remedial work to this lamppost which is leaning and unstable has been authorised using the Clerk/Chair authority and will cost £120 +VAT. Post meeting note: This work has now been carried out.

Council Tax

Whilst the Parish Council have resolved to keep the precept amount the same at £30,600, the tax base has reduced from 455 to 450 so this equates to a 1.1% increase in the amount paid by homeowners. The tax base is calculated by looking at the equivalent number of band D properties in the Parish, adding the number of houses due to be built and taking away those properties in receipt of council tax support or single person supplement. In the case of Hilton, the tax base has been reduced due to the increase of properties in receipt of council tax support.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee presented the end of year accounts to the Council and also proposed the levels of earmarked reserves, which the Council agreed. These documents can be found with the supporting documents on the Council website.

Policies

The Council resolved to adopt a Grant Making Policy, Expenses Policy, Sickness Absence Policy, Finance Committee Terms of Reference and an Asset Management Plan. These policies, together with all of the Council policies, can be found on the Council website.

Remote Meetings

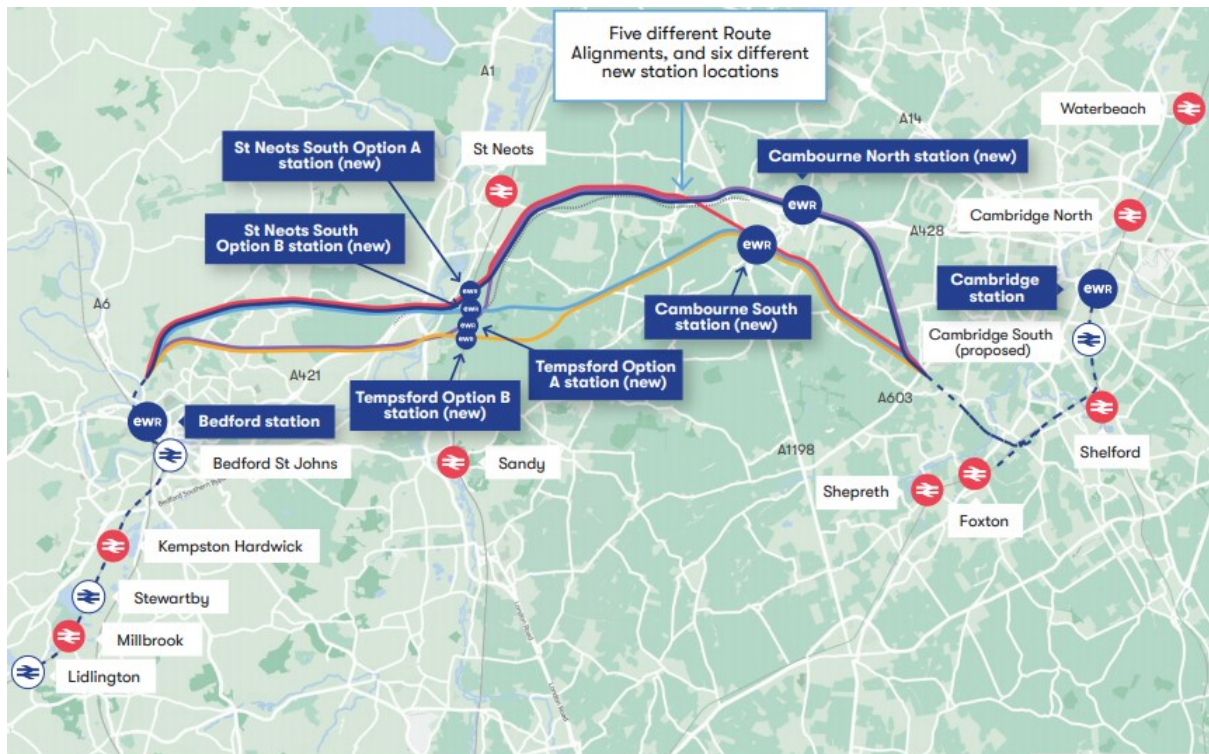
The Council are still monitoring the situation regarding the legislation that permits remote meetings. The Council has asked the Clerk and Chair to respond to the Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government's current call for evidence regarding remote meetings.

LHI Bid 2021/22

Hilton Parish Council has received the first draft of the LHI panel scorecard which shows that their bid for a Traffic Regulation Order application to prohibit HGVs on the B1040 24 hours a day was likely to be unsuccessful as there was not sufficient funding. The Parish Council originally agreed to contribute £9,000 towards this project, but the reduced cost in the feasibility study from Cambridgeshire County Council also reduced the Parish Council contribution to £5,299.67. Hilton Parish Council have resolved to contact Cambridgeshire County Council and advise that Hilton Parish Council will contribute £9,000 to this project to ensure its viability.

Oxford to Cambridge Railway Consultation

Hilton Parish Council have resolved to respond to this consultation to state that whilst they are in favour of the development of this railway line, they want to ensure that the construction traffic does not come through Hilton. Parishioners can view the information regarding this proposal at www.eastwestrail.co.uk



Legend

- Route Alignment 1 - Emerging preference**
St Neots South Option A station to Cambourne North station
- Route Alignment 2**
St Neots South Option A station to Cambourne South station
- Route Alignment 3**
St Neots South Option B station to Cambourne North station
- Route Alignment 4**
St Neots South Option B station to Cambourne South station
- Route Alignment 5**
Tempsford Option A station to Cambourne North station
- Route Alignment 6**
Tempsford Option B station to Cambourne South station
- Route Alignment 7**
Other area of East West Rail
- Route Alignment 8**
Tempsford Option A station to Cambourne North station
- Route Alignment 9 - Emerging preference**
Tempsford Option B station to Cambourne North station
- Proposed A428 Alignment**
- ≡ National Rail station
- ewr Station used by East West Rail services
- ≡ Station that may be used by East West Rail services

Community Library

The Council has resolved to enter into a conversation with the Parochial Church Council with regards to putting the Community Library in the Church.

Moles

Hilton Parish Council have resolved to employ a mole catcher to deal with the moles on the Green around the churchyard at a cost of £80.

Horse Riding on the Green

The Council discussed the issue regarding horses being ridden across the Green inappropriately and thanked the Clerk for the letters that have been distributed to the horse owners and the signs on the Green.

Fences

The Council have agreed to purchase oak timber to repair the fences across the Green at a cost of £365.69.

Litter Pickers

The Council has resolved to purchase 8 more litter pickers and advertise that they are available to parishioners. If you would like to borrow a litter picker, please contact the Clerk – clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com

Annual Parish Meeting Minute Book

The Council has resolved to purchase a minute book for the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting at a cost of £81.

WI Bench

The Council has agreed to site the new bench in replacement of the old WI memorial bench in the original position where it was previously near the Maze.

Clerk Matters

The Council has agreed to increase the Clerk's working from home allowance to £6 per week in accordance with HMRC guidelines and also form a NEST pension scheme for the Clerk. The Council received the results of the Clerk's appraisal and approved the objectives set and also resolved to increase the Clerk's salary by an increment on the salary scale at a cost of £23.92 per month. Further to the Clerk's appraisal the Council also agreed to add the phrase "To act as the Website Administrator in accordance with the Media Policy and be responsible for the maintenance and management of the Council website, Facebook page and email distribution list." to the Clerk's job description. The Council has agreed that the Chair can authorise overtime up to the limit in the financial regulations each month.

Post Meeting Note

Cllr Ann Goodridge has resigned from Hilton Parish Council and the appropriate notice of vacancy has been issued.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th May 2021 via Zoom. Agendas will be issued in advance on the village notice boards and the Council's website www.hiltonparishcouncil.com. Parishioners are welcome to speak at council meetings on agenda items.