

Minutes of Hilton Annual Parish Meeting Monday 23rd May 2016 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Present: Cllr P. Balicki, Cllr G. Barradell, Cllr R. Collard, Cllr K. Dunk, Cllr S. Partridge and Cllr S. Walker

In attendance: 6 Parishioners

Apologies for Absence - Jo Perez (Clerk), Cllr A Goodridge, Cllr W. Wilson and Cllr J Perez

Welcome and Introduction - Peter Balicki

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.

Annual Review of the Parish Council Business - Peter Balicki

The Parish Council over the last year (the 3rd year of 3) was joined by Sara Partridge. To bring this up to date there was an uncontested election at the beginning of May 2016 with Andrew Parkinson and Simon Perry standing down. Sharon Walker and Rob Collard have joined the Parish Council. At the Parish Council meeting on 9 May 2016, being the annual Parish Council meeting myself and Graham Barradell were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman and again I would like to thank Graham for his continued support over the last 12 months.

Jo Perez continues to serve the Parish Council excellently in her role of the Clerk. This remains quite a job to undertake within the 10 hours per week and her flexibility in responding to periods of time when the workload is high is much appreciated. We have certainly benefitted from having a Clerk who lives in the village. Jo works hard to make sure that the Parish Council and its Councillors adhere to the strict governance issues surrounding how the Parish Council must operate.

The Parish Council is responsible for some of the street lighting, maintenance of ponds, ditches, trees and grass cutting. We would like to thank John Carter, Bernie Ashby, Rodney Makeham, and Duncan McMichael for the work they have done over the last year on maintaining the village, the open spaces, trees and ditches. Our thanks also to Glenn Conway for the tree maintenance. Some work on easier to access trees was undertaken by Kieron, Willie, Graham, Ian Stott, Duncan McMichael and myself saving the Parish some expenditure

The Parish Council also makes recommendations to Huntingdon District Council on planning applications via the planning committee.

The firework display was excellent and the Parish Council would like to thank the firework team for putting on a great show, Feast Week for providing refreshments and Councillors and volunteers for manning the event and collecting takings. The Parish Council has received a bequest specifically for the annual firework display to be spent over 5 years and plans are in place that will hopefully allow a surplus to be seen in the coming years that can be used for future years when the bequest is used. Clean for the Queen was led by the Parish Council and I would like to thank Graham for his hard work in getting this organised as well as all those who came along on the day to help including the brownies and guides.

The Parish Council also lit the beacon to join in with the national beacon lighting event for the Queen's Birthday in April. Again I cannot go without thanking Duncan McMichael for his help to the Parish Council over the course of the event and to Mike Richards. The Parish Council also thanks Ian Bates for agreeing to light the beacon and to everyone who came along on the evening.

The Parish Council has planted a commemorative oak to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday and a plaque is currently being sourced for this, our thanks to Andrew Parkinson who has offered to purchase this.

There will be events in the village on 12 June 2016 to further celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday and I am sure these will be enjoyed by all who are able to attend.

A considerable amount of time went into representing the village regarding the proposed A14 scheme. More of which in the report later although I would thank the A14 working group at this time as well for the considerable time and effort put in during the consultation period.

HGV's through the village continue to be a concern to parishioners and this subject will be addressed in the A14 working group update.

The football pitch on the Green continues to be used by Fenstanton Youth Football Club and we hope that this can continue into the new season. An agreement was struck with the club regarding pre match pitch inspections and this has worked well to preserve the pitch and Green. I would also like to thank the members of the Green Management Group for their hard work in maintaining our greatest

asset. I know that Ian Stott continues to work closely with the group on this and other matters such as tree maintenance and I thank him for continuing to support the Parish Council.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the members of Hilton Parish Council for their hard work and time in serving the village throughout the last year and to welcome Sharon and Rob on to the Council.

Parish Council Financial Report - Peter Balicki

Opening year balances were £29,239 closing year balances were £31,251 (including £5k donation) Precept for year was £27,070 + other income £1,703 gave a total of £28,773 + a bequest of £5,000 (to be used specifically for fireworks over a five year period as mentioned in the annual report). Expenditure for year was £29,891. Deficit of £1,118. Large items of overspend = £3500 for sound expert report.

Whilst closing balances £31,251 must be noted that committed expenditure is for a final payment of £3,333 on the crossing and £5,000 is from the Hutton estate bequest.

Some of the work identified under the new precept has not been carried out in the last year because of the money spent on the sound report and these works and order of priority will be addressed in the coming months.

Precept for the coming year was left the same at £27,070. Internal Audit should be completed in the next few days and accounts to be formally approved at meeting on 6 June 2016 for submission to external auditor in June 2016 in accordance with requirements.

Hilton's Neighbourhood Watch - Ken Harris

Chairman & Councillors, thank you for the opportunity to address the meeting on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch.

You will be aware that a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has existed in Hilton for several years. It aims to improve security awareness, to foster good communications between residents and the police, and by improving awareness, to allay undue fear of crime or antisocial behaviour.

Neighbourhood Watch in Hilton comprises 18 discrete area schemes. In each area a coordinator is registered with the police to receive and relay messages between the police and residents.

For their part, Cambridge Constabulary distribute e-mails, termed Neighbourhood Alert messages, broadly weekly. The messages provide information on reported crime in the area and feedback from the neighbourhood policing team about what they are doing to tackle it.

Sometimes, the police use Neighbourhood Alert to ask for specific information relating to particular crimes. There is always a chance that this will stimulate residents to contribute useful information. Neighbourhood Alert has also been used to advertise job opportunities with the police and the Police and Crime Commissioner

Residents who join their local Neighbourhood Watch scheme will receive the Neighbourhood Alert messages.

Apply to join your nearest scheme through the national Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network website, at www.ourwatch.org.uk.

Alternatively, individual residents who register with the e-Cops scheme run by Cambridge Constabulary will receive the messages directly. Follow the links from the Constabulary website for more information on e-Cops.

A couple of examples illustrate the use of Neighbourhood Alert:-

- A Missing Person was raised via NHW alert and was consequently found safe and well
- A rotavator was stolen from a shed Hilton

- The Village Hall had a break in and 5 litres of detergent was stolen

If you need to contact the police, there is no benefit in going through Neighbourhood Watch. Contact the police directly on one of their two telephone numbers:

Call 999 for emergency assistance when life or limb is at risk, or when criminals may still be in the vicinity.

Call 101 when there is no immediate urgency.

The police Operations Centre will assess every call and decide the appropriate level of response depending on the circumstances.

Clearly, the more residents who participate in Neighbourhood Watch, the better it will work.

Please identify your area coordinator and check that he (or she) has up-to-date contact details for you. If you need help, my telephone number is in Spectrum.

Finally, we have vacancies for area coordinators and we are committed to equal opportunities. If you fancy a zero-hours contract, helping to run Neighbourhood Watch in Hilton, call my number. It is in Spectrum.

Thank you again for the chance to speak. Are there any questions?

Report from Hilton Town Trust - Phil Wood (read by Peter Balicki)

REPORT FROM HILTON TOWN ESTATE CHARITIES

BACKGROUND

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 the gross yearly income from land and cottages was £41.

We 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 Rachel Lawton; and the Church Wardens are usually the other two trustees, currently Nick Sarkies and Rachel Wood. Phil Wood is the Clerk.

Trustees publish the purposes of the Charity in Spectrum each year, and the wider public is informed by the Charity Commission's Directories. An annual report is sent to the Charity Commission.

TOWN CHARITY REPORT FOR CALENDER YEAR 2015

At the beginning of the year, the Town Charity held £12,750 in hand.

In 2015 income amounting to £5,000 was received from the Estate Charity.

Although the Trustees have no specific mandate, a mix of grants are made under the general terms of the Deed including capital grants, educational grants, grants to charities or organisations directly serving the needs of Hilton.

Projects supported by the Town Charity in 2015 included:

	£
Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School - 2 projects	1380
Village Hall refurbishment	700
Fenstanton & Hilton Scout Group	550
Huntingdon Area Community Transport	400
Hilton Brownies & Rainbows	250
Spectrum	100
Christmas hamper distribution	500

The Town Charity had £13,600 in hand at 31/12/15 with an expected income for 2016 of £5,000.

This year the Trust was the beneficiary of a generous bequest from the late Mr W Hutton. These funds will be used to enhance the Christmas hamper distribution over several years as requested.

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.

Phil Wood Clerk May 2016

Report from the A14 Working Group - Peter Balicki

As mentioned earlier a lot of time and effort went into representing the village throughout the consultation period that ran from May to November 2015. I would particularly like to thank all members of the Parish Council's working group and all parishioners who attended the open floor meeting held by the planning inspectorate in the village hall.

It was a tremendous effort with people even having to stand outside by open windows to catch what was going on.

It was quite disappointing that the outcome of the examination was to proceed without any further mitigation benefits to Hilton. We pressed the point that Highways had said they would like to do more for the village but they had to be told to. Unfortunately the planning inspectorate have not felt able to do that. The full submission approved by the Secretary of State is available on the planning inspectorate website.

We are advised that Highways England will be holding an event at Hilton Village Hall on 19 July 2016 from 7-9pm. Further details will be advised when we have them.

HGV's through the Village

Mick George and Joe Gossage of Mick George Transport gave a presentation at our last Parish Council meeting regarding an initiative they have been launching across Cambridgeshire introducing a voluntary 20mph speed limit for their vehicles in small villages such as ours.

While this is not a compulsory limit for all heavy goods vehicle operators Mr George and Mr Gossage gave details of how they monitor their drivers and ensure that the reduced limit is respected by them. They do feel that other operators are taking notice of the signs in other villages this scheme is operating in.

It was discussed that the majority of villagers in Hilton would like to see a total HGV ban in the village and Mr George advised that he would completely support and fund such a proposal but commercially it had to be agreed by all the main operators using the B1040.

Hilton Parish Council will take this matter forward with the other main operators and Cambridgeshire County Council to establish if the other companies will join Mick George Transport in agreeing that there should be a total HGV ban in Hilton and then getting it approved.

In the meantime the Parish Council will support the voluntary speed reduction initiative offered by Mr George and Mr Gossage in Hilton by applying to Cambridgeshire County Council for permission to erect blue 20mph speed limit signs.

Report from Green Open Spaces Group - Kieron Dunk

1) New maintenance contract

One of the most significant events of the year was the tender process resulting in the awarding of a three contract to JSC services.

The three tenders were surprisingly close however it was John's knowledge of the village and his long service to the PC that lead to the award.

2) New regime

The new contract gave us the opportunity to look again at the maintenance regime and to see if there were any changes to be made. The most visually obvious; this year we are returning more of the Green to hay meadow, encouraging a greater diversity of flora. Three main areas:

1. The strip along the north side of the Fenstanton road,
2. The area in front of the Bakehouse
3. The area to the West of the Church

It may take a number of years for this to be fully established so please bear with us.

As part of the new contract we have built in a number of hours for use on incidental tasks, which gives the PC flexibility to direct work not normally covered by the contract. For instance you may well see John undertaking work around the village

3) Paths

Over the last 18 months or so the cutting of paths has been significantly reduced and I'm pleased to say the turf layer has now recovered. We realise that this is somewhat different to past practice however the paths were showing signs of erosion. We monitor the paths closely and some will have noticed that they have been cut recently after the first growing flush. We will continue monitor.

4) Trees

The budget for tree work for the year 2015-16 was £2500. We have spent so far £930 with a further £330 committed and imminent. This saving is mainly due to not commissioning non priority work but also because some of the work was done by volunteers. It is estimated that this year we will spend the full budget as we have one large tree which needs to be taken down at significant expense.

5) Ditches

The budget for cleaning the ditches for the year 2015-16 was £1200. This amount was spent and an excellent job was done. In fact I think I'm right in saying the extent of the work was greater than has been done in the past. Well done John and Duncan McMichael but also thanks Mike Richards who helped with the disposal of the spoil.

In future years the ditch clearing work will be covered as part of the new maintenance contract. As it is a task that is required every year this seems appropriate.

6) Cricket and Football pitches.

The cricked ground has been continued to be mowed by Rodney Markham under the supervision of Alan Salem. This year the football pitch has been mowed only by the PC. In past years there were a number of people volunteering to mow it but in order to manage this properly it is all now done by John Carter and where possible to coincide with match fixtures

7) Other tasks.

I'm sure most here are aware of the full range of work we undertake but it is worth mentioning that in addition to the items I've already covered The PC also look after: The playpark, the Millennium garden, the Maze and the Churchyard.

And finally:

Suggested Jobs for the coming years (although not all yet approved)

1. Reduce the thicket by Sparrow Way and return to grass
2. Re-surface the gravel paths
3. Recut the Maze
4. Clear The Ware

I would be very pleased to hear any other suggestions.

General Question Time - hosted by Peter Balicki

Q) Rick Dyke Price - What noise reduction measures have been secured on the A14?

A) Cllr P. Balicki - 1) 2m bunding 2) Low noise road surface. The very low noise surface that we were hopeful of was not included on price ground and benefit. It would be more expensive and less durable.

Lesley Fordham - Village Hall bookings have been requested by Highways England for meetings/exhibitions regarding the A14 update. Dates of 19TH July and 29th September 2016.

Q) Ken Harris - What were Highways England conclusions on vehicle emissions for the new A14?

A) Cllr P. Balicki - Highways England dismissed all claims. They say the emissions will be within acceptable UK limits.

Q) Rick Dyke Price - What is the Parish Council's policy regarding parking on the Green? He noted excessive parking at the VH causing Green erosion and long stay parking at the VH for those living in the village.

A) Cllr K. Dunk - Football cars cause the greatest amount of parking and we rely on the considerate parking. The Parish Council and Football Club communicate well on this issue.

Q) Rick Dyke Price - Could the Parish Council consider 'Pod Parking'? Groups of cars 4/5 parked on the road to allow others to pass.

A) Cllr K. Dunk - The Parish Council policy is NO parking on the Green and will continue to monitor, discuss and action.

Q) Lesley Fordham - Who is responsible for maintaining growth in Tithe Lane?

A) Cllr K. Dunk - CCC owns the land and sporadically maintain it. Additional John is requested to cut on occasions by the PC.

Q) Lesley Fordham - Concerned by cars ignoring the Pedestrian Crossing, Could better signage be employed?

A) Cllr P. Balicki and Cllr K. Dunk - This could be part of a wider traffic calming action currently being pursued.

Meeting Closed

8.25pm