

**Minutes of the Heydon Parish Council Meeting
on 12 January 2016 at 6.30pm at 87 Chishill Road, Heydon**

Chairman: Diana MacFadyen
Parish Councillors: Livingstone, Smith, Carroll,
District Councillors: Val Barrett, Jose Hales
Clerk: Yvonne Harris

Actual Start: 18:26

1. Apologies

Cllrs Janson Jones and van de Ven.
These were accepted by the Council.

2. To receive any declaration of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interests of Councillors

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings on 10 November 2015

These were approved by the council as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Clerk's Salary

Following the completion of a satisfactory probationary period by Yvonne as Clerk, councillors met in December to discuss the duties and workload for the role and decided to increase her salary to £190 per calendar month from 01 January 2016. Meanwhile Yvonne will keep a record of her time spent on council business for a further review in July.

5. Fast Broadband Update

The Clerk had previously circulated an email from Connecting Cambridgeshire confirming that fast broadband access is now available in Heydon. Details were added to the council website and Philip Gough was asked to spread the word via Neighbourhood Watch.

6. Footpaths

Cllr Carroll reported that Peter Gaskin had not been available for an onsite meeting to discuss footpaths so he reported the faults via the SCDC online system. These related to the Icknield Way, the footpath opposite Spring Pond (footpath 3) and the Bran Ditch, caused by large agricultural machinery, and also a dead branch in Fowlmere Road. The district council has 15 days to respond.

7. Finance

The Clerk circulated the cash record showing expenditure to-date and this became the basis for discussions on setting the precept for 2016-17. Councillors were reminded that they were due for re-election in May 2016 and again in 2018 when parish, district and county council elections will be realigned so that ongoing they will all be held at the same time. The cost of holding a parish election, if it is necessary, has risen to £1,000. It was unanimously agreed to raise the precept by £1,000 to cover this cost. The Clerk will

inform the district council that the 2016-17 precept for Heydon will be £5,400.

8. Allocation of Section 106 Payment – Chalk Pit Gate

Cllr Livingstone reported that Just Maintenance had been given the contract to repair the gate and the work was due to be carried out this month. Cllr Livingstone volunteered to repair and repaint the flagpole. Bills for materials are to be forwarded to the Clerk.

9. Anglian Water – Access to Pumping Station

An email had been sent to Anglian Water asking them to check if their vehicles will be able to access the pumping station in the event of an emergency.

10. Planning

Cllr Smith reported that the application for variation of condition on Houses 1 and 2, Heydon Grange, Fowlmere Road had gone to Appeal, though the reason for refusal by SCDC had been omitted from the form. Despite reminders, SCDC has yet to inform us of the background to this case.

A new application was received relating to Hill Farm House, 20 Chishill Road. It was agreed to hold a planning meeting on 19 January to discuss the application.

11. District and County Councillors Report

County Councillor Report

December grant settlement: The Chancellor's final decision on grant settlements to local councils, announced a week before Christmas, brought even worse news to Cambridgeshire than expected. We will receive £5 million less than anticipated, in addition to the £15 million reduction previously forecast. The Council can increase tax by up to 2% without a referendum; the Chancellor said that an extra 2% increase would be permitted, provided it is spent on social care. Even with the extra £4.8 million that would yield, the Council will have to make massive savings. This is happening across local government. Some of our individual funding formulas still put us at a distinct disadvantage in certain areas, for example public health, where an allocation of £-36 per head compares with £60 nationally. It has been confirmed that local authority revenue support grant from central government will be completely discontinued, and it is estimated that between 2010 and 2020, George Osborne will have cut council funding by 79%. That is a figure that helps explain and make some kind of sense of the scale of cuts we are being asked to work out.

All non-statutory services are at risk. There will be more fees and charges applied to services (for example more fees associated with planning applications, park and ride, possible fees associated with such basics as library and recycling centre use, etc) and the council will have to become even better at applying for whatever specific grants are on offer (for example at present we have grants for superfast broadband rollout and sustainable transport infrastructure).

I will provide a systematic list of main cuts once they have been confirmed in the council budget agenda for next month. Needless to say it is a hideous task to select what to remove out of a list of essential public services and most of those choices are objectionable.

Superfast Broadband: As the Superfast Broadband service rolls out, please do keep me

informed as to any properties you are aware of that find themselves not served, as the County Council 'Connecting Cambridgeshire' team is working to address any gaps. Where the service has now been rolled out, we've found that mapping gaps in service relies on information from individual households. Hopefully this won't be too much of an issue in Heydon!

31 bus users' meeting now confirmed – March 14, 7:30 PM, Great Chishill Village Hall. Where things stand on subsidized transport: As stated above, central government cuts to local councils are so severe that all non-statutory services are at risk. Subsidised transport for post-16 students is one example of a non-statutory service; community transport and subsidised buses in rural areas are also not statutory – though their value is understood. Over the past year, anticipating that funding would be moving in a very negative direction and that these cuts would arrive sooner or later, a small committee that I chair – 'Cambridgeshire Future Transport' – has been working hard to demonstrate the value of these services in order to postpone cuts for as long as possible.

Progress had been good in that budget holding committees were looking for ways of postponing subsidised transport cuts for another year. However the December central government local authority grant settlement announcement means that Cambridgeshire's situation is worse than the worst-case scenarios used to guide council budget planning. At this stage I don't know if the cuts will be held off or not, though all will be revealed in time for the Council's February budget meeting.

Whether or not the scale of cuts is ideological, central government knows what's coming for subsidized rural transport and has created a new fund, which it calls 'Total Transport,' designed for councils to pilot new collaborative ways of organizing transport in areas not served by commercial public transport routes. A year ago councils were invited to bid for this grant, and Cambridgeshire did well: we have funding over a period of two years to devise a pilot 'Total Transport' project which seeks to make best use of school and adult social care transport, for example deploying buses and minibuses when not in use to run public transport services to help people stay connected to public services. While it's good we won the grant, and we have an excellent officer devising the pilot, there is a maze of government rules and regulations governing public transport and no guarantee that 'Total Transport' will provide a solution for the people affected by the cutting of transport subsidies.

Meanwhile, it seems sensible to go ahead and convene a meeting for 31 bus users in order to raise awareness and think ahead, whether cuts come this year or next. I have invited Royston and District Community Transport, and also the County Council officer running our Total Transport project (which is developing a pilot for the Ely area), to join us.

District Councillors

Cllr Hales reported that the boundary review many result in Heydon parish being moved to the Fowlmere and Thriplow District. There is also likely to be a reduction in district councillors from 57 to 45.

12. Correspondence

Cllr Janson Jones had received an email from Mr & Mrs Davies at 67 Fowlmere Road concerned about the height of a tree growing in the verge in front of their house. The

Chairman replied giving contact details at Cambridgeshire County Council as it is CCC land and responsibility.

13. To accept notices and matters for the next agenda
Allocation of Section 106 Payment – bus shelter restoration; picnic bench in Chalk Pit
Risk assessment
14. Date and Venue for Next Meeting
Tuesday 08 March at 84 Fowlmere Road.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.28.
Our thanks to Michael Carroll for his hospitality.