

Minutes of Hilton Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 19th May 2015 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr P. Balicki, Cllr G. Barradell, Cllr A. Parkinson, Cllr J. Perez, Cllr S. Perry and Cllr W. Wilson.

In attendance: The Clerk - Mrs Jo Perez & 14 Parishioners

Apologies for Absence - Cllr K. Dunk & Cllr A. Goodridge

To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2014 - propose that we approve APM minutes at the next PC meeting rather than the following year.

The minutes of the APM held on 20th May 2014 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council, P.B Prop, J.P 2nd, all Cllrs present were in favour.

Welcome and Introduction

As the Chairman of the Parish Council P. Balicki was present he presided over the meeting and welcomed the Parishioners and Speakers to the meeting.

Cllr Ian Bates - Cambridge County Council - responsibilities

Gave Parishioners handouts containing facts and figures about CCC. There are 69 Councillors the cover a large area from Wisbech, Kings Lynn, Northamptonshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex and Hertfordshire. The 69 Councillors are made up of 7 labour, 4 independents, 11 UKIP, 13 liberal democrats and 35 Conservative, so there is no political overall control. Cambridge County Council have a committee system. The full Council meet 7 or 8 times a year and is filmed. This is where the budget is set in February. There are 6 committees, these are, Health, Adults, Children and young people, Highways and communities, Environment and Economy and General Purposes, each has its own budget, Chairman and Vice Chairman of different parties and there are 13 members on each committee. On average they meet once a month and all the papers are publically available and on the website. They have a large budget divided into revenue and capital. The biggest consumer of capital project is Education and building Schools. To build a primary School it costs around 11million and for a secondary School is around 40million For every house that is built on average roughly £22,000 comes from the developer to the District and County, this does depend on the land value. Money also comes from the Department of Education. Providing care for the old and vulnerable is a large cost. 500 children in this County are looked after by the care system. Public Health has transferred out of the NHS and back into the Cambridge County Council. County Council have to reduce their budget, the savings they need to make is 119million over the next couple of years.

Areas Cllr Bates represent are Hilton, Fenstanton, Hemingfords and Houghton and Wyton, 8,000 population.

Questions to Cllr Bates:-

Andy Bush - what is the total budget? just under 800million

Margaret Shardlow - where are the deprived areas? Fenland, all Secondary Schools in the Fenland area are brand new. Some in the City and some in Huntingdonshire.

Margaret Shadlow - do these area collate with the Children in care? No they don't.

Heidi - how much would it save if the proposed number of reduced Councillors was at the level, would it be a substantial saving? No, but there would be some saving.

Annual Review of the Parish Council Business

The Chairman gave a brief overview. The current PC was formed in July 2013 following the Election. Over the last year Cllr Stephen Whyte resigned as he moved away from the Village, Andrew Parkinson has recently joined the PC and there has been the recent resignation of Cllr Doreen Bates. The Chair thanked Doreen for all her hard work on the Council, especially for her work on the working parties she was part of. At the recent APCM both Cllr P. Balicki and Cllr G. Barradell were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair thanked the Vice Chair G. Barradell for his support and help over the year.

This year the crossing on Potton Road has been completed, this was agreed in 2012 under a matching finance scheme offer by CCC. Our contribution was a maximum of £10,000, the first part of that has been paid, the agreement is to pay over 3 years. We have paid £3334.00.

PC21 street light removal was an outstanding item from last year, light was removed this financial year. The road was not closed as originally agreed, the Chair thanked Mrs Collor for

advising us of this. The Clerk has managed to get a reduction for this of £1258.00 & VAT after being persistent with Balfour Beatty. The Clerk had joined the Parish Council had joined the PC last year and has done very well. It is a difficult task and she is very flexible with her working hours which is appreciated. The PC have benefitted from having a Clerk that lives in the Village. She is the Proper office and Financial officer and has to ensure the Council are working within the strict governance issues on how a PC should operate.

The Parish Council has responsibilities, they are responsible for some of the Street lighting, the maintenance of Ponds/ditches, trees and grass cutting. The PC would like to thank John Carter, Bernie Ashby, Rodney Makeham and Duncan McMichael for all the work they have done over the last year to keep the village maintained to a high standard. We had a change this year with Atlas Tree Surgeons being appointed to carry out work on tree maintenance and they did an extremely good job. The PC also make recommendations to HDC regarding planning applications. Fireworks continues to be very popular, the Chair thanked the Firework committee and the volunteers. The display was excellent and takings were considerably up on last year. There was a small surplus of £73.00, the Chair thanked Feast Week for its kind donation. The Working group met and proposed that there should be a 10% buffer kept in case of reduced takings, rather than spend all of the takings on Fireworks. This will hopefully allow the Firework display to continue. The bonfire site was cleared very quickly this year.

The Football pitch on the Green continues to be used by FYFC and we hope this can continue, discussion are ongoing with the club to make sure the grass is not damaged beyond repair. The Green Management Committee has worked hard in helping to maintain this over the year, they are also responsible for watercourses and ponds, Ian Stott has worked very closely with them and the Chair thanked him for his hard worked.

A14 the Scheme has moved forward with the planning inspectorate and on the 13th May they held a preliminary in Huntingdon, the meeting was a lot about the process. There were 3 out of the 4 planning inspectors present, they advised that the 6 month examination period commenced on the 14th May 2015. There will be an open floor meeting in Hilton on 13th July, when we have all the details we will advise Parishioners by flyer drop. Parishioners will be able to speak at the meeting but they will have to register to do this. There is a rule 8 letter coming out this week that will set out the process timetable and accompanied site visit.

The Chair ended by thanking all the Parish Councillors and welcomed Andrew Parkinson onto the Council. He thanked all for their hard work.

Parish Council Financial Report

Figures are draft as our accounts are currently with the internal auditor, then they will come to the PC at the 1st June meeting to be approved and then they will be sent to the external auditor by the 8th June 2015.

YR ending 31/3/2015 our precept was £23,047. Excluding other income and the Fireworks our expenditure was £23,067, within that year there was additional unexpected cost for the repairs to the Parish Council car park which the Town Trust kindly donated £250.00 towards the overall cost of £744.00. We had other income, from Fireworks with the donation from FW it came to £1763, the Fireworks expenditure was £1700. We had other income from FYFC and contributions to utilities and the sale of maps and a small refund on electricity, so the total income £25,882 and expenditure of £24767, so a surplus of £1115, on top of this we paid out £3334 as a first instalment on the crossing with the 2nd and 3rd payment to be paid within the next 2 financial years. The cost of the crossing is to come from PC reserves. There was also the cost of the removal of PC21 the Street Light that was going to be £3171.00 & VAT but following comments made earlier there is a reduction due to no road closure, this reduction is £1258.00 & VAT, leaving £1900 & VAT to pay. This payment will also come out of reserves. At the beginning of the year the PC had £29239 at the end of the year it had £27823 on top of which these items are still to be paid which total £6660.66 for the crossing and £1900 for the removal of the Street light. £800 has been put aside for the cost of a possible future election so that leaves the general reserves at £18445.

For the financial year ending 31/3/16 the precept was set and agreed by HDC at £27070, this increase will allow the PC to undertake an increased amount of tree maintenance to keep the village safe, attend to some of the extra work needed on the ditches and ponds and other repairs that may come up such as repairs to the car park, bridges, the maze and Sparrow Way thicket. The internal audit should be completed soon and the accounts will be published to the PC at the June meeting.

Rebecca Avery - Outreach Worker serving the South of Cambridgeshire - introduction

Rebecca wanted to give an overview of what the Police and Crime commissioner does, what their purpose and strategy is and an insight into Rebecca's role is.

Do all know who Sir Graham Bright is? Police and Crime Commissioners were brought in by legislation they had a social responsibility up to 2011, there was a public election and Sir Graham took office in November 2012 and his role encompasses the Police budget, to hold the Police to account and to set local policing strategy. In practice this is all in the Police and Crime plan booklet. It is a public document that can be accessed on the website. It encompasses certain objectives that Sir Graham has set out and what he wants the Police to address as they go about their business.

The Police are also having to save money and focusing on vulnerable people. There have been a lot of changes and they will continue to happen. Our focus has been to maintain local Police performance and within that deliver Policing that we should expect within the available budget. They have no money and they are having to work with a budget that is 13.3 million less than it was and are having to look at a further 8.2 million reduction in the budget they have. They are looking at best use of resources, they are collaborating back office functions and they are collaborating with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire police force on areas like - road traffic unit, dog unit, HR and support services. Police visibility is a concern that is raised a lot so money has been invested into giving Police better technology that allows them to be out and about and allows them to be visible, rather than being inside police stations filling in forms and paperwork. Maintaining local Police performances is one of the named objectives, there has been an increased use of volunteers. So there are more special constabulary members, police service volunteers, Speed watch schemes, neighbourhood watch schemes and police cadets which can also help with vulnerable people, they can get kids involved to promote active citizenship. They have an unallocated pot of money that they want to spend on youths/young people initiatives, bids can come in for anything, grants from £200.00 to £2500.00 can be for maybe a residential trip or areas of deprivation.

In continuing to tackle crime and disorder and keeping people safe these are interlinked, on the surface of it is quite simple but there are different types of crimes, in different communities have different problems, rural crime is quite a big issue. There is more alcohol related crime in this area. They are concentrating on the grass roots, why do people commit crime, so trying to be proactive rather than being reactive, trying to stop reoffending. Trying to stop young people getting involved in crime, looking at certain areas and why those areas more prevalent. Looking more closely at communities.

Final objective is maintaining the resilience of the protective services, there is a statutory obligation for local authorities and public services to show that they are doing something to actively curb extremism. Not just in terms of al Qaeda and what is happening in Syria but also looking at radical right wing extremism.

Why is Rebecca here, what is her role? Her role is to come out and about to PC meetings and out into the community, to speak to People to make sure they feel safe in their own environment and what are the concerns, Rebecca then feeds this back to Sir Graham. Rebecca has been in post since January and the first thing she has been working on is making sure people know what is being done to help with issues. The Police are good at dealing with issues but this is not always fed back to the Community so Rebecca wants to improve this. She wants to make people aware of things that may make People feel better and safer like, Neighbourhood watch, Parish newsletter, E-cops alert system which informs you of suspicious things that may have happened in our area. Rebecca wants to work together with Parishioners.

Questions for Rebecca:-

How can we contact Rebecca? Contact - Rebecca by email. The Parish Clerk can pass on her details.

Does the PCC have a formal review process? Yes you can book a surgery to speak with Sir Graham directly. Every quarter Sir Graham sits before a Police and Crime panel which has as one representative from each of the district areas and two independent members and they hold him to account and request reports.

Do you survey the population? What is the PCC doing, is he working for you? There is nothing in the legislator, it is down to Sir Graham checking these things through surgeries. Sir Graham sits with the Police Constable and checks what is being done about certain issues.

Hilton Neighbourhood Watch -Ken Harris

Neighbourhood watch has existed in Hilton for a number of years. It aims to improve security awareness, foster good communications between residents between and the Police and by improving awareness to alay undue fear of crime or antisocial behaviour. There are in Hilton 18 discrete area schemes, in each area a coordinator is registered with the Police to receive and relay messages between Police and residents. Cambridge constabulary provide weekly updates to registered members of the public by email which is called a 'Neighbourhood alert message'. To receive messages a member of the public can register with the e-cops scheme that is run by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. You can follow links on their website to register. Alternatively residents can chose to join the local neighbourhood watch scheme and will receive those messages. To apply to join your local team you can contact the national neighbourhood and home watch network or by contacting ken, his telephone number is in Spectrum. Registered subscribers to e-cops or neighbourhood watch will receive weekly updates neighbourhood alert updates about crime or anti social behaviour in the area and feedback from the neighbourhood Policing team about what is being done to tackle it. Also, Police use the neighbourhood alert to target emails to registered residents living in the vicinity of a reported crime as there is always a chance this will stimulate residents to contribute useful information. In addition the Police and Crime commissioner has advertised job opportunities through neighbourhood alert messages. For anyone who doesn't have access to the internet the area neighbourhood coordinator can act as an intermediary but if you have difficulties please contact Ken Harris.

Another crime to be aware of is fraud or attempted fraud, telephone calls, clone websites and failed delivery cards, all attempting to take money from you. Action Fraud is the national reporting centre for fraud and financially motivated cyber crime, it is run by the City of London Police, they contribute warnings on scams that have emerged and related security advice through the Neighbourhood alert system. Always be wary of contacts that you did not instigate. Register with the telephone preference service to help cut down on cold calls, check out unsolicited telephone callers on a separate telephone line if possible. Do not click on email links , type in the URL for the website details. Banks and Building Societies will NEVER ask for your full security details. If you need to contact the police, then do this either by calling 999 if and emergency or 101 if not an urgent issue.

The more residents that participate in neighbourhood watch the better,

Report from Hilton Town Trust - Phil Wood

The village of Hilton benefits from land and assets endowed over the centuries. The most recent definition of the charities was confirmed by a Deed dated 1899, in which year gross income from land and cottages was £41.

They operate two Charities. The land and assets are held by the Estate Charity, the senior charity of the two.

The 1899 deed requires that half of the annual income of the Estate Charity goes to the Parish Church to be used for repairs to the building, the other half is paid to the second charity, the Town Charity to be spent for the general benefit of the village.

Both the Estate and Town Charities are administered by the Trustees and are chaired by the Revd David Busk.

The Parish Council appoints two trustees, presently Brian Ward and Liz Bush and the Church Wardens are the two other trustees, currently Ralph Slayter and Rachel Wood. Phil Wood is the Clerk.

In terms of the Town Charity and the financial report for the last calendar year :-

At the beginning of the year the charity had £9,900 in hand and income was £5,000

The Trustees have got a broad remit and grants can be made for anything from capital grants, education grants, grants to charities or organisations providing the specifically serve the needs of Hilton and resident of Hilton.

Projects supported by the Town Charity in 2014 included:-

FYFC

Awards to some Hilton Residents

An amount to the PC for repairs of car park

WW1 Commemoration

Christmas Hamper distribution

At the end of the year the balance in hand was £12,750, expected income for 2015 is £5,000

The Trustees remain open to proposals from villagers for either individual needs or community projects. Contact can be made with the Clerk, any Trustee or via the contact number in Spectrum.

Currently the Trust is looking to support any villagers that are not able to use public transport and they are funding anyone that wants to take out membership with HACT - Huntingdon Association Community Transport. They run a series of routes from the villages to certain locations for example, St Neots, Morrisons, Peterborough etc. This is a door to door service, you call them the day before they collect you and return you after a few hours. If you have a County Council bus pass the service is free, just the cost of membership, which the Trust will fund this year for the first number of people that join. They organisation also run other schemes, but those do have a cost and you can use these if you are a member.

Report from A14 working group

Cllr Graham Barradell gave the report:-

Any Parishioner that has registered as an interested party will have received a letter from the Planning Inspectorate about how they will go about reviewing the DCO application from Highways England. Now Highways England instead of Highways Agency, the examination process, the deadlines and the meetings are outlined in the letter. Hilton Parish Council is a registered interested party and has been introduced to proceedings as the body representing the views and concerns of Hilton Parishioners. The PC urges all parishioners that have registered as an interested party to engage with the process, there is more work to be done. Attend the open meetings, submit written representations and speak out where possible. This is the start of the process. The process started on Wednesday 13th May 2015 at a preliminary meeting in Huntingdon, it was attended by a lot of people from the Village including the PC A14 working group. Evidence was heard that there was an opportunity to raise concerns about the review process, subjects raised were:- availability of information, the quality detail of the design data and the independence of the examination panel. All written representations should be submitted by Monday 15th June, the Parish Council A14 working group have completed a first draft of the written representation, 6,000 words, it is currently on the PC website. If anyone has suggestions on how this draft can be improved then the working group would love to hear from you. There is an open floor meeting to be held on the 13th July in Hilton, in the evening, the examining authority have called this meeting. We assume that this is due to the high number of representations that were made and we believe they are coming to Hilton as they are treating Hilton as an issue specific case. Full details will be made available once we have the full details. If you wish to speak at this meeting you will need to advise the examining authority by Monday 15th June. Numbers count. The rest of the examination timetable is on the PC website. Hilton PC has engaged with Highways England to produce a statement of common ground, this document defines the area on which both parties agree and disagree, issues such as how we continue to consult with each other over the design and implications of the construction phase. A draft copy of this document will be made available once it has been completed. The PC has recently employed the consulting services of an acoustic expert for an initial fact finding session. Having taken further advice this will probably expand (subject to the PC authorising the expenditure) into a larger piece of work as we try to build a case for the further protection of Hilton from the effects of the new road. Please be assured that the PC will continue to keep

Parishioners up to speed with important information and dates, this will be by leaflet drops and the PC website. We urge Parishioners to get involved.

Report from Green Spaces Development Group

Cllr Graham Barradell gave the report:-

The working group works on behalf of the PC. Hilton PC has conducted a range of maintenance work across the village in the last 12 months. Many will have notice the Tree Surgery that happened in late January. We are now well into clearing a backlog. The main drain and the Town drain had the usual clearance. The banks of the Ware on Gravely Way and the outflow of Reeves Ditch were areas worked on last year. This worked was carried out in addition to the contracts that we have with John Carter and Bernie Ashby. On behalf of the PC we would like to thank all that assist us. We have had an active volunteer group that have help this year with Ivy cutting, some work on the Green on the Football Pitch. Bonfire clearing, there was around 8 years worth cleared and a skip was use at no cost to the PC. On 10th June there will be a film crew in the Village who are working on a piece to celebrate the life of Capability Brown 300 years next year. The work group will meet shortly to discuss preparations for this event, there will be no extra cost to the PC. We hope to find out beforehand what they wish to film so we can ensure the Village looks it's best.

General Question Time

Ken Attwood - Capability Brown, as we didn't do anything for the Queens Jubilee and VE day he hopes we will not be spending any money on the Capability Brown Commemoration.

Margaret Shadlow - Can we speed up the production of Minutes on the website. Consider publishing draft minutes and putting on the notice boards.

Margaret Shadlow - The Pavilion - the Pavilion needs some attention. It was explained to Margaret that there is already a group looking at this.

Lesley Fordham - Bridge across from the Maze needs some attention. Peter Blake - explained that the County Council put the Bridges in so the PC should speak to them as they are responsible.

Andy Bush - How do you feel you done as a PC consulting the Village? What more could we do? **The Chair** - feels the PC has done very well, we historical only get a small number of people attend meetings. We publish information of the meetings on the website, articles in spectrum and people are welcome to contact us. **Andy Bush** - I mean to be proactive, go out and ask people. **Margaret Shadlow** - huge reliance on a whole month before Spectrum comes out and the website, would like to see something written and not a reliance on technology, not everyone reads Spectrum. **The Chair** - This is an issue for every organisation in the Village, you can have a public meeting you can have a film, you have Spectrum and you can put newsletters through but you can't force people to read them. We do leaflets and flyers whenever. We would like to know how you feel we can do better? Please give us ideas.

Peter Blake - The Beacon was bought with public money, where is it? The Beacon belongs to us. **The Chair** - I believe it is at New Farm/ New Cross Farm, not under cover as far as we are aware. **Ken Attwood** - do you think that we should get it under cover? Cllr Andrew Parkinson offered to hold it.

Ian Bates - The Green- new clause discussion, Ian suggests that we should consult the Village and the organisations about what they see as the future of the Green? The PC look after the Green and he believes that we should have a wider debate about its use. What can the Village do to help.

Lesley Fordham - Felt her request to use the Green last year wasn't seen fairly, She has heard that the PC will not allow an outside charity to hold an event on the Green, she got this from an impression given when the Chair and Vice Chair came to a Village Hall meeting. **The Chair** - No decision has been made regarding the use of the Green and he is not sure where this information has come from, he cannot say one way or the other what the decision would be. No decision has been made yet as further discussion is needed.

Andy Bush - Were the Parish Council informed about the Trees that have been taken down along the road leading out of the Village towards St Ives? **The Clerk** - no we were not informed, an email has been sent by myself asking if they were aware of this. Also a Parishioner has sent an email asking why this work has been allowed. The Planning department had been advised, were aware and gave permission.

Andy Bush - What is the Parish councils policy on residents mowing the Green outside their houses? **The Chair** - is unsure but will find out, although this is something that has been done for years

Sharon Walker - Thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk for all their hard work and support for Feast Week.

Meeting closed

9.33 pm