

Heydon Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 May 2016 at The Mission Hut, 14 Chishill Road, Heydon

Chairman:	Diana MacFadyen
Parish Councillors:	Carroll, Janson Jones, Smith, Shaw
County Councillor:	Susan van de Ven
District Councillors:	Val Barrett, Jose Hales
Clerk:	Yvonne Harris
Members of the public:	Rollo and Virginia Barnes, Philip and Patricia Gough, Kathryn Spring, John Gould, Joy and Arthur Radley, Anna van Terheyden, Andrew Drury, Alex and Jane Duffus, Colin Hall, Elaine Gillingham

Actual Start: 20.05

1. **Apologies**

David MacFadyen, Elizabeth Livingstone, Barbara Shaw.

2. **Agreement of Minutes of 2015 Annual Parish Meeting**

The Chairman proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate account of the meeting and Cllr van de Ven seconded them. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

3. **Matters arising from previous minutes**

There has been no further news regarding the Bridgefoot Farm fire except that the site is not currently in use. Activity on the opposite side of the road is by a different owner.

Spraying of the ragwort was not carried out last year and it is spreading further but will be sprayed this year. Elaine Gillingham had contacted Natural England regarding the oilseed rape seeding on both the margins beside the Bran Ditch but nothing seems to have been done.

4. **Annual accounts**

The Clerk took the Parish through the accounts. The Council started the year with a combined total of £3,169 and ended with a balance of £3,768 excluding the remainder of the Section 106 payment. That payment must be separated from general expenditure, to be spent on specific projects over the next 10 years. The council spent £4,106 excluding S106. The Clerk explained that the increase in the 2016/17 precept of £1,000 was to cover the £1,000 cost of a contested election, increase in Clerk's salary and to bolster the reserves. Mr Drury asked when was the last time there was a contested election. The Clerk said never to her knowledge, certainly not in recent history, but that it is prudent to factor it into the budget as it would take up a quarter of the precept for the year. Mr Duffus said he hoped that,

as the election was uncontested, the Council would not raise the precept again for a future election.

5. Chairman's Report – Addendum 1

The Chairman read out her report.

Cllr Janson Jones was voted in as Vice Chairman at Heydon Parish Council's AGM held earlier today. Cllr Smith gave his report on five new planning applications and five awaiting decisions since the last APM. Some villagers were under the impression that a footpath was being closed. Cllr Carroll confirmed that it was not being closed; the notice was a formality to stop additional footpaths in the same area being legalised due to regular use. The land beyond the bridge on the Broad Green footpath is difficult to walk. Cllr Shaw will find out who owns the land and will contact them. Cllr Shaw will speak to CCC regarding the rubble (containing glass) left at the beginning of the same footpath on land owned by John Akhtar. It is important that any injuries caused by deterioration of footpaths are reported to Peter Gaskin, CCC.

6. County Councillor's Report – Addendum 2

Cllr van de Ven read out her report.

7. District Councillors' Report – Addendum 3

Cllr Barratt read out the Councillors' report.

8. Fowlmere Primary School – Addendum 4

Heather Mephram, head teacher, read out the report from Fowlmere School.

9. Dr Young's Charity – Addendum 5

Cllr Janson Jones read out Elizabeth Livingstone's report.

The Chairman thanked Rollo and Virginia Barnes for their kind hospitality and to everyone for coming along. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.15.

ADDENDUM 1

Chairman's Report

We have had a busy and eventful year – in June Yvonne Harris joined us as Clerk. Many of you will know her as she lived in Heydon for years, and was on the Parish Council, and we welcome her return as Clerk.

We were sorry that David Livingstone decided to resign from the Parish Council after many years of loyalty and hard work, during which he gave me valuable support as Vice Chairman. He also has great practical skills and his latest achievement was to make us a new flagpole, which was his parting gift. He is also sourcing a replacement picnic bench for the Chalk Pit. Thank you David for everything. However, we are fortunate to have a new Councillor, Martin Shaw who has done noble service in the village over the years, and since joining us has already proved to be a valuable member of the team. We co-opted Martin onto the Parish Council, and since then there was an uncontested SCDC election and we were all re-elected.

Michael has taken over from David and is in charge of the Chalk Pit, where our Jubilee Orchard is thriving, thanks to Michael, and it has a small commemorative plaque. Martin will now deal with Footpaths. There are footpath projects incorporated into the CCC work programme, for improvements and maintenance.

We would like to congratulate Val Barrett on being re-elected as District Councillor. Val has been a great help and support to us for a long time.

Once again, we would like to thank Melanie for cleaning the bus shelter and for dealing with the rubbish bin. We would also like to thank Dawn for looking after the garden.

As you will know Fast Broadband is now available in Heydon – details are on our website.

The problems in Heydon Lane are better, but it still continues to have problems – Susan and I have a meeting with Peter Taylor, the new CCC officer dealing with Highways, on May 20th, when we are going to walk down Heydon Lane and assess the problem areas.

We had a bit of a windfall at the end of last year – because of the Development of the Garden at Hill Farmhouse we were awarded a payment, under the 106 Agreement, of £4258.90. The money can only be spent on 'open spaces', over a period of 10 years. We have already had some necessary jobs done which were paid for from the S106 money.

We have had two rotten Chalk Pit gateposts replaced with substantial oak ones. The bus shelter has been repainted, and the tiles on the roof realigned, and repairs carried out, but unfortunately the main roof beam is rotten, so it will have to be replaced, at some stage. This will mean that the roof will have to be retiled using the original tiles, where possible, and additional handmade tiles will be required. This will probably cost about £1,000, and happily we have some funds to cover this expense.

When the Wind Farm Action Group was dissolved, and the Heydon Fund was formed to deal with residual funds – the Parish Council was asked to appoint three trustees – they are Oliver Tracey, Edward May and Rollo Barnes. The Parish Council has no active part in administering the Fund. Following formation of the Fund in October 2015, the surplus funds amounted to £4,807 – they were placed in a bank account in the name of the Fund – with any two Trustees as signatories. It is proposed by the Trustees that £4000 of these funds be used to buy Premium Bonds to be held by their Trustees on behalf of the Fund, as provided in the constitution of the Fund.

Earlier in the year, there was another rave at the derelict barns at Three Corner Plantation. Chief Inspector James Sutherland dealt with it swiftly and got his officers to clear up the road. James suggested that he, the Parish Council, District Councillors and Mr Akhtar should have a meeting. This was arranged and held at Melbourn Village Hub, and we all attended. Mr Akhtar was accompanied by Mrs Akhtar, Saleem, their son, and Tim Wood as an advisor. Mr Akhtar agreed that he would put some 'defence' in front of the barns, and notices. He put the concrete blocks there the next morning and installed notices a few days later. Hopefully there will

be no more raves at this site.

There was an incident at the Pumping Station on Fowlmere Road and the first Anglian Water lorry was unable to get down the track. They sent a smaller one - an overflow of sewage would be a disaster for Heydon, so the Parish Council wrote to Anglian Water, asking them to check that their vehicles are able to access the Station. They replied to say that they have done a site visit and that their Maintenance Support Technician has confirmed that the track is wide enough and of good standard to take a rigid 6 wheel tanker which is the type of vehicle used in emergency situations. There were some overhanging branches on either side of the track and he has arranged for their Ground Maintenance team to get these cleared, so there are no restrictions to the driver's view. They wish to trim back a tree at the entrance and Mr Akhtar has given permission for them to do any necessary work.

We were advised to contact SCDC to ask whether the King William IV Public House could be included on the Local authority's list of Community Assets – this means that should the pub ever be sold, it cannot be demolished or converted for any other use, without planning permission being obtained.

We had to make a submission to SCDC, as to why it was a valued asset to the community. It was judged by a panel of officers and submission was accepted.

Yvonne and I attended a meeting arranged by Susan, to discuss the future of the 31 bus, and she will give a report later in the meeting.

We have had a number of planning applications during the last year – we have a meeting for each one, several have been complicated. Jose and Val attend too, and have made many valuable suggestions. Peter will now tell you about the applications we have received.

Just to remind you once again – Philip Gough is the co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – if you wish to be on his list please let him know, his email address is on our website.

Some other reminders – please make sure that your trees and shrubs do not hang over the pavement, as they are a hazard to pedestrians, especially in the dark.

The Council no longer has funds to sweep pavements, so please clear up leaves outside your house, in autumn. Also, please cut back verges, outside your property, that are encroaching on the pavement and making it narrower. Doing our little bit will help to have a well kept village.

Also please pick up after your dog on the pavement and footpaths. There are three dog bins in the village – one at the entrance to the Bran Ditch, one by the Wood Green Animal Shelter and another at the beginning of the footpath, known as Auntie's Lane, in Chishill Road. We live in a very special village and I'm sure we all want to keep it looking good.

Thank you all for coming this evening, and a special thanks to Rollo and Virginia, who are so generous in letting us use the Mission Hut, and for providing delicious refreshments.

ADDENDUM 2

County Councillor's Report 2016

Cllr van de Ven

Budget result: As I reported previously, this year government allowed councils to raise tax by 1.99%, and also, an additional 2% specifically for social care. A 2% rise in council tax raises £5 million and costs a Band D household 44 pence per week. This reflected the enormous scale of cuts which the council is forced to make in the wake of government policy to remove revenue support grant.

There was no consensus: Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors supported the 1.99% plus 2% rise. UKIP favoured a 0% rise, which would necessitate even more cuts. Conservatives had publicly announced that they would not support the 2% social care tax rise, but then changed their minds when it came to the vote – and then rejected the 1.99% general rise. This determined the outcome.

The resulting freeze on general council tax forces the Council to take from dangerously low reserves to plug the gap – a one-off measure that cannot be repeated, and which renders the Council short next year. Furthermore, it has now been confirmed that the extra 2% rise for social care will be taken up entirely by

funding the National Living Wage for workers in social care – a responsibility that central government has given to councils. The council faces another £100 million in cuts over the next five years. Parish Councils will be asked to do more, though of course they cannot provide services on the same scale.

Highways: Peter Taylor, who is the new 'Mike Cooper' knows the area very well and has for years done the gritting run. Unfortunately the endless budget cuts include reducing the gritting network, as we expected.

Bus Users meeting: I will be at Great Chishill Village Hall on 14 March evening, 7:30PM, for the 31 bus users' meeting. The County transport officer and Royston and District Community Transport will be coming too. We have a reprieve on the funding for the 31 bus for now, though this won't last and we must use the extra time to sort out alternatives

Oil Club Rebate to Camsight: The Melbourn Division bulk-buying Oil Club will be donating its £115 rebate to Camsight's work in the Melbourn area. The idea is to help raise awareness of increasing difficulties now faced by people living with blindness and visual impairment, due to budget cuts. As a result of the cuts, people who are blind or visually impaired will not be able to use their bus passes before 9:30AM.

Boundary Review: The Boundary Commission has now published new Cambridgeshire county division boundaries that will take effect from the 2017 elections. They have not acknowledged the points made in representations about natural school communities and transport commonalities being so important in supporting different villages to work together on common concerns. The new Duxford Division will include Shepreth, Foxton, Fowlmere, Thriplow, Whittlesford, Heydon, Great and Little Chishill, Duxford, Pampisford, Hinxtton and Ickleton. Like all other new divisions, the number of electors will rise by about 30%, so there will be less time for effective representation by councillors.

ADDENDUM 3

District Councillors' Report

Cllr. Val Barrett and Cllr. Jose Hales

District Councillors for Melbourn, The Chishills & Heydon

There have been several changes over the past year which Jose and I have had to get our heads around, planning being one of them with the most recent changes to the criteria for deciding which planning applications are determined under delegated powers.

Under the old scheme of delegation, applications where a Parish Council recommends refusal and the planning officer recommends approval, would automatically be determined by the Planning Committee. This is no longer the case as Parish Councils will now be able to request applications should go to Committee and these requests will be considered by the Chair of Planning and the Head of Developmental Management. These applications will go to Planning Committee if the Parish Council has given material planning reasons which cannot be addressed by condition. This means that Parish Councils will no longer be solely reliant on the local District Councillor requesting that the application is determined by the Planning Committee and they now have the option of putting forward their own case.

LOCAL PLAN

South Cambs. Local Development Framework was originally adopted in 2007 and was intended to cover the period up to 2016. We have now been working towards producing a new Local Plan (the new name for the document setting out all our planning policies) to take over from the previous LDF.

Part of this process involves the new plan undergoing an Examination in Public which is carried out by a Planning Inspector. This examination was progressing well until March 2015, when the Inspector conducting our examination called for additional work to be done to ensure we have taken into account house prices and affordability when assessing the number of new homes needed. (This was as a result of new planning guidance issued in the intervening period). The Inspector was asking for clearer evidence to enable them to make an independent judgement on the soundness of the plan.

An Extraordinary Council Meeting was called where the Inspector's letter to the Council was read outlining the work required. This was debated, Council noted the letter and Officers were asked to carry out the work required by the Inspector. This work has now been completed and a further Extraordinary Meeting was held in March where the Council approved the modifications to the Plan and authorised a further period of consultation on the changes. This has all been very frustrating as it has delayed the process by at least a year which means that some of our existing policies are now considered out of date and has resulted in some of our

villages receiving speculative applications from developers. One example is for 199 houses with care Home in Melbourn which has gone to appeal following refusal and is due to be heard on 12th July, 2016.

SHARED SERVICES

One of our efficiency drives is to enter into a number of 'shared service' arrangements an example of which is our Waste & Recycling service which is being shared with Cambridge City Council. This has resulted in £600,000 of savings so far and we are aiming to make a further £150,000 of savings over the next 2 or 3 years. Other services already being shared are the Home Improvement Agency, Payroll, Building Control, Legal Services and shortly ICT. These are being shared with a combination of Cambridge City Council and Hunts District Council. Finance and Planning are 2 further areas which are envisaged to be shared. A new shared Head of Finance has been appointed as well as a new shared Planning Director in anticipation of this.

HOUSING

One of the Council's main success stories this year has been the continued growth of our housing company, Ermine Street Housing. This is an organisation set up to provide market housing to the rental sector alongside our affordable properties which are managed by the Council. Ermine Street Housing has been targeted to bring in around £600,000 per annum to the Council through its commercial activities and has recently been shortlisted for a national innovation award. It has been shortlisted for the 'Reinventing Public Services' award and will be up against other Councils and organisations from across the country.

BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Local Government Boundary Commission is responsible for ensuring appropriate local government representation at Parish, District and County levels. They have a set of quite complex rules which they apply to local authorities, such as how many electors per councillor there are, how big each ward is, where the boundaries are and how many councillors there are in a council.

Due to the growth in some of our Wards, we have apparently broken one of the rules relating to the number of electors per councillor and this has prompted the Boundary Commission to undertake a full review of all the wards in our District.

At the same time we were required to look at the number of councillors we had, which at 57 was deemed on the high side. As a result, the Council has agreed to reduce the number down to 45. This of course means many of the Wards will change by having fewer councillors looking after them. In addition, the boundaries will also have to change to ensure the Council remains within the rules on the number of electors per councillor. In tandem with these changes, the Council have also resolved to change the election arrangements. Up to now, we have always elected our Council in thirds, ie each year for three years, a third of our councillors are up for election with no district elections in the fourth year. From 2018, when the changes will come into effect, the council will have all out elections every four years.

COMMUNITY CHEST

The Community Chest Scheme has now been replenished with over £50,000 of funding for 2016/17 and is open for applications again. We would encourage any community groups and Parish Councils to make their applications early before the pot runs out again. Awards are given on a first come first served basis so when it's gone it's gone until next year!

DEVOLUTION

The Government has been promoting the idea of devolution for some time now, but only recently things have gathered pace.

The initial ideas were that a devolution deal might be struck on an enhanced Greater City Deal footprint. In other words, a combined authority comprising South Cambs., Cambridge City, Hunts DC and a subset of the County Council.

This looked unworkable as the county council would be required to be a member of this combined authority, which would prevent them joining any other combined authority which was also being suggested for Peterborough, Fenland and East Cambs. Initial proposals were worked out for a combined authority based on the County of Cambridgeshire together with the Unitary Authority of Peterborough'.

However, while negotiations were progressing, although slowly, the Government indicated that this would be too small an area and made it clear that the only deal which would be credible was one comprising Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk and that the combined authority of these counties and their respective district councils would be under the umbrella of an elected Mayor. The Mayor would have a number of powers devolved by Government to him/her and the County Councils would hand over a number of powers

upward to the Mayor mainly around transport, skills and health. Districts such as South Cambs. would lose no powers, but would be dealing with a Mayor rather than ministers.

The initial deal leaves much to be desired. South Cambs. has signed up to commit us to debating the offer at a special full council meeting in June when we will decide whether or not to take this forward.

As you can imagine, all these issues have taken up a large amount of our time as well as our day to day concerns of our residents. We are both very involved in the Neighbourhood Plan which we expect to take up to 18 months to its conclusion.

We would like to thank our Parish Councils for your help and support throughout the year and to remind you – do not hesitate to make contact with us.

ADDENDUM 4

Fowlmere Primary School 2016

Heather Mepham – Headteacher

As usual, I start with our mission statement, because it captures our core purpose : ‘We exist to inspire children to love learning and achieve excellence in all they do within our caring village school’.

- We believe that literacy and mathematical skills are the fundamental building blocks to wider learning.
- We believe that an enriched curriculum provides our children with real and meaningful learning opportunities, using diverse resources within the local and global environment.

By creating an open, stimulating, challenging, environment children will leave the school as well rounded individuals, prepared for the next steps of their life. Our school motto is: ‘love learning, achieve excellence’.

We continue to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. Additionally we attract some families living out of catchment from Foxton and Melbourn. The current roll is 100 pupils. 9 children will be leaving at the end of July to attend secondary schools at Melbourn Village College and Sawston Village College. The intake for the Reception year in September 2014 is expected to be 11, therefore the school roll will remain steady.

The end of Key Stage results for the academic year 2014/15 resulted in good attainment across EYFS (5 year olds), KS1 (7 year olds) and KS2 (11 year olds). Our focus on mathematics reaped its rewards and was reflected in the results.

Last year I reported that we were awaiting an Ofsted Inspection, having received notification that we had sustained our ‘Good’ performance, and would not be inspected before summer term 2015.

In November we received the call, and were inspected under the new Ofsted Framework. We received a ‘Requires Improvement’ grading which, whilst disappointing, we found that almost all the inspections that had taken place in the Autumn term had downgraded the schools in Cambridgeshire.

We have however accepted that judgement and risen to the improvement challenge and were pleased that our HMI monitoring visit at the beginning of this term recognised the progress we have made, and reported that ‘School leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent Section 5 inspection in order to become a good school’.

The children have continued to participate in a wide variety of sporting activities and competitions.

We had a number of pupils who were placed amongst the fastest runners in both the Y3/4 and the Y5/6 cross country competitions. Our girls cross country team achieved 22nd position out of 103 teams in the annual cross country competition in St Neots, and came 4th out of 23 small schools in the event.

Our netball team has enjoyed considerable success, and has moved through the competition ranks to representing South Cambs. in the County Finals competition which will be held in July.

Our Year 5 team came third in a recent heat of the Local Authority-organised Maths challenge, narrowly missing a place in the finals. Our English team reached the County finals of their competition which was held in Ely Cathedral.

This year we took the KS2 children to one of the Young Voices events at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. Young Voices is a charity that organises large-scale high-quality singing events for schools. We sang with Laura Wright (who opened the World Cup Rugby and the Invictus Games singing the ‘World in Union’ song) as part of a 6,000 strong choir. It was a magnificent opportunity and we hope to enter again next year.

Our Community involvement includes: Monthly assemblies with Revd. Angie Melaniphy, (Anglican), also with

Mrs Tess Maddin, (Methodist), and termly assemblies from the GenR8 team from Royston. We have raised funds for a number of charities including Jimmy's Nightshelter, Children in Need, Red, White and Blue Day for Armed Services charities, Save the Children Fund, Marie Curie, and Beads of Courage.

We have once again taken part in the Children Challenging Industry initiative with Johnson Matthey and the University of York.

The children have enjoyed all sorts of activities including Mothers' Day lunch, Fathers' Day lunch, an Easter egg hunt, Cooking day, Class Christmas parties, Cycling Proficiency training, and school discos to name but a few. They have been on a range of school visits including Wicken Fen, Burwell House and to the British Museum in London by train.

Madame Veronique Sanders from Melbourn Village College has continued to teach French throughout the school, and we have been able to provide a range of after-school clubs for the children including choir, chess, drama, lego, games and a range of sports. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents, and sporting governing bodies. Cambridgeshire Music provides piano lessons to a number of children in school.

Our new rising 5s will be visiting the school for messy play this term. The teachers will also visit the pre-school providers and make home visits to ensure a smooth transition for the children into school in September.

Finally, we are extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA. They raise an extraordinary amount each year to benefit the children at Fowlmere School, and are currently planning a ball for the Autumn term. Please do come and support us if you can.

We currently have vacancies for a Caretaker/cleaner and for a mid-day supervisor. If you know of anyone that might fit the bill please do let them know.

ADDENDUM 5

Dr Young's Charity Report 2016

Elizabeth Livingstone - Trustee and correspondent

This charity was established in 1663 by the will of Dr Edward Young, Dean of Exeter. His will directed that land be purchased and the income derived from this used for the poor of Heydon. The income for the Charity is derived from two parcels of land which are leased to local farmers in return for an annual rent.

A further small income is derived from payment for access for a neighbouring farmer across one of the Charity's fields.

The Charity is administered by three trustees, Barbara Shaw, Elizabeth Livingstone and our rector Andy Colebrooke.

To qualify as a beneficiary, recipients are pensioners living in rented accommodation. There are now four Heydon residents who share this annual distribution, which has taken place during May as usual.