

**Minutes of the Heydon Parish Council Meeting  
on 08 November 2016 at 6.30pm  
at The End Cottage, 75 Fowlmere Road, Heydon SG8 8PZ**

Chairman: Diana MacFadyen  
Parish Councillors: Carroll, Shaw, Smith  
District Councillors: Barrett

Actual start: 18.32

**1. Apologies**

Marie Janson Jones

Jose Hales

Susan van de Ven

These were accepted by the council.

**2. Opportunity for Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**3. To receive any declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interests of Councillors**

There were none received.

**4. To approve the Minutes of 13 September and 18 October 2016 (Planning)**

A change was required to item 6 (Footpaths), minutes of 13 September. The Chairman made handwritten changes and these were approved by the council, along with the minutes of 18 October, as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman. The Clerk to circulate an updated version of the minutes.

**5. Footpaths**

Footpaths: Cllr Shaw had checked the footpaths and found that the one from Arrow Plantation to Broad Green was in particularly good condition. Footpath 5 to Broad Green was not clearly marked and should have been reinstated after it was ploughed. The Clerk to write to the farmer, Mr Sheldrick.

Definitive maps: Cllr Shaw had been sent definitive maps by Brid Cooney. He replied regarding inaccuracies and his observations and these were noted and are being dealt with.

Fly tipping: There were two recent cases of fly tipping on the Icknield Way near Three Corner Plantation, one of which blocked access for farm vehicles. Councillor Shaw spoke to Peter Gaskin about the possibility of gates on the Bridle Way which would only allow access to riders or pedestrians. They would be unlocked for farm vehicles. Cameras were also mentioned as a possible deterrent.

Bran Ditch: The ditch has recently been cut and cleared. Peter Gaskin is to find out which contractor carried out the work. Cllr Shaw is looking into ways of funding heritage signs.

**6. Heydon Lane**

Peter Taylor wants an area of scrub cleared by the stream that goes under the road, by Abrams Lane. The Chairman has contacted the owner, Mr Ahktar, about it and will remind him again and about the

removal of dead trees and a branch lying on the bank by the side of the road.

## **7. Pavements and verges**

Cllr Janson Jones is to be reminded of her action at the September meeting to print flyers ready for circulation. Peter Taylor has put in an order for siding out of the grass verge on the pathway in Chishill Road.

CCC has revised its winter gritting schedule. Fowlmere Road and Chishill Road will continue to be gritted but Heydon Lane is no longer on the route. However, Cllr van de Ven has been informed by CCC that the routes that have been removed this year will now form the secondary routes, these will be gritted when there is a forecast of prolonged cold weather where road temperatures fall below and remain below zero for a number of days and when there is a forecast of snowfall.

## **8. Finance**

The Chairman signed a copy of the latest cash record provided by the Clerk and circulated before the meeting.

The Clerk noted at a CAPALC training session that although principal authorities may have powers to fund the maintenance and repairs to church buildings, such powers did not extend to parish councils. However, they are able to donate towards the upkeep of the church clock, dating from when the clock chimes played an essential part of village life and work. There was a discussion regarding the yearly donation of £100 for the use of the church for council meetings though there had been no need of it in recent times. A payment has already been made this year but this matter will need to be revisited in the next financial year.

Several parish councils in the area recently received a communication from the Church of England in the form of *FUNDING GUIDE 13: Local Authorities and Funding*. In the event that the legislation may have changed CAPALC made a general legal request to NALC for clarification on the matter. NALCs response clearly stated that parish and town councils do not have the powers to donate funds to the maintenance and repairs of church buildings and that all councillors should be made aware of the legal position as defined by NALC. The Clerk to circulate the correspondence.

The Clerk was reminded to make arrangements with the bank for Cllr Shaw to become a signatory to the current account and to remove David Livingstone from the list.

## **9. Finance & Governance Committee – Cllr Carroll**

Cllr Carroll gave a report on the Finance and Governance Committee meeting of 25 October. The Council agreed to the following recommendations made by the Committee:

### **Contracts**

(a) CGM: Either review the original contract or, if not in place, agree a specification.

The Clerk to draw up a specification.

(b) G&R Maintenance: There is a verbal agreement with Billy Crotty to cut the grass at the triangle (The Cross) fortnightly at £15 per cut and trim the hedge by the church two or three times a year at £150 per time during the growing season.

Formalise the agreement by letter to G&R Maintenance. Add the grassed area next to the entrance to the Bran Ditch, to be cut monthly during the growing season.

The Chairman to contact Billy Crotty for a price for the additional area as well as a copy of his insurance, and send a letter confirming the total specification.

Review contracts at price increase, otherwise every three years.

- **Councillor Training**

Each councillor identifies their training needs over a three-year period, and/or attends sessions run by Sarah Scott or CAPALC.

- **Risk Management Policy**

The risk management policy needs to be reviewed and agreed each year. It was last reviewed in 2009.

Clerk to review policy, circulate to members and add to next agenda.

#### **10. Planning**

An application for a single storey rear extension to 75 Chishill Road is awaiting decision by SCDC.

There are two double garages under construction at Houses 1 and 2, Heydon Grange Golf Club, which the owner states do not need planning permission. Councillor Barrett will take this up with SCDC Planning and report back.

#### **11. Website**

Currently minutes are more than two months old when they are displayed on the parish council website. The Council agreed that minutes may be published before they have been agreed and signed at the next council meeting, provided it clearly states that they are draft minutes only.

#### **12. Application for Local Highway Improvement funding 2017/18**

A meeting was held between the Chairman, Councillors van de Ven and Janson Jones, and Karen Lunn of CCC Highways. Regarding speeding in the village, Karen said it was unlikely that the 30mph zone could be extended, and there was nowhere in Chishill Road and Fowlmere Road where flashing speed signs could be installed but 40mph buffer zones before entering the village could be a possibility. Councillors Smith and Shaw volunteered to carry out speed checks with a speed gun loaned from Highways. The results would be incorporated into an application for funding.

#### **13. New proposal for County, District and Parliamentary boundaries**

See Item 16 for District Councillors' Report. The Council agreed that being moved into part of a North Hertfordshire constituency would be detrimental as jobs and infrastructure, economic catchment and development, health, education and transport radiate from the city of Cambridge and broader Cambridgeshire.

A leaflet will be delivered to each home encouraging everyone to go on the Boundary Commission website and make their views known.

#### **14. Councillor Training**

See item 9 above. The council agreed to two training sessions by Sarah Scott in the New Year at £50 per session. Chairman to arrange with Sarah.

## 15. Correspondence

All correspondence has been circulated and items added to the agenda as required.

## 16. County and District Councillors' Report

Councilor Barrett agreed to chase Debbie Barrett regarding an area of scrub by High Close which has brambles and dead branches overhanging the pavement.

The following report was circulated:

### District Councillors Report October 2016

The current District Council ward of Melbourn consists of Melbourn, Gt and Little Chishill and Heydon. This is set to change having been under review by the boundary commission. The ward will consist of Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Whaddon. The Chishills and Heydon will be in a ward called Foxton alongside Foxton and Fowlmere. These changes are due to take place in 2018 when the whole District Council goes to election.

The County Council Divisions have been released: Melbourn will be in a division called Melbourn and Bassingbourn – alongside Bassingbourn, Meldreth and Whaddon. This change will take place next year in May 2017. The Chishills and Heydon will be in a division called Duxford- alongside Duxford, Fowlmere, Foxton, Hinxton, Ickleton, Pampisford, Shepreth, Thriplow and Whittlesford. This change will take place next year in May 2017.

The Parliamentary constituencies are again under review by the Boundary Commission and it is currently proposed that the existing Melbourn ward villages will move into the North East Hertfordshire constituency. These changes are due to take effect in 2020 prior to the next general election, however there is a consultation process under way now which runs until 5th December 2016. We urge all residents to go online and take part. We have been a part of Sth Cambridgeshire for a long time and it seems that generally residents wish to remain so. The time now is to make our points of view known to the Commission. Our MP Heidi Allen is very keen we take part.

The link is:- [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk)  
Cllr's Barrett and Hales

The following report was circulated before the meeting:

### County Councillor Report

**Local Highways Improvement Fund and Fowlmere Road:** I have written a letter to relevant officers about the way Heydon has been totally let down. Diana, Marie and Yvonne have been copied in.

**Reflectors, bollards end of Fowlmere Rd/A505 junction:** I reported this problem via the Highways Report a Fault website and got an instant reply – it was being inspected. I await more information and hope this is a straightforward matter than can be actioned.

**Winter Gritting:** The cut to gritting could easily have been avoided had the largest voting block on the council (Conservative Group supported by UKIP) been willing to raise council tax by 1.99% as permitted and indeed encouraged by the Chancellor to do so. A Band D household rise in council tax at 1.99% would have cost that household £22 per year. Instead, freezing council tax, as has been done, causes significant cuts to this and other key services (e.g. no more transport assistance for post-16 students as just one example). Gritting has been cut by about £650K; a 1% rise in council tax raises about £5 million.

**31 Bus** The working group that gives a steer on transport subsidy cuts of which I am a member looked in detail at the impact of removing bus subsidies and decided that it would be unacceptable, leaving people stranded with no alternative way of getting to work/education etc. This position seems to be supported now by the council (but will be voted on in February). However, the overall budget for subsidized buses and community transport, about £2 million, needs to be found from somewhere else.

**Government Revenue Support grant to councils:** It was hoped that the new chancellor would rethink the policy of ending Revenue Support Grant to councils, as there was talk about easing the severity of local government austerity & adverse impacts on public services. Instead, the policy will continue, but to a more extreme version than before: Cambs County Council is being asked to consider a 'negative settlement' whereby it contributes substantially to the revenue accounts of other local authorities. This is supported by the Conservative group at County Council but was voted down by minority groups in early consideration last month. It will return.

**Mayor plus combined authority:** The County Council will vote on November 15 as to the new combined authority package which would include Cambs and Peterborough, and an elected paid mayor with accompanying new bureaucracy and decision-making taken upward away from councils.

**17. To accept notices and matters for the next Agenda**

Precept for 2017/18

Risk management policy

**18. Date and venue for next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 84 Fowlmere Road.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

Our thanks to Diana MacFadyen for her hospitality.