

Hilton Parish Council

The Parish Council trusts you had a good Christmas and wishes you a very happy New Year.

A14

The Highways Agency submitted its application for the new scheme to the Planning Inspectorate on 31 December 2014. The documentation has now been posted on the inspectorates website and can be found at

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon-improvement-scheme/?ipcsection=overview>

The Planning Inspectorate has a period of 28 days from receiving the application to accept it. Should the application be accepted in this period then the period allowing interested parties to register with the Inspectorate will be opened. Obviously when writing this entry this has not happened but the Parish Council are monitoring the situation and be advising each household should the application progress to this stage. There are some 770 documents making up the application and the Parish Council's working group are studying them close to full understand the implications for Hilton.

Following a meeting with representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdon District Council and Highways Agency we are aware that the local authorities have confirmed that they feel the proposed application has been complied correctly but they did highlight the need for more information on Hilton mitigation and environmental impact. As a Parish Council we will present our observations and comments to the local authorities to be considered at their local committee meetings due to be held in March. The Parish Council will very likely arrange another open meeting in the village hall if and when the Planning Inspectorate accepts the submission so we can advise the next steps for individuals to take in the next stage of the process.

Casual Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council following the resignation of Stephen Whyte due to his move from the village. The Parish Council thanks Stephen for all his hard work and contributions to the Parish Council during his time as a Councillor. The vacancy has been advertised by Huntingdon District Council and as there has been no call for a full election the next step will be for the vacancy to be advertised for co-option. If you are interested in being considered for this vacancy a notice will be placed on the village notice boards detailing the period of time during which you can contact the Clerk to register your interest.

Trees and Ditches

The planned tree maintenance and ditch clearing has commenced during January in accordance with the agreed schedule of work. Unfortunately the Parish Council has not been able to commission all the work we would have liked due to financial constraints however we are confident the essential work is complete especially in respect of safety.

Precept

The Parish council has submitted an application to Huntingdon District Council for a precept of £27,070 for the financial year 2015/16. Based on an electorate of 816 (as at the Parish Council election on 4 July 2013) this equates to an average of 9.5p per elector per week. Following a full survey of impending maintenance work over the coming years the Parish Council proposed this increase so we can continue to maintain the assets of our village to an adequate standard. Details of the precept proposal are available on our website www.hilton-pc.co.uk

Crossing on Potton Road

We have been advised that the cost of this project exceeded £20,000 and under the terms of the funding scheme the Parish council will be contributing £10,000 toward the scheme. This will be paid over 3 years with the funds coming from the Parish Council's reserves as was agreed when the project was applied for.

Speedwatch

Following changes to the way in which Cambridgeshire Constabulary wish village Speedwatch schemes to be operated the majority of the previous volunteer operators of the scheme have advised us that they are standing down. This leaves Hilton without a Speedwatch team. Councillor Justo Perez is preparing a new team of volunteers and if you would like to be involved please contact our Clerk who will be able to advise you of the requirements of the scheme. The Parish Council would like to thank all those volunteers who have given their time under the previous scheme.

Neighbourhood Watch

In light of the number of burglaries in the area toward the end of 2014 we are reminded to urge residents to secure their property and belongings and remain vigilant to unexpected callers. Advice on making your property secure can be found at the Neighbourhood Watch website www.ourwatch.org.uk

Fireworks

The Parish Council would like to thank Feast Week for their generous donation to the firework event, helping to ensure that the 2014 event was a financial success. A review of the way future events will be run is underway with a view to secure firework night for 2015 and beyond.

Next Meeting

The next full meeting of the Parish Council is taking place on Monday 26th January 2015 at 7.30 pm at Hilton Village Hall. The next meeting after that is scheduled for Monday 2nd March 2015. We would like to remind parishioners who intend to speak at any Parish Council meeting that it must be related to an agenda item published in advance.

Notice of agendas, minutes of meetings and contact details will be placed on the HPC website; www.hilton-pc.co.uk and on the village notice boards. You can contact our Clerk, Mrs Jo Perez at hiltonparishclerk@gmail.com