

**Minutes of the Heydon Parish Council Meeting on 14 March 2017
at 6.30pm at 87 Chishill Road, Heydon**

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

Actual start: 18.30

1. Apologies

Apologies from Councillors van de Ven and Barrett 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 declared.

4. To approve the Minutes

Minutes of meetings on 10 January, 17 January (Planning) and 07 February (Planning) were approved by the council as a true and accurate record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Councillor Training

As Councillor Janson Jones has indicated her intention to stand down in the near future, it was decided to postpone training until a new councillor is elected.

6. Footpaths

Footpath No. 5: The brambles over the bridge have been pruned. Although the Clerk had sent a letter in January to the farmer, Mr Sheldrick of Fowlmere, the footpath had not been reinstated. It was agreed to leave the matter until after the next harvest.

Heydon Ditch: Councillor Shaw confirmed that Historic England will have funds from April.

Icknield Way: The same travellers had returned but left after two weeks.

7. Roads and Pavements

Peter Taylor had arranged for the gully outside 15 Chishill Road to be jetted and cleaned. The gully on the opposite side of the road was jetted and found to run into the garden of the house and thereafter showed signs of dirty water coming into the pond because the outfall is below the water level. The Chairman contacted the owner of Hill Farmhouse, who owns the drive. The owners have permission for a dropped kerb and are installing another drain at the same time which will hopefully address the problem. Other gullies in Heydon had been jetted and

cleaned by the team.

Siding out of the grass verge on the pathway in Chishill Road had yet to be carried out. The piece of land by High Close had been cleared and cut back by SCDC. The Clerk will contact Councillor Barrett to authorise payment to the contractor. CCC have confirmed that they will remove the Leylandii in Fowlmere Road near the Bran Ditch entrance.

Mr Akhtar has decided that the dead tree in Heydon Lane is not on his land. The Chairman has emailed Peter Taylor to check if it is on CCC land.

Gt Chishill Parish Council had written to Heidi Allen MP concerning the dangerous junction of the A505 at Flint Cross, and a meeting with senior council officials had taken place on 24 February. The Chairman was invited to attend an onsite meeting in late March.

8. Finance and Governance Committee

Councillor Carroll reported on the meeting of 07 March. Once specifications for grass cutting have been finalised the Clerk will write to the contractors.

The Clerk will update the Council's policy document as agreed and circulate to councillors for approval before publishing on the website.

9. Finance

The Clerk circulated the latest cash record and it was agreed and signed by the Chairman for the records.

10. Planning

Applications for Woodstock, Fowlmere Road and 75 Chishill Road had been approved; those for 51 Chishill Road and 68 Fowlmere Road had yet to be decided. There had been no notification regarding construction underway at Heydon Grange Golf Club, purporting to be garages to houses 1 and 2. There were concerns that the new build at Hill Farmhouse might not have been built as had been approved. Councillor Hales said he would contact the enforcement officer if photos and details did not correspond with the planning consent.

11. Application for Local Highway Improvement funding 2017/18

Councillor Janson Jones informed the council that the application for a 40mph buffer zone had been successful and that the parish contribution will be £500. The Chairman will take over responsibility for the implementing the project.

12. Interactive Speed Signs

The Council is keen to address speeding in the village. This might be achieved by putting in an application for funding next year for interactive speed signs. Another possibility was a joint application with Great Chishill to have the 60mph section of road between the two villages removed. The first action would be to accrue data confirming that speeding exists, either by borrowing a speed gun or paying for data to be provided by lines across the road. Councillor Hales to email details of the company that Melbourn PC used. Councillor Smith will check with Sawston Police on when the police last carried out a speed check in Heydon. It was agreed

that Councillors Smith and Shaw will lead the project.

13. Risk Assessments

The Clerk said she would send out the risk assessment forms for the annual check to be completed by early April.

14. Correspondence

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

15. County and District Councillors' Report

The following report from Councillor van de Ven was circulated prior to the meeting:

Heydon Parish Council, March 2017, County Councillor Report

Results of County Council Annual Budget Meeting

Cambridgeshire is one of the very few councils nationally to have opted not to take the 1.99% standard council tax rise. This is what government permits, and it allows councils to address inflationary and demographic pressures - though it makes only a small difference in addressing the enormous funding gap resulting from government's total withdrawal of revenue support grant. The 1.99% rise would cost a Band D property 42 pence per week.

The council did opt to levy a 2% rise specifically for social care, as permitted by government, but this will be a drop in the bucket in terms of addressing the social care crisis that is contributing to NHS hospital bed blocking and cancelled operations.

The Conservatives, UKIP and Independents rejected the 1.99% rise. The Lib Dems and Labour both supported it. The social care rise was supported by all party groups except UKIP. UKIP proposed that reserves be used in lieu of any council tax rise. Council reserves stand at £16 million, against an annual expenditure of £500 million, excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Conservatives argued that the council can transform the way it delivers services to such an extent as to make substantial savings negating the need for the 1.99% council tax rise, but this is speculative.

What I voted for: My group, the Lib Dems, argued for the 1.99% rise in order to provide some support the following services - though much greater financial support is needed.

Children's services:

- Increase services supporting parents and their babies
- Maintain special needs support in schools
- Increase support for the local social care team
- Keep more Children's Centres open

Services for Vulnerable Adults:

- Increase the hourly rate for the staff providing home care
- Increase services to help people leave hospital as soon as they are well enough
- Reverse cuts to voluntary sector contracts for mental health services

Roads and Transport:

- Remove the charge for parking at Park and Ride sites in Cambridge
- Subsidise bus routes and community transport
- Improve maintenance of roads, pavements and cycle-ways

Other pressures cited in the Council's budget papers are associated with Brexit, including general financial uncertainty and uncertainty as to future government support to local authorities. For example in 2020 local authorities will be allowed retain Business Rates. However, they may be asked to fund new services currently supported by government. At council level we are also scrutinizing the impact of Brexit on staff recruitment and retention in health and social care, as approximately 10% of staff come from within the EU.

31 Bus: The 31 is secure for the coming year, although the council will still be looking to review its subsidized services. The collapse of revenue grant support in two years' time, however, means that it is going to be much harder to win the bus subsidy argument as time goes on.

A505 white lining: I was assured in January that refreshed lining would be happening, and am chasing.

16. To accept notices and matters for the next Agenda

Traffic speed control

17. Date and venue for next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 09 May 2017 at 6.30pm at The Mission Hut, Picots, Chishill Road.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.40.

Our thanks to Michael Carroll for his hospitality.