

**Minutes of the Heydon Parish Council Meeting  
on 10 January 2017 at 6.30pm  
at 84 Fowlmere Road, Heydon SG8 8PZ**

Chairman: Diana MacFadyen  
Parish Councillors: Carroll, Janson Jones, Shaw, Smith,  
District Councillors: Barrett, Hales  
Clerk: Yvonne Harris

Actual start: 18.32

**1. Apologies**

An apology from Councillor van de Ven was 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 08 November, 18 November (Planning) and 29 November (Planning)**

All minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

**5. Footpaths**

The Clerk still needs to write to the farmer regarding footpath 5 and will also mention that the overhanging briars at the footbridge need to be pruned.

There has been no contact with Historic England over the Christmas holiday period.

Travellers have recently camped on the Icknield Way by gravel pit plantation. The enforcement officer is aware and has given them notice of two weeks to leave.

**6. Roads and Pavements**

Work on the grass verge on the pathway in Chishill Road has yet to be completed by CCC but is in hand.

The owners of Halls Cottage, 15 Chishill Road, are concerned that flooding may occur due to the builder of the new build opposite blocking the drain. Peter Taylor has inspected and will arrange for a survey to establish where the drains go.

CCC Highways requested that the drain outside Lane Farmhouse was cleared. The Chairman asked the owner of the house to cut back the foliage, which he has done.

Mr Akhtar has yet to carry out the work requested in the previous minutes.

The council was pleased to note that the two bollards at the turning onto the A505 had been replaced. These should enable drivers to see the Heydon turning more clearly. However, the damaged signpost to Heydon has not yet been repaired.

## **7. Finance**

The Clerk had circulated the latest cash record before the meeting and a copy was duly signed by the Chairman for the records.

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Shaw is now a signatory for the bank accounts and that David Livingstone has been removed from the list.

One cheque to Y Harris was signed at the meeting.

Precept: The Clerk had circulated notes for consideration prior to the meeting. Following discussions, the Council unanimously agreed to increase the precept for 2017/18 by £600; £6,000 in total. This will result in an increase of £4.66 or 10.57% above the band D equivalent charge in 2016/17.

Model Financial Regulations: The Council agreed to adopt the new Model Financial Regulations which had been updated by NALC. The Clerk will add the necessary values agreed at the meeting and then publish it on the website.

## **8. Planning**

The Council noted that the application for 75 Chishill Road had been amended.

There were no decisions – timescales for all outstanding applications had been extended by SCDC.

The Chairman had received correspondence from the owner of Four Winds concerned that the application for two houses at neighbouring Woodstock might be decided by planning officers rather than go to the Planning Committee (as had been requested by the parish council). Councillor Barrett said that applications did not automatically go before the Planning Committee at the request of a parish council but were decided on merit by the Head of Planning. The Chairman will contact the planning department and recommend to Mr Gough that he and the owner of Walnut Tree Cottage urgently submit evidence to SCDC of their land ownership, which has been erroneously included in the application.

Despite confirmation by SCDC Planning to Councillor Barrett that the garages being built at Heydon Grange Golf Course require planning permission, the owner again insists he has been informed that he does not. Councillor Barrett will take up with Planning again.

An application had arrived for additional listed building work at Heydonbury and a planning meeting was agreed for 17 January.

## 9. Application for Local Highway Improvement Funding 2017/18

Councillor Janson Jones had submitted an application based on speeding data collected by Councillors Shaw and Smith and suggesting that the parish council would be prepared to contribute £500 towards a 40mph zone. She is due to give a presentation to CCC Highways Committee in February.

## 10. Correspondence

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

## 11. County and District Councillors' Report

The following report was circulated before the meeting:

### County Councillor Report

**Gritting routes:** As I have reported to you during the course of the year, the formal County Council decision last February to freeze council tax, rather than proceed with the standard 1.99% rise to meet inflation and demography demands, has exacerbated the problem of budgetary constraints mainly arising from the ending of government support grant. The freezing of council tax was a Conservative led decision and not supported by my group (Liberal Democrats). The 1.99% rise would have allowed winter gritting routes to remain unchanged; instead the network has had to be redrawn to a smaller scale. At last month's County Council meeting, responding to deep public concern, the Liberal Democrat group proposed to reinstate the pre-cuts gritting routes by drawing from reserves. This was unanimously agreed by the whole council, including all those who had supported the February cuts. However reserves are not a permanent solution. The council will once again, in February, be asked to consider a 1.99% rise. I hope common sense will prevail.

New gritting lorry drivers are being trained and South Cambs routes should be back in operation in the next couple of weeks.

**Street lighting:** Another motion to December County Council proposed that the decision to switch off late night/early morning street lighting be reversed. Again, this will have cost implications that cannot be solved without adequate revenue streams. Furthermore, as a cost saving exercise but without the knowledge of councillors, street lights have been significantly dimmed to the point where complaints have come in that they are not providing adequate illumination. This was raised at Full Council last month and will now have been rectified.

**A505 fatal accident.** The tragic accident on the A505 last month has devastated countless lives. I have contacted the Highways Road Safety team to understand next steps. They write: "The recent fatal crash is currently subject to a Police investigation and I cannot comment on any causation factors until this is concluded. There will also be a separate investigation carried out jointly by the Police and ourselves to identify whether any highway factors could potentially have contributed. If any remedial measures are evident from this they will be prioritised and delivered. However an initial inspection has been undertaken and I am informed that all necessary signs and lines are present and in good condition. There is an area close to the quarry access where verge overrun by heavy vehicles has resulted in a 'lip'

forming on the verge and an order has been placed to rectify this. The accident did not occur at the Flint Cross junction but approximately 200m to the east.”

I have also pointed out to the Road Safety Team how poor the line painting is along the southwestern section of the A505, in comparison with section approaching Fowlmere and Thriplow. They are going to reinspect the A505 during hours of darkness.

It is extremely regretful that the Road Safety scheme budget has been reduced after last year’s budget cuts, and this trend continues with government revenue support winding down to zero.

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

Councillor training

Finance and Governance Committee

Interactive speed signs

Risk assessments

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

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 87 Chishill Road.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.26pm.

Our thanks to Marie Janson Jones for her hospitality.