

HEYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman:	Diana MacFadyen
Members of the Parish Council:	Carroll, Livingstone, Janson Jones, Smith
County Councillors:	Susan van de Ven
District Councillor:	Val Barrett, Jose Hales
Clerk:	Sarah Scott

Members of the Public:

Alex and Jane Duffus, Philip Gough, Mr and Mrs Radley, Andrew Drury, Virginia Barnes, Rollo Barnes, Colin Hall, Melanie Chandler, Anna Vanterhayden, John Arthur, Heather Mepham

Actual Start: 20:31

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

David MacFadyen, Patricia Gough, Margaret and Peter Wynn.

2. Agreement of minutes of 2012 Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed by Alex Duffus and seconded by Colin Day that the minutes were a true and accurate account of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

There was one amendment which was in Point 4 (internal and not external)

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Michael Barley is making progress on speed watch

4. Annual Accounts

The Clerk took the Parish through the accounts and explained why the Parish Council had agreed a small increase in the Precept. She thanked our internal Auditors, Blanche and Co for their assistance. There were no questions.

5. Report of the Parish Council – Addendum 1

The Chairman gave the report of the Parish Council. Anna Vanterhayden said that she had been informed by that the field she rents would not be topped because of the Stewardship scheme.

Peter Smith gave a review of the planning applications received in the past year. There were 7 in total, 5 were approved, and 1 was withdrawn. The Digester application was approval via delegation and we are still awaiting formal notice of this as the agreement is in draft form. We are awaiting a retrospective application from the King William for the newly erected storage sheds in the car park. Alex Duffus asked for more detail of the planning applications and Cllr Smith told him which properties they related to and the details of the applications.

Phillip Gough spoke about the damage to drain covers on Chishill Road; he thought someone had tried to dig them out. He spoke about the length of time it took to get the road repaired. The Clerk explained that that the Parish Council had a very good relationship with their contact at highways and he basically works

on his own due to cuts. Couple with this, budgets have been cut dramatically and she handed over to District Councillor van den Ven who explained that there was a £90,000,000 budget for the whole of Cambridgeshire of this only £102,000 is allocated to South Cambs (102 Parishes). Cllr Smith asked if Cllr van de Ven can find out where the rest of this money is being spend – she will contact the portfolio holder and report back to the Parish Council. Oliver Stacey asked how we can get a voice to get more money. Heydon Lane and its very poor surface was discussed and Cllr Livingstone said if the drains were free-ed up from silt it might make a difference; Cllr van de Ven had highlighted this road to highways for major repairs, but this was not taken up.

6. Report of the District and County Councillors - Addendum 2

Anna Vanterhayden said that spoke with her refuse collection people and they told her that all of the green and blue bin recycled waste is going straight into a landfill site or burnt as the unit at Waterbeach is not up and running. Cllr Hales is to report back.

7. Report from Fowlmere School – Addendum 3

8. Report from Melbourn Village College

A report was not received.

9. Report of Dr Young's Charity – Addendum 4

Cllr Livingstone read out the report.

The Chairman thanked Virginia and Rollo for the use of the Mission Hut for the meeting and for their kind hospitality.

There being no other notifiable business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:22.

ADDENDUM 1, CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome everyone and thank you for coming. I should first like to congratulate Susan for being re-elected as our County Councillor.

Once again I should like to thank Melanie Chandler and Dawn Jaffray, who do a great job of taking care of the bus shelter and garden. Also thanks to Melanie for getting the churchyard yew trees cut back so they don't drip on the roof, causing moss.

As many of you will know, we now have an excellent and good looking Parish Council website – It was designed by Sarah, who updates it regularly – thank you Sarah.

Peter Gaskin from SCDC who deals with footpaths, organised a great deal of work on the Heydon or Bran Ditch – rabbit and badger holes were dealt with, and scrub was cleared from the village end of the footpath, which has made the approach much wider and more pleasant.

Work has progressed on Wheatsheaf Cottage, with the Council checking it at various stages. The owner has done a good on the outside of the cottage.

There is no news of the proposed wind farm. Mr Akhtar informed us that his contract with Volkswind expires in June 2014.

An exciting and significant archaeological event for Heydon has been the scheduling of the Bran Ditch by English Heritage, as an ancient monument, along with the medieval strip lynchet on Reeve Hill. The official description is Bran Ditch: an Anglo -Saxon bank and ditch between Fowlmere and Heydon, including an Anglo-Saxon burial ground, a section of medieval lynchet and an Iron Age Enclosure – Awarded Scheduled Monument Status – which puts it on a par with Stonehenge, though not attracting so many visitors. I should like to thank Carenza Lewis, who initiated the project – we are fortunate to have such a distinguished archaeologist in our midst.

English Heritage made an interesting discovery – there are Medieval house platforms in the meadow towards the end of Fowlmere Road, on the south side, suggesting that Heydon was once a much bigger village.

Mr Akhtar has entered into a High Level Stewardship scheme with English Heritage and Natural England, which means that there will be 20m of wild flowers planted either side of the Bran Ditch, and 12 m below the lynchet . The

field above the lynchet, on Reeve Hill, will be planted with flowers and grasses for pollen, and the large field to the east of Revels Cottage that borders Fowlmere Road, the chalk pit and beyond, will also be planted with wild flowers, so this should look an even prettier village in 2014.

The landowner paid for a large number of hedging plants to be put on the lynchet, and SCDC provided rabbit guards and supports. However English Heritage does not want any more trees or shrubs planted on the lynchet as their roots damage earthworks. Instead they have been planted on the Icknield Way and in other areas near Fowlmere Road, where there were gaps in hedges.

I am sure those of you who attended, will agree that the Jubilee Party was a great success - in spite of the weather - and there was an excellent turn out. The splendour of the feast was due to the organisation and hard work of Marie and her team. Also, many thanks to the DCC for all their help, and for allowing us to use the church for the party. The profits were donated to church funds.

We have a small Jubilee Orchard in the chalk pit – it consists of 5 cherry trees and 2 apple trees (the latter donated by the WI) and we received some funding from SCDC. Michael selected the varieties and planted them, and has since made magnificent defences to ward off nibbling deer, and waters them, when necessary. Thank you Michael for all your hard work. The planting event was covered by The Cambridge Evening News and the Royston Crow. In due course we will have a commemorative plaque.

There was some damage done to the Chalk Pit fence by a car that left the road in the winter – David mended the fence and replaced some posts – thank you David.

To more mundane matters – this hard winter has resulted in even more potholes. Sarah reports them to the Council when they appear and is always on the case, but due to severe cuts in funding progress is slow. Holes mended in winter is but a temporary measure and will have to be done again when the weather improves.

Under the Minor Highways Improvement grants we will apply for a Deer sign and a Chevron for the approach to the bend on Fowlmere Road, just past the chalk pit. We have missed the deadline this year, so will apply next year.

There have been delays and complications about getting some new numerals, but the finger post at the Cross will be painted when the weather improves.

Mr Akhtar was approached about the possibility of a 'path' on his land to the chalk pit, beside the hedge on Fowlmere Road. He said he will not make a decision until the Stewardship Scheme is up and running and the field is bloom in 2014. It was decided to put the proposal on hold.

The rubbish that was dumped at Three Corner Plantation was reported by Sarah, with photographs, to the Fly Tipping Department and Environmental Health. As you will have noticed it is still there, but hopefully it will be removed before long.

Peter will now tell you about the planning applications we have received during the past year.

That concludes the Council's report and it only remains for me to thank my fellow Councillors and Sarah for all their hard work during the year.

ADDENDUM 2 – District Councillors Report

Annual Parish Meeting - 2013

Dear Chairman,

I forward this report to you on behalf of both myself and Cllr Barrett as we have done in the past whilst working together. We find much common ground when we have the communities we serve in mind, a few differences when other issues pop up perhaps. But, all in all we agree that our role is to defend, support and further our communities.

2012/13 has been a rather more busy year for not just the both of us but in fact for the three of us, we include our County Councillor Susan van de Ven in that comment too. Our duties have ranged from advice to residents, to helping in the background with the much talked about Mettle Hill issue and the equally reported CCC PFI street lighting contract, the latter of which has plagued Melbourn in the early part of this year. We have worked closely under the direction of Susan, whose remit street lighting is. A great deal has been learned, when it's time for the remaining villages in our group to have their lighting changed, we will be in a much better position to advise and help where we can.

Planning issues again seem to be our staple diet, while we both help residents with their issues where possible, Cllr Barrett also serves on the planning committee at Cambourne and is of help from that aspect too.

Perhaps the biggest issue affecting all of us is the potential impact on people from the newly introduced Welfare Reform Bill. Whilst it is widely agreed that people should where possible provide as best they can for themselves and their families, it is also true that some aspects of the bill are at best difficult and at worst, somewhat unfair. Both Val and I are seeing a marked increase in people's concerns when facing a tax on a vacant bedroom. They rightly ask that the Council re-house them in a smaller house, unfortunately this isn't possible without a massive building program that would have to be rolled out in every village across Sth Cambs. The cost of which is also unaffordable and the impact unwelcome..

On the subject of Planning and new homes, residents are aware of the recent Option 2 consultation that took place across the district, where Sth Cambs District Council asked for public opinion on certain ideas for housing development and other issues associated with them. Some residents in Melbourn were so concerned that residents in Melbourn and surrounding villages would not be heard, that they undertook to encourage as many residents in Melbourn to participate in the consultation. This was hugely successful, in fact Melbourn submitted nearly 80% more comments and votes than any other village in Sth Cambs. The further data collected has been submitted to SCDC for inclusion in the decision making process.

Val and I have attended a raft of workshops aimed at trying to design the best plan for the district, however our primary role is to represent the Melbourn Ward, I believe this we have done. The 3rd June is when we find out how successful we have been.

The main voices that Planners and administrations should listen to are those of the residents and if done properly, it's a message that can be understood loud and clear. As we made mention of earlier, the response in Melbourn was very significant, if we can better the response in the next consultation across our villages in and around our ward, then nearly 11,000 people have a better chance of being listened to.

With that in mind, a second bite at the consultation cherry takes place in mid July of this year running for 10 weeks and we strongly urge every resident to 'Have Their Say' before the LDF (The Draft Local Development Framework Plan) is sent to a higher authority for ratification late this year.

SCDC have now brought the Contact Centre they shared with CCC, in house, giving a saving of over a quarter of a million pounds. This will hopefully improve the service to residents.

SCDC are piloting a doorstep textile recycling collection service which at the moment isn't available to our area. However if found to be successful it will be rolled out.

PV panels that have been fitted to some of SCDC's housing stock, has been reported to have been very worthwhile in helping residents with ever increasing fuel bills.

To close, once again both Val and I would like to say what an honour it is to be able to serve our communities in this way and hope you will continue to make our lives as busy into the coming year as they have been for the past one.

Cllr Jose Hales & Cllr Val Barrett.

County Councillors Report Heydon County Councillor Annual Report 2013

Susan van de Ven

Police – The County Council wanted to convert the police-oriented Neighbourhood Panel to a general public service meeting but this was met with resistance and things will stay as they have been. We have very good access to the local policing team.

Melbourn Village College – Jose, Val and I have all been involved in a variety of activities to support our young people at MVC and this continues to be an incredibly important link for us in our community work.

Transport – We've known for well over a year that the 31 bus is to lose its subsidy in September 2013, with the Council's promise that it will be replaced by something as good or better. The project has already been delayed and while affected parish councils have been written to about a public consultation process, the team of officers running the project have all resigned and new recruitment is now underway. I have offered my full support but we need the officers on board before we can get started.

Broadband – Heydon residents have done a fantastic job registering interest in Superfast Broadband – now at about 60%. People can still sign up to ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk. The service is to be rolled out to most of the county by the end of 2015. Protecting the needs of small villages will be key.

Roads – It is disappointing and worrying that our network of roads and pavements is to receive almost nothing in the way of improvements over the next six months, in spite of the Council's borrowing of £90 million over five years to improve the highway network. The Council's enthusiasm for offering support to the £1.5 billion upgrade of the A14, a national trunk road, is difficult to justify.

The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group wish list for the next Thameslink franchise has been fully adopted by the County Council in its response to the Dept for Transport. This includes retaining our hard-fought free station car parking at Shepreth Station, and the 50% student discount fare.

Cycling – Through working with County Council officers, Bikeability has now been rolled out free of charge, county-wide. The A10 Cycling Campaign has got off to a good start and we are pleased to have the support of cyclists from a wide variety of villages. This helps the overall case for improvements to cycling infrastructure in the wider area including the A505. The Dept for Transport has money which the County can draw down if a clear need is shown.

Social Care – The biggest expenditure of the Council is on adult and children's social care. This is not something that often reaches public attention, but individual case work is becoming more challenging for those in need.

Cambridgeshire County Council, following the elections, is now in 'no overall control'. At the May 21 Full Council meeting, the combined smaller political groups won a vote to bring the Cabinet and Strong Leader model to an end, and to re-introduce the committee decision-making system which served the council for many years, before central government imposed the Cabinet and Leader system in 2000 through the Local Government Act. Due to legal constraints, the committee system will not be able to commence until May 2014. It will be set for five years. For the coming year, the largest political group, the Conservative Group, will run a final year of the cabinet and leader system. The new leader is Cllr Martin Curtis. I voted for the committee system, having received a very strong message from residents in the run-up to the election that opening up the decision-making structure to all councillors, and reducing the party-political role in council decisions, would be welcome.

ADDENDUM 3 FOWLMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Heather Mepham - Headteacher

I will start with our continued mission:

'We exist to inspire children to love learning and achieve excellence in all they do within our caring village school'.
And our school motto, 'love learning, achieve excellence'.

We continue to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. Those living out of catchment are from Foxton, Melbourn and Shepreth. The current roll is 108, a slight decrease on last year. The intake for the Reception class in September 2013 is expected to be 11, which will decrease our roll to 102. The demographer predicts a continuous growth with a regular intake of 17, but this is currently not the reality.

Statutory Assessments are made for all children at the end of Key Stage 1 (children aged 7) and at the end of Key Stage 2 (children aged 11). The results for the academic year 2011/12 showed a slight decrease on the previous year at KS1. Attainment remains close to the National averages in reading, writing and mathematics. It is our continued aim to increase our performance against the national figures.

At KS2, results improved on the previous year in English, but overall were again in line with National averages. Again, our aim is to improve our standards further.

All of the children in Foundation Stage reached the expected level of attainment which looks promising for our mission to drive standards higher.

Over the last year we have substantially raised the standard of IT. We focused funding (both school budget and fundraising) to provide up to date technology for both staff and pupils. We audited our provision, bought new computers where necessary and set up a rolling programme to ensure a continuous renewal of hardware. Consequently we now have Wifi throughout school. The PTFA helped us to purchase a class set of laptop computers and cameras. The laptops are stored on a trolley and can be moved from class to class as needed. We also purchased an electronic library management system which enables all children to 'swipe' their book loans using a barcode reader. The system enables us to know which books children are reading, which books are most popular, as well as providing the children with search engines, author video clips and much more. Two parents have taken on the management of the system and enable it to run smoothly.

We also developed a new website, which we are very pleased with

(www.fowlmere.cambs.sch.uk). There is a site for public view and login areas for pupils, parents and governors. Pupils can interact with their classmates and teachers for homework and school-related matters.

The 2012 Olympic Games played a dominant role in our curriculum last summer. The children researched the history of the Games, the sports and sportsmen and women, both able bodied and paralympians. The values of the Games matched our own school values, and we were able to use these to exemplify and embed the ethos and behaviours

that we hold dear. Our learning culminated in a bumper Sports Day on the Butts, coinciding with National Sports week. The events were inclusive and the children put on dance and singing displays in their opening and closing ceremonies. The events were structured on a carousel system with the children participating in House groups. This enabled parents to follow and watch their children competing.

The older children based their annual end of term performance on an Olympic theme, which was enjoyed by many parents, relatives and friends.

Christmas was celebrated and enjoyed through a range of activities. The younger children performed their version of the Nativity, whilst the older children performed musical and spoken items in a concert at the Fowlmere United Reformed Church.

The School Council chose a number of charities to support including Tom's Trust, Save the Children, Children in Need, and Red Nose Day.

One of the successes introduced this year is a transformation to the lunch time system. Previously, children eating school lunch would queue up with a moulded air-line tray to receive their meal in a canteen-style system. In January, after months of planning, we introduced a family service system where the children sit at tables and Year 6 pupils serve the meal to the children at each table. As a result, we have observed better table manners and social behaviour, and children are eating and drinking more with less wastage of food. The Year 6 table leaders and mid-day supervisors and kitchen staff have worked hard to make this such a success. Parents were introduced to the system when mums were invited to share Mothers' Day lunch, and Governors have also monitored the system.

Trips were taken to St Mary's Church, the United Reformed Church, village walks, Burwell House, Linton Zoo, Colne Valley, Sawston Village College and Melbourn Village College for a number of events. The children have taken part in numerous inter-school competitions organised by the School Sports Partnership, and Gifted and Talented teams took part in maths and science events. We have welcomed a range of visitors to school to bring their stories, talents and skills to share with the children. For example, members of the Heydon community came to share their views with the older children about Wind Farms; a builder demonstrated to the younger children about building houses.

Our House system has strengthened with regular House events, both sporting and non-sporting; buddy days and creative days. Each House entered the Bury Lane Farm inter-school scarecrow-making competition. The Eagles House scarecrow won the competition and was duly exhibited in the shop. The children were treated to a strawberry picking session, which were shared with the whole school at the Queen's Jubilee tea party.

We have a whole school reward structure for good behaviour. School Council identify and select three treats each term, which the children can 'vote' for by putting any tokens they collect into the appropriate pot. Behaviour foci such as courtesy, care or respect will be discussed in assemblies and the children are rewarded for demonstrating them. This year the children have enjoyed a dress-up day, a Christmas cooking day, and at the end of last term, a wheels day.

We are working towards achieving the Eco-schools national award, and have set up an eco-team who lead on helping us to protect the environment. The children designed and made eco-mascots, and we chose one to represent Fowlmere school.

We are currently developing garden plots for the four Houses so that they can grow vegetables, fruit and flowers. We are also developing the school garden as a sensory garden for all the children to enjoy. We have benefited from tremendous volunteer help from one of the families in our community.

The Reception teachers are exploring the concept of Forest Schools, which is run in many Scandinavian countries and is growing in popularity in the UK. The idea is that young children develop awareness of the natural world through regular visits and work in wooded areas and copses. Land art and woodcraft skills are part of the learning. At the moment the nearest we have to this is at the top end of the Butts. We are on the lookout for a small safe wooded area within walking distance of the school which could be visited on a weekly basis.

We are one of few primary schools that still provides voluntarily-run after-school clubs. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents and community members, and sporting governor bodies. We offer tag rugby, contact rugby, football, netball, fencing and cricket. Non-sport activities include cross-stitch, art & crafts, games, nature, French, gardening, and choir, and a termly stamp club. The children take part in inter-school and inter-house competitions. We also benefit from classroom support from parents, grandparents, and members of the community. Cambridgeshire Music provides piano, flute and violin tuition to a growing number of children.

Our focus for school improvement is on raising attainment in English, Mathematics and Science. In September 2012, a new EYFS curriculum was published and is being used with our Reception aged children. We look forward to receiving the final version of the new National Curriculum for children aged 5-11 years. This is due to be published in Autumn 2013 so that we can plan for its statutory use in September 2014. This will of course be the focus of our work in the next academic year.

We have supported Cambridge University and the University of Bedfordshire by taking on trainee teachers. We currently have two trainees working in school.

We are, however extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA and particularly the hardworking committee. They raise an extraordinary amount to support the children at Fowlmere School. The recent annual Art Exhibition weekend raised £1,800. The next event will be the school summer fayre on Sunday June 30th on the Butts.

We strive to do our very best for all the children, and it is a privilege for me to be leading Fowlmere school .

ADDENDUM 4

Dr Young's Charity Report May 2013

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. After the death of one recipient last year there are now four Heydon residents who share this annual distribution, which has taken place during May as usual.

Elizabeth Livingstone

Trustee and correspondent