

Heydon Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 22nd May 2019
at The Mission Hut, 14 Chishill Road**

Present: Councillors Mrs D MacFadyen –Chairman, Mr P Smith, Mr M Shaw
Mr P Topping (County Councillor) (part)
Mrs D Roberts (District Councillor)
Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) and 14 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Rowbotham, Cllr Fowler, Mr Atkin (Fowlmere Primary School), Margaret Winn, Michael Carroll, David Livingstone, Patricia Gough, Joan Smith, Joy Radley

1. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 8TH MAY 2018

Copies of the minutes were available on the website with copies also available at the meeting. The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Speed Survey –Councillors were asked when the equipment was to be erected for the survey. The Chairman advised that there had been a delay as the equipment owned by Cambridgeshire County Council had broken. The County Local Projects Manager had confirmed that the survey would be carried out in the next couple of months. The Clerk had been asked to urge.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman gave her report –Addendum 1.

The Chairman-read a report prepared by the Secretary of the Heydon Fund. It stated that the fund totalled £4807.21 in cash at the start of the year. In May 2018 £2,000 was invested in premium bonds in the name of Edward May, supported by an appropriate nominee undertaking. These yielded a prize of £25.00 which was reinvested. On the news that there may be a large planning proposal coming forward it was decided to retain the balance of funds in cash. At 5th April 2019 the fund stood at £4,832.21 and now that the threat of the planning proposal looked less imminent a further £2,000 would be invested in Premium Bonds.

Cllr Smith gave an update on Planning applications which had been received by the Parish Council during the year. He advised that there had been a total of 32 applications which included a number of tree work applications which, because the village was within a conservation area, needed permission before work could take place. Cllr Smith urged parishioners to use the South Cambridgeshire District Council website to get up to date information on the applications as the Planners did not always advise the Parish Council of decisions made.

There were no questions raised.

4. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2018/19

The receipts and payments report 2018/19 was distributed to the meeting.

The Clerk was asked the position regarding the bus shelter electricity. She advised that after a lot of chasing a refund had been made by the supplier extra energy. Unfortunately they had gone into administration shortly afterwards and transferred all accounts to Scottish Power. The Clerk advised that a new contract had been negotiated with EDF Energy from the date that the extra energy contract would have expired in January 2019.

Scottish Energy had recently taken £784.88 from the Parish Council bank account for the period the account was with them. The Clerk was told that this was estimated on the amount paid originally to extra energy and was currently in the process of speaking with Scottish Power to get the money back.

It was suggested that the bulb in the bus shelter be changed to an LED. The Clerk advised that there was to be some new wiring so that the shelter could accommodate the defibrillator. She believed this was part of the specification.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Topping had forwarded a report –Addendum 2.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended every meeting so far of the Parish Council and had always received a great welcome. The council was good at keeping her up to date with the village and all worked well together. She thanked the council very much especially the Chairman who had a difficult year personally.

Cllr Roberts advised that she sat on the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee, Licensing Committee and full Council. She had also attended 100% of these meetings and tried not to let anything get in her way. She reported on the Licensing Committee which had the responsibility for issuing taxi licences. Drivers of taxis were in a position of great power so it was really important to make sure people were kept safe. A stringent process had to be undertaken to apply including a police check. Any negative response and the licence would be refused. There was an appeal process, with three Councillors, but in most cases the refusal stood as public safety was paramount.

Cllr Roberts continued by stating that the Local Development Plan was now in place and had been adopted later than it should have been. The current plan was until 2031. Work had already started on the next Plan with a call for sites. Cllr Roberts advised that land in Heydon had been submitted for consideration. She was aware that the landowner was to meet the Planning Officer later in the week. At the present time there had been so many submissions that the officers were still sifting through. Cllr Roberts referred to the Mayor of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire who wanted to double the number of houses in the district to pay for the proposed metro. This was a different view to that of South Cambridgeshire District Council. Cllr Roberts warned that the village will need to be prepared, not frightened, as this could be down to looking for numbers. If there was any news, on proposed substantial development, a village meeting would be called to discuss the way forward.

As advised by Cllr Smith there had been a few other planning applications in the village during the year. She added that trees outside of the conservation area could be protected if brought to the attention of the District Council Tree Officer.

Cllr Roberts concluded her report by thanking parishioners for their support and hoped to continue representing this beautiful village.

7. REPORT OF FOWLMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report from the school had been received. –Addendum 3.

8. REPORT OF DR YOUNG'S CHARITY

The report was read by Trustee Mrs Livingstone. –Addendum 4

9. PROPOSAL FOR AN EMERGENCY PLAN

The Clerk reported that South Cambridgeshire District Council had asked the Parish Councils to prepare an emergency plan for any situations in the village. The Parish Council had not been sure whether a Plan in Heydon was necessary and so it was agreed to ask parishioners their view at this meeting.

It was suggested that there might be some interest generated at the training for the defibrillator once installed. A question on whether the Church was locked was raised. It was stated that it was locked at night but the key was available if needed. A discussion took place on the use of the Church should there be an emergency requiring residents to get together. It was agreed that details of the key holders would be advertised on the Church and village notice boards and there would also be a reference put on the village website. Cllr Roberts stated that this was a good community and was sure should the need arise residents would help each other.

The Chairman then welcomed any further questions.

Planning Guidance Booklet – Cllr Smith advised that he had obtained a useful booklet on the planning process although it had not been endorsed by South Cambridgeshire District Council. Cllr Roberts added that it would also be a good idea to speak to a Planning Officer if an application was under consideration, as not everything needed to be formally applied for.

Neighbourhood Watch – The village co-ordinator reported that there had been some suspicious activity behind the animal shelter. This had been reported to the Police. Residents were urged to become members of the Neighbourhood Watch and he asked anyone interested, who was not a member, to let him have their contact information. Any information, on suspicious activity, was circulated to all members.

Access to village from A505 – Concern was raised over the access which was becoming progressively worse. Last year Cllr Topping touched upon a suggestion that a slip road was needed. It was noted that there was plenty of room going west for the creation of a slip road. Cllr Topping stated that the flow of traffic on the A505 was the busiest in Cambridgeshire. There was research planned to look at what could be done with the junctions and pinch points. The Chairman advised that this request would be revisited at the next Parish Council meeting on the 30th July 2019.

Avenue of Trees on Fowlmere Road – Councillors were asked how difficult it would be to put a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the avenue of trees along Fowlmere Road. The Chairman advised that she had discussed this with the South Cambridgeshire District Council Tree Officer in the past and been advised that an order could be arranged quickly if the trees were in danger. The Tree Officer would not be willing to grant a TPO unless there was a threat.

There was no further business and the Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Barnes for their hospitality.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....(Chairman)

on.....(Date)

Addendum 1 –Chairman's Report

Welcome – I think you all know who the Parish Councillors are and Deborah Roberts is our District Councillor and Peter Topping County Councillor. Sadly Martin Shaw will be leaving us soon as he and Barbara are moving to Scotland. Thank you Martin for the great part you have played on the Parish Council, you have been invaluable and we will miss you. So we will have a vacancy on the Parish Council, which will be advertised in due course.

You all received the notice of the Annual Parish Meeting with brief notes of what the Parish Council have been up to during the past year. I shall give you a more detailed report, but all the Minutes are on our website.

Firstly, once again many thanks to Melanie for cleaning the bus shelter and emptying the rubbish. Arthur and Joy Radley have transformed the bus shelter garden, it always looks lovely, so thank you both so much. Thanks also to Andrew Drury who has been looking after the piece of Council land at the entrance to the Bran Ditch, and keeping it tidy.

We have had a busy year with some notifiable results – a grant from the County Council of £1900 meant that we could have a big clearing job done on the Bran Ditch which was overgrown with foliage, including brambles and dead branches. The chippings were put on the muddy areas, which have long been a problem, and this has been a successful solution. We are hoping to get further funding that will enable clearance further down the Ditch and cover maintenance.

It was agreed with David Kenny of Natural England that an information board would be created for the Anglo Saxon Ditch and adjoining Medieval lynchet, which is a Scheduled Monument, giving details of the history with drawings showing how it would have once looked. However we are still waiting for confirmation of this project.

You will all have probably noticed the successful work that has been done to Heydon Lane, which has had a water problem for decades. George Hay, the CCC Enforcement Officer managed to persuade the landowner to have ditches dug in his fields on either side of the road, the undergrowth removed where Heydon Lane meets Abram's Lane, and the stream cleared. A series of new pipes have been installed. The surface of the Lane is to be 'top dressed' next year. We bought a salt bin which is now at the top of the Lane.

We are having a Defibrillator installed in the Bus Shelter when some necessary electrical work has to be done. Training will be arranged when it is installed.

Sally the Clerk and Cllr Elizabeth Rowbotham are investigating alternative websites that would be cheaper to maintain and comply with GDPR requirements

We put in a bid with CCC Highways LHI scheme for a grant towards a traffic monitoring scheme - to ascertain that there is speeding within the village – that was unsuccessful so we are now pursuing a traffic survey.

You will have all heard of the plan for a town of 9620 houses on his 2000 acres in Heydon – Deborah will provide any up to date information she has received from SCDC on the subject.

Addendum 2 –County Councillor Report

This is my second year as your county councillor.

Regarding the county council itself, it continues to face severe budget pressures because of the funding formula designed by Whitehall. The growth that Cambridgeshire is experiencing, in terms of population, is not being kept pace with in terms of the allocation of money to the county. However, it is managing and was able to allocate an additional £30m for road maintenance this coming year. The pothole situation is generally much improved on how it was 18 months ago.

I chaired the county Health and Well-being Board for 2018, setting the health priorities for the area, and I am a member of the Health Committee, and the Foster Parenting Panel that makes decisions on the suitability of people to be foster parents.

I have spent some time this past year making sure that the county education department understands that Fowlmere School, which many children from Heydon attend, is capable of growing in size, and needs the funding from any housing developments in its catchment area. At one point last year the county council was using a very old plan of the school on which to base their assumptions, and so were intending to divert any money to another bigger school nearby. I worked with the chair of governors, the district councillor and others to put the county officers straight.

On roads and drainage, I have tried to make sure that the highways department based at Whittlesford depot understands the needs of Heydon, and I have done this in part by getting the local highways manager to drive up with me to look at the state of the roads and the drains and get them sorted out. This has included matters like the water running along Heydon Lane where the possibility of legal action appears to have done the trick. Last summer I made sure that the grass at the junctions of the A505 was cut back to help visibility. I am pleased that after a lot of lobbying the Combined Authority has agreed to fund a research study into the A505 from Royston through to the A14. Need to be aware though that the aims of the study is to determine:

- what transport improvements and policy interventions are required to support and enable the continued success of the internationally important life sciences cluster to the southeast of Cambridge, including aspirations for expansion of the Research Campuses and Science Parks.
- It will also take account of aspirations for new housing and development opportunities in the wider area.

The government is proposing to make setting up an encampment on private land a criminal offence rather than a civil one, which would have made it easier to end the one at Thriplow Heath early last year. However that is a long way in the future, and in the meantime I work closely with George Hay, the county officer who deals with these issues, and also the police. I arranged a meeting of all local parish councils in this area in November last year to better understand the police powers under the law and how villages could better protect their open spaces from trespass.

There is no doubt that this part of Cambridgeshire, to the south of the city, is proving attractive to business and developers, and while I do not think that Marshall's will move their operations to Duxford, we see the Chinese tech-giant Huawei moving to Sawston, the Wellcome Trust want to expand their

site at Hinxton, and the proposal to build some 8,000 houses on the Heydon Golf Course – although I should stress that no planning application has been submitted on that one.

Please feel free to call or email me on 07825 876582 or peterwwtopping@gmail.com

Peter Topping, County Councillor

Addendum 3 –Fowlmere Primary School

During the year, we have continued to work hard at making sure that outcomes for pupils (fancyspeak for the achievements that children make by the end of their primary years) are as good as they can be. This is a challenging task; the expectations of what 11 year-olds can do are high and apply to everyone – not just those who in the past would have been perceived as “academic”. We track pupils attainment rigorously and try to push children as hard as we can to do their best. At the moment, it is SATs week (national testing for 11 year-olds) and so we await the results of our efforts with baited breath. Alongside all this work on pupil outcomes, we try to make school as broad and as enjoyable as possible.

With music, we have worked with other local schools and choirs to present a performance of Bob Chilcott's *The Voyage*, raising over £1,200 for that charity Age UK. We have experienced Samba drumming through workshops and have been lucky enough to have live musicians in school to present concerts and workshops. In January, almost the whole of Key Stage 2 went to Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices concert there.

We have taken part in competitions across the county in athletics, football, rugby, cross-country, swimming and cricket. We are not always successful in the traditional sense – though we do have some very good cross-country runners: our Year 5/6 team came first and our Year 3/4 team came 3rd in a recent countywide competition for smaller schools. Nevertheless, our teams represent the school well and enjoy the element of competition.

We made a special effort for science week in March – with each class enjoying a trip outside of the school on a science themed topic with museums and businesses around Cambridge playing host to all of our children in one way or another. Class 1 visited the bird reserve here in Fowlmere, and profited so much from their visit that I have set a challenge to all teachers to take their classes to the reserve before the summer is out!

A whole range of other activities happen in school from castles days, to visits to the raptor foundation, Antarctic visitors to Christmas productions – and even a visiting horse so that children were better able to visualise the remarkable characters of *War Horse*. We are holding Open Mornings each term, advertised on our website, and any one of you would be most welcome to call in at these times to see what our children are doing. Just make yourself known to a member of staff. Children marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, by carrying out independent research into the names of the Fowlmere and Great Chishill memorials. Working in small groups they used ancestry sites, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and battalion websites to research their “name” – presenting their findings to the community and moving a once distant name into a real person in the minds of our children. We are delighted that there is an entire cohort of children in the school who can put some history to names which adorn the war memorial in the centre of the villages of Fowlmere and Great Chishill.

We worked closely this year with our partner school – Ecole Victor Hugo – in Notre-Dame-de-Bondeville, a small town near Rouen, in Normandy. They visited us in March and spent the day visiting Cambridge city and Fowlmere School.

Addendum 4 –Dr Youngs Charity

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. Last year the trustees raised the rent for these fields bringing the amount more in line with current land values. A review date has been set for 5 years hence. 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, the Reverend Doctor Anand Sodadasi. A long established tradition of delivering the money this month has given it the name May Money, it has been delivered for this year.

Barbara Shaw has now tendered her resignation as she and her husband will be moving shortly from the village. The parish council will appoint her successor.