

Hilton Parish Council

In accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020 and the subsequent Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020, the rules governing how the Parish Council conducts its meetings have been temporarily amended. These statues remove the requirement to hold an Annual Meeting of the Council and an Annual Parish Meeting and any appointments such as Chair will be carried forward until the next Annual Meeting in 2021. They also allow the Council to conduct its meetings remotely providing that the Members and the public can hear and be heard and ideally see and be seen. Therefore, the Parish Council and its Committees have successfully been conducting all their meetings via Zoom. The Zoom meeting details can be found at the top of the agenda and all Parishioners are very welcome to join these meetings. If you would prefer a link to be emailed to you, please contact the Clerk.

Report from the Meetings of the Council dated Thursday 23rd April, Monday 4th May, Monday 1st June, and Monday 6th July 2020

Zoom Meetings

The Parish Council have resolved to purchase a Zoom pro account at a cost of £11.99 per month to remove the time limit of 40 minutes per meeting.

Scheme of Delegation

The Parish Council have approved a scheme of delegation which allows the Clerk to act on any issue of such urgency, that it cannot wait until the next normal Council meeting. If circumstances permit, the Clerk would normally be expected to consult the Chairman or Vice Chairman (if the Chairman is unavailable) and take his/her view into account. It also allows the Clerk to incur expenditure on behalf of the Council, which is necessary to carry out any repair, replacement or other work which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of £300.00 and to take any action regarding minor repairs (up to a cost of £300.00) and to report minor matters to the relevant authority. A copy of this scheme of delegation can be read on the Council's website.

Cllr Heather Chambers

In May the Parish Council voted unanimously to co-opt Heather Chambers to fill their casual vacancy. Heather has lived in Hilton for 18 years, is married with 2 grown up children who both attended Swavesey Village College. Heather was Vice Principal at Long Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge and retired in 2018. She is actively involved in a church in Cambridge, enjoys walking and cycling, boating on the River Ouse and looking after her 18-month old grandson one day a week. Last year she entered the Hilton produce show for the first time and was delighted to win 3 cups! She is keen to listen to parishioners' views and continue to work on improving life in the village for all villagers.

Coronavirus Volunteer Scheme

Hilton Parish Council, in co-ordination with the Town Trust, Women's Institute, Churches, Community Website and Village Hall Committee, organised assistance to any parishioner who needed it during lockdown. Examples of assistance included collecting shopping and prescriptions, help getting online and using Zoom and friendly phone calls to isolated parishioners. An astounding number of parishioners volunteered for this scheme and the Parish Council would like to thank each of them for their kind help.

Non-Motorised Users Route to Fenstanton/St Ives Update

An update has been received from Cambridgeshire County Council to advise that Highways England are looking to allocate funding to take this project to the detailed design phase – hopefully in 2020/21.

B1040 Non-Motorised Users Route

Eagle-eyed parishioners may have noticed that the path alongside the B1040 towards St Ives has been amended to relocate the crossing point to a position where there is greater visibility for non-motorised users. The Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Heather Chambers for her tenacious work in achieving this amendment.

Local Highways Initiative (LHI) Funding Scheme

Work is continuing on the successful LHI bid to gather and analyse sufficient evidence that would persuade Cambridgeshire County Council that the TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) objections of 1998 are no longer valid and no current objections would result following removal of the B1040 through Hilton from the AFR (Advisory Freight Route) map. Hilton Parish Council would like to thank those parishioners who completed their recent survey.

Ford

The Parish Council are aware of the dangerous situation with regards to the slippery surface of the ford and the consequential danger to cyclists and other users. The Parish Council have been in dialogue with Cambridgeshire County Council, who are responsible for the ford, to try and resolve this situation. Officers from Cambridgeshire County Council have recently decided to install warning signs to ask cyclists to dismount. In the meantime, Hilton Parish Council have put up some temporary signs. The Clerk has also been in contact with the water company to address the leaks along Church End, which have been preventing the ford from emptying in the summer and allowing the algae to flourish. Cambridgeshire County Council are also looking into other measures to address the surface of the Ford and Hilton Parish Council will continue to liaise with them.

CAPALC

Hilton Parish Council have renewed their membership of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC). They have also resolved to organise some Councillor training using the CAPALC outreach programme.

Audit

The internal audit was completed in a socially distanced manner and the external audit and governance review has been approved by the Parish Council and submitted to PKF Littlejohn for review. The period of electors' rights has been set and was from Monday 13th July to Friday 21st August. A copy of the Annual Governance and Accountability review can be found on the Parish Council website.

Bridge Repair

Several parishioners reported that there was a loose plank on the bridge by the ford. This plank has now been replaced. If you notice any damage or defects please report them to the Clerk – clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com

Insurance

The Parish Council's three-year deal with Came and Company has ended, and they have switched to CAS Ltd which has reduced the insurance premium from £1317.29 (renewal price) to £698.76.

Website Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 in accordance with The Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile Applications No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018

Hilton Parish Council have resolved to instruct BWP Creative Ltd to build a compliant website at a cost of £699. This should be completed by the deadline of 23rd September 2020.

A428 Consultation Response

The Parish Council sent a letter in response to the recent consultation regarding the A428 Black Cat upgrades. A copy of this letter can be found on the Parish Council website.

Playground

In accordance with the Government guidance, the playground was closed during lockdown. In July, the Clerk and Cllr Ian Stott completed a maintenance assessment and a Coronavirus risk assessment. The playground has since been reopened with appropriate signage and the Parish Council would like to encourage you to follow the guidance on these signs to allow everyone to use the playground safely.

Maintenance Person

Cllr Graham Barradell has been appointed to the position of Maintenance Person. As he is a serving Councillor, he is unable to be paid for this role and will do this work as a volunteer.

Path behind Kidmans Close

A large amount of green waste was dumped on the path from Potton Road to Kidmans Close, rendering the pathway unusable. This has now been cleared by the Maintenance Person. Parishioners are reminded to dispose of their waste in an appropriate manner.

Dog Fouling

The Clerk has received several reports from responsible dog owners to state that they are picking up mess left by other dog owners, especially on the paths around the village. Dog walkers are reminded to always clear up after their dogs and dispose of the mess in one of the many bins around the village.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th September 2020 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.