



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 22nd April 2024 at 19:30 in Hilton Village Hall

Present: Cllr P. Balicki (Chairman), Cllr R. Dulstone, Cllr R. Norton, Cllr C. Sarkies, Cllr M. Stott

In attendance: The Clerk (N. Webster), Malcolm Lynn (Town Trust), Lisa Boddy (Hilton Feast Week), and 1 parishioner.

Meeting commenced 19:30

Welcome & Introduction

Cllr P. Balicki introduced himself and welcomed attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr J. Capes

To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th April 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that these minutes were approved as a true record.

Annual Review of the Parish Council Business – Chairman’s Report for 2023/24

Report from the Chairman of Hilton Parish Council – Cllr Peter Balicki

Hello and let me take this time to run through things that have happened over the last year.

We said goodbye to Heather Chambers and Nina Sage who both stepped down from the Parish Council and welcomed Matt Stott to the Council, the Stott dynasty enters a new phase. We also said goodbye to Graham Barradell as he and Jenny moved away from the village after many years. Graham had been involved with the Parish Council for many years as Chairman, Councillor and Maintenance Person. Graham was often seen out clearing fallen branches, clearing ditches and tending to various things. He will be missed.

There is still a vacancy for a Councillor, details of how to apply if you are interested are on the Parish Council website.

My thanks through the year go to all the Councillors and Nicola our Clerk, to the various committees and working groups, our Green Spaces Officer, Ian Stott, our maintenance contractors and village Maintenance Person for their input, guidance and support.

The Parish Council owns The Green which is a fantastic open space, and a large amount of our income goes on maintaining this, cutting the grass, attending to tree works and

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

maintaining the ditches. As always the Parish Council is grateful to everyone who helps in this endeavour, voluntary or paid. Recent volunteer sessions have included coppicing and ivy cutting.

There was also a litter pick a couple of weekends ago. I believe that this may become an annual event. Thanks to Claire for getting this set up and to all who participated, there were a good number of bags to be collected post event.

The dredging of the ponds through the village was concluded by the removal of the spoil from the Wilderness and despite some doubts being raised over why the dredging was done so far, in these extremely wet times, the evidence is that the project was the right thing to have done. The PC is looking at a small amount of work being undertaken to improve drainage of water from Graveley Way by the Ware, a decision on this will be made at the next PC meeting.

The firework event was another successful evening and will be held again this year.

Around June 6, the 80th anniversary of D-Day landings, there will be a number of events in the village and the Parish Council will be joining in with the national beacon lighting event on the evening of 6 June. Details are on the PC website and in The Journal.

The Journal has been a great replacement for Spectrum and the PC and the Town Trust were happy to donate towards this endeavour.

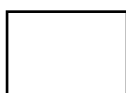
Nicola led a number of events under a scheme to encourage people to get healthy, eat healthily and encourage young people to get involved in cricket. This was led by a successful application for a health equalities grant.

We have been unsuccessful in trying to get a grant to improve the condition of the Pavilion although we would again thank those parishioners who took the time to respond to our survey. 91% of respondents supported the concept of improvement. There were some concerns raised that we would be competing with the village hall, but I would just say that throughout the time this has been under consideration it has always been said that the project would not be done to take business from the Village Hall. The Parish Council fully supports and appreciates the value of the Village Hall to the village.

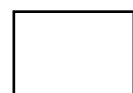
There is the usual subject of traffic. The HGV ban has been a great benefit to the village. There is a small number of HGV's still coming through the village but that has reduced significantly since the ban was introduced.

The Parish Council did have a Local Highway initiative bid agreed for a prominent sign to be placed on the Papworth Bypass advising HGV traffic to use the A1198. We are waiting for that sign to be installed.

The Parish Council also had a request for a 20mph speed limit to be introduced at the entry points to the village. This has been approved, and we wait for it to be put in place. The Parish Council went ahead with this scheme after we approached Parishioners for their views with 78% of the 163 replies (a very high number) saying they supported this idea. I am aware that such a speed restriction is not popular with all with questions over how it will be enforced. I would say that if you drive through areas that have a 20mph limit you tend to find that drivers do slow down and in Wales were this was introduced across the



Initials



Initials

country early reports are that average speed has reduced by 4-5 mph. I am aware that there will be some changes in Wales, but rural village locations appear to like it.

As I have said previously if all villagers reduced their speed when coming through the village this would also help in reducing the average speed of people coming through the village. I would thank Speedwatch and HAT for their efforts in monitoring traffic through the village. Other things being looked at for the future include looking at the crossroads and whether the orientation of this could be altered, remarking of the road, and also around the bus stop on Potton Road making it easier for the buses to pull off the road.

All are at early stages and will be discussed and considered more fully before any decisions are made.

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone involved with The Parish Council again and I now look forward to receiving the reports from the Clerk and representatives of other groups within the village.

Parish Council Financial Report for 2022/23

Nicola Webster presented the accounts from 2022/23 in her role as Responsible Financial Officer. She noted that the accounts were unaudited.

2023/24 Financial Year

- Accounts are unaudited
- Earmarked reserves have been agreed by the Finance Committee for recommendation to Full Council for approval – to be discussed at the annual meeting of the Council on 13th May
- Precept amount increased to £34,606, which resulted in a band D tax amount of £76.73. According to DHLUC, the national average was £78.79.
- Fireworks income was lower than 2022/23, but still exceeded budgeted amount
- Interest rate has increased so income was much higher than budgeted.
- Easement payment from County Broadband for the originally agreed infrastructure on the Green – ongoing work regarding the additional telegraph poles which may result in additional income.
- Largest unexpected expenditure was a donation of £1000 to the new Journal, which was mitigated by a donation of £500 from the Town Trust.
- Large expenditure on the dredging for the removal of the material from the Wilderness, this was allocated to the VAT reclaim from the dredging invoice from the previous financial year and a reallocation of the earmarked reserves.
- Insurance cost has increased from £719 to £860, however this included the insurance for the fireworks event, so the fireworks expenditure was under budget.
- Expenditure on utilities was similar to the previous year due to the fixed term streetlighting energy contract and was within budget.
- Continued expenditure against the Health Inequalities Grant for the cookery and cricket courses.

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

- Assuming that the reserves are agreed by Full Council, general reserves is £11,863, which is lower than the agreed 50% of precept, but higher than last year.

2024/25 Financial Year

- Precept agreed for £36,980, which is an increase of £2,374 or 6.9%. The tax base has increased to 454.4 (from 451) so the band D contribution is £81.38, from £76.73, an increase of £4.65 or 6.1%.
- The streetlighting energy fixed rate contract has ended and so the expenditure is budgeted to be higher – increase to £3500 from £2500
- The maintenance contract has also ended and the newly negotiated and agreed contracts were finalised after the budget was agreed. The contracts are over budget, £12,740 against a budget of £11,000.
- Assuming that the interest rate remains the same, the income will be slightly higher than budget.

Reports from County and District Councillors

There was no report from County Cllr Doug Dew.

Report from Huntingdonshire District Council – Cllr Clare Tevlin

D Cllr Clare Tevlin provided a verbal report.

Reports from Village Groups including Hilton Town Trust, Hilton Feast Week, Hilton Village Hall and Hilton Community Garden

Report from Town Trust – Phil Wood - Clerk

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.

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

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 Malcolm Lynn and Rachel Lawton; and the Church appoints the other two trustees, currently Jenny Broom and Rachel Wood. Phil Wood is the Clerk.

Trustees publish the purposes of the Charity in The Journal 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 CALENDAR YEAR 2023

At the beginning of 2023, the Town Charity held £26,975 in hand.

In 2023 income amounting to £5,000 was received from the Estate Charity and interest totalled £1,080.

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 organisations directly serving the needs of Hilton.

During the year the Trustees continued the scheme to offer support to villagers struggling with the rises in energy bills. This Cost of Living Support scheme provided £200 grants to individuals or families who needed the help. Since the scheme started in 2022 a total of 24 grants have been provided.

Projects supported by the Town Charity in 2023 were:

	£
Cost of living support scheme	2,700
Defibrillator unit on the Pavilion	750
Baby and Toddler Group	500
The Journal – set up costs	500
Film Club	135
Christmas Hampers (from ring-fenced funds)	403
Total	4,988

The Town Charity had £28,057 in hand at 31/12/23 with an expected income for 2024 of £6,000.

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
 10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
 Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

As always the Trustees remain open to proposals from villagers for either individual needs or community projects. Contact can be made with the Clerk, any Trustee, via the contact number in The Journal or on hiltontowntrust@gmail.com

Report from Hilton Feast Week Committee – Lisa Boddy – Secretary

Feast Week 2023 was yet again very well supported, helped by the good weather and it was fabulous to see so many people embracing the Wild West theme.

We have had a great fundraising year so far. Our stall at the Parish Council fireworks night was well attended and we thank nearby residents for enabling us to power our stall. Our quizzes are always popular and this year we also held our first comedy night which was a great success. Still to come is our Party at the Pavilion on Saturday 8th June, as part of the village events marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day, we'll keep our fingers crossed for fine weather.

Feast Week this year opens with Sports Day on Sunday 21st July and closes with the Produce Show and evening entertainment on Saturday 27th July. We changed the format a couple of years ago and it has worked very well. The theme this year is Medieval Merrymaking and we have another fun packed week of events planned for the whole family. In the meantime we are working hard to produce our programme and as ever would love to hear from anyone wishing to advertise. Please do get in touch if you have a business or know anyone who does that may wish to advertise with us, we hand deliver copies to every household in the village. 200 Club continues to be a steady stream of income and we encourage everyone to sign up and continue supporting Feast Week. Numbers drawn every month with 3 cash prizes, more details can be found on our website: www.feastweek.co.uk We rely solely on fundraising to be able to put Feast Week on each year, the cost of which has risen significantly over the past couple of years. We are therefore very grateful of all the support we get from the local community.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next fundraiser and of course in the marquee for Feast Week itself.

Report from Hilton Village Hall Management Committee – Nicola Webster – Chair

Our new committee has been working hard since we took over from the previous longstanding committee in October 2022. We started with a small committee of seven, which has expanded over the months to our current committee of nine.

Despite being a small committee, we have achieved a lot in the last 18 months. We have appointed a caretaker, and we are really pleased with Bob's contribution to the hall. We have worked on the compliance of the charity, ensuring that both the caretaker and bookings officer have compliant contracts and are formally registered through HMRC as employees. We have also been working on our policies and procedures.

The hall has also seen some improvements. We installed our new fire doors, with a grant from FCC Communities expertly obtained by Heather Chambers. These mean that the hall is more secure and less drafty. We removed the old commercial dishwasher, which was costly

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

to maintain and replaced it with two domestic dishwashers with a quick wash function. Unfortunately, we had a window broken which led us to check all the panes and we ended up having to replace 7 broken panes in total.

This was communicated to the village via our Facebook page, which continues to be updated regularly. We also now have a website, which details the both the availability of the hall and the various clubs and groups that use it. The domain has allowed us to have “hall-specific” email addresses which will help with the continuity of any future committees.

In terms of fundraising, we had a marvellous pantomime which was a sell-out and made a healthy profit. We intend to use this money to replace the curtains in the main hall and Brittain room with blinds.

Looking ahead, we have a fundraiser in June during the weekend of summer fun, which we are co-ordinating. Come and join us to see the Wizard of Oz on our very own Green.

Report from Hilton Community Garden Group – Claire Sarkies

The Community garden is now in its fourth year and flourishing. On Saturday mornings in the growing season the committee and volunteers gather for a working party. We keep strictly to a two hour session with a break at 11.00 for refreshments. Home-made cake is a welcome reward.

The native hedging is beginning to establish itself whilst the wild flower garden is exuberant in its growth. One difficulty in this area is preventing the ox-eye daisies from dominating the patch; the other is deciding which native plants count as an unwelcome “weed” and which are plants to cherish.

The shrubs and perennial plants look handsome throughout the year and the fruit trees under-planted with bulbs look particularly attractive in early spring.

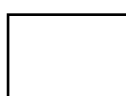
We had a successful harvest of fruit and vegetables last summer, contributed some to the Produce Show and distributed any surplus to Saturday morning visitors.

We continue to monitor progress of our produce to gain the best results. Last year we added an asparagus bed but must patiently wait another year before we can enjoy cutting and eating it.

Currently, we are widening a path for easier wheelbarrow access around the garden to the compost heaps.

Apart from tending the garden, we have also been involved in village events. A highlight of our year was to be asked to participate in the Open Gardens run by the National Garden Scheme. The Community Garden along with a number of village gardens were open to the public in July. We sent £ 1973 to the NGS and divided the £655 made from serving tea and cake between the two village churches. It was a satisfying (if exhausting)experience, especially as the NGS had generously given £1000 to us.

We have also: set up activities for Brownies and Beavers; encouraged potato growing amongst village groups; made a floral crown for the Coronation, offered a throne and backdrop for youngsters to be crowned and photographed; organised garden outings; distributed the King’s seed catalogue throughout the village to purchase seeds at discount



Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com



Initials

prices. We are now preparing for a plant sale to coincide with the commemorative weekend in June.

Funding

Our chairman continues to apply for funds to cover our running costs.

We have received a recent grant from Huntingdon District Council who gave us £1500 from their Community Chest

A well-wisher sent this report to support a grant application: "The committee is well organised and counts on the wide ranging talents of its members, including expertise in garden design, botanical knowledge, carpentry and handyman skills. The Community Garden has been a go-to destination in the village, not just for keen gardeners, but also for those taking a break when out for a walk. I have no doubt it will continue as an important amenity for years to come."

Roland Randall who generously provided the land remains a stalwart supporter providing the valuable commodities of water and manure. We are very grateful to him and all those who work in it and simply come to enjoy it.

General Question Time

There were no questions.

Chair summed up, thanked those people who contribute to the community groups and events in the village and thanked the attendees of the meeting.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 20:20.

Signed.....Date.....

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials