

HEYDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

7th May 2014

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:

Mr and Mrs Gough, Lyn and Peter Vokes, Andrew Drury, Margaret Wynn, Melanie Chandler, Rollo Barnes

Actual Start: 20:31

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Peter Wynn, Elizabeth Livingstone, David Macfadyen

2. Agreement of minutes of 2013 Annual Parish Meeting

David Livingstone and Peter Smith proposed that these were a true and accurate account of the meeting and they were duly signed.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

Speedwatch is happening in the village. Philip Gough is sharing equipment with other villages. The Clerk suggested liaising with Martin Gruselle on the use of the equipment. The Clerk also suggested putting this information on the website as well as Neighbourhood Watch.

4. Chairman's Report – Addendum 1

The Chairman gave the report of the Parish Council.

Peter Smith gave a review of the planning applications received in the past year since the last APM. They were taken from the village website and print outs handed out to the attendee's. He spoke about the unilateral agreement to safeguard the village from extra traffic due to the proposed biodigester plant. No response or update has been received on this.

A member of the public asked about the village vista's for the LDF. Our submission has been sent to Paul Sexton for his information. This has been used to protect the vistas from future development. Paul Sexton also has the scheduling information. The Clerk explained that each planning application is taken on its own merit.

If anyone notice anything that is not working ie the bus shelter light please let us know so we can attend to it.

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 explained the expected spend for next year – finger post painting, removal of some trees, replacement and mending of the fencing around the chalk pit. A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for arrange the removal of the tree near his driveway.

5. Report of the District and County Councillors - Addendum 2 &3

6. Report from Fowlmere School – Addendum 4

7. Report of Dr Young’s Charity – Addendum 5

Cllr Livingstone read out the report.

Cllr Hales – thanked the Parish Council and his colleagues for their help over the years and hoped that he will still be serving us in the following years.

There being no further business the meeting closed 21:11

ADDENDUM 1, CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

HEYDON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 7, 2014

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Once again we seem to have had a busy year for a small village – as I am sure you know, or hope you do, we have an excellent website designed , set up and maintained by Sarah so all Parish Council information is on it.

Thanks to Melanie and Dawn for the attention to the bus shelter.

Last year SCDC asked parishes to submit village vistas for their Local Development Framework plans to protect land adjacent to villages. We submitted a series of photographs, and due to the huge response the applications are still being considered. The Secretary of State has appointed an Inspector and hearings will not commence before mid- October 2014.

We continue to do maintenance in the village – the bus shelter floor was repainted with anti-slip paint.

We are getting quotes for repairing the rabbit proof fencing around the chalk pit.

The vegetation in the chalk pit is cut regularly, and nettles have been sprayed.

We are having a large conifer felled on the piece of land by the entrance to the Heydon/Bran Ditch as it obscures the view of the road for residents turning onto Fowlmere Road. We are also having the grass strimmed as Cambridgeshire County Council are unwilling, or unable, to maintain this small piece of land.

SCDC were approached in January by a company enquiring as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment would be required for two turbines on land to the east of Fowlmere Road. We sent the Scheduled Monument details and the photographs that supported our village vista submission, to Paul Sexton of SCDC, at his request, and we await the response from SCDC.

We understand that Mr Akhtar’s agreement with Volkswind expires in June 2014. He has not been informed of this enquiry, and confirms that he would not support any such proposal.

Sarah has been successful with her application to the Highways Department for a Deer warning sign on Fowlmere Road, as the animals frequently cross the road on the bend by the chalk pit. The signs will be put near the track to the reservoir.

Heydon Lane has been even more of a problem this year as sugar beet was harvested at Lane Farm in poor weather conditions. Susan brought in George Hay, the Enforcement Officer , who supervised work at the top of the lane – pipes were mended and rerouted. George has been successful in setting up a programme to try to sort out the water problem. We have had many meetings and the matter is in hand, but it will take some time to resolve completely. However,

there are plans to cut back the banks, and install gullies and surrounds . Parish records show that Heydon Lane has had water problems since the early 1930s.

Councillor Michael Carroll raised about a £1000 for our church with his marvellous Skathathon – skating 14 miles along the Guided Bus Route from Cambridge to St Ives.

The Jubilee Orchard, apple and cherry trees, in the Chalk Pit are doing well, thanks to Michael's deer Guards and we will be erecting a commemorative plaque in due course.

Sarah has completed her year's Cilca training course for Parish Clerks, so we now have an even more knowledgeable and efficient Clerk – thank you Sarah for spending so much time on the course.

There was another rave at the derelict barns on Fowlmere Road , and rubbish was strewn along the road. Jose organised an efficient clear up and arranged for Inspector James Sutherland to send a report on the event. James Sutherland then volunteered to meet Councillors and attended a Parish Council meeting to discuss his report, and explain the police procedure in dealing with such events. He made it clear that their response to a large degree depends on the number of complaints they receive.

He has since been very helpful as Heydon, and surrounding villages, have had a spate of shed and house burglaries. He sent several police officers to call on every house with warnings and suggestions of how to protect their property.

Wild flowers have been planted in a 20m wide band either side of the Bran Ditch and in part of the field on Reeve Hill – the other bit of the field will be left for natural regeneration, but thistles and ragwort will be sprayed. This is part of the High Level Stewardship Scheme that Mr Akhtar has entered into with Natural England and English Heritage, and some of his other land will be in this scheme too.

As many of you know Philip Gough is the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme co-ordinator – he sends out bulletins from time to time so if you wish to be on his list, please give him your email address.

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

Antique's gentleman asking to buy antiques has been investigated

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

District Councillors' Report 2013/14 – Addendum 2

This has been another busy year for SCDC with the Local Plan.

Jose and I spent many months in Meetings going through what was appropriate for our villages. Melbourn residents were the most vocal and a petition was raised calling for the abandonment of two areas off New Road with the prospect of a further 287 houses. We are pleased to say that we were listened to and a submission has been entered for 65 new homes on the land near Victoria Way and not the other sites included in the Local Plan. The public hearings are expected to start some time in October.

Planning

There will be a new Design and Conservation Service starting in May with a new manager. A design panel of 5 architects with a Chairman to look and advise applicants on selected schemes. SCDC plans to make the Building Control Service more robust by partnership working with Huntingdon District Council.

Environmental Services

Like all spending Departments, the Health & Environmental Services team is under pressure to save money. The changes to our waste collection service will be almost invisible to householders except in December, January and February, the green bins will be collected monthly rather than fortnightly. Full details are on the SCDC website. If you encounter difficulties with this arrangement, please contact your District Councillors and we will take all comments back to the officers.

During the worst of the wet weather this winter, we responded to requests for sandbags from those most at risk of flooding. This emergency response worked well and was very well received by those who benefitted.

Corporate and Customer Services

Withdrawing council owned IT for Members saved £40k this year and freed up officers to work on our ICT infrastructure.

Hopefully Customer Contact Centre is getting better with 86% of enquiries being dealt with at the first point of contact.

Community infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule - CIL

At present, all new housing developments in South Cambridgeshire are currently required to pay for improvements to existing play areas, sports fields and village halls where development occurs, to meet the needs of the new residents. This money is paid to Parish Councils to allocate against local projects.

Larger housing developments also pay money towards other facilities such as local schools, libraries, public transport improvements, recycling centre upgrades and health facilities etc. This money is secured through a legal agreement commonly known as Section 106 agreements.

The Government has decided that the use of 106 agreements should to a large extent, be replaced by a new development tax called the Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL for short.

This means Section 106 agreements are to be scaled back to mitigate site specific impact only and can only constitute a reason for granting planning permission if it meets the following tests:

- a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms.
- b) Directly related to the development.
- c) Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

The option to implement CIL was introduced nationally in April 2010 and has started to be adopted by councils. It is a tax payable on new market housing and building extensions greater than 100 square metres in size. Government has decided that self build developments and residential extensions will be exempt from CIL This will be levied on the gross internal floor space of new development and will take into consideration any floor space of existing buildings being replaced.

The Government's objective for CIL is to help generate more money from new development and to break the relationship between (a) the impact of development and (b) where money is spent. This will give the Councils more freedom for where the money is spent.

Roads and transport facilities

Flood defences

Schools and other educational facilities

Medical facilities

Sporting and recreational facilities

Open spaces.

The Council is required to transfer, within 6 months of receipt, 15% of CIL receipts to Parish Councils, but increasing to 25% where a Parish Council has adopted a Neighbourhood Plan.

The remaining parts of the fund will be used by The District, in co-operation with Parish Councils and The County Council to pay for other infrastructure items to support and enable development.

Impact on Parish Councils

Parish Councils have received considerable benefit from planning policies, to the extent that in the last 5 years, over £2m has been paid to Parish Councils. There is also over £1.5m in signed agreements that have not yet been paid. CIL will have a significant impact on this. Although it may be the case that the overall amount of developer contribution increases, the amount that will be paid to Parish Councils is likely to be less than under Section 106

This is especially the case given that both affordable and self-build housing will be exempt from CIL. The table below shows the effect of the based on small infill developments, the scale of which is seen in many of our villages.

e.g.

Scheme Size S106 to PC. Total CIL. CIL to PC @ 15%

1 dwelling 1 x 4 bed. £4,962.74. £12,000. £1,800 (or £0 if self build)

5 dwellings 2x2 bed (affordable). £16,427.86. £30,000. £4,500

1x2 bed, 1x3 bed (market)

9 dwellings 4x2 bed

Along with the Draft Charging Schedule we are also consulting on something called the Draft Regulation 123 infrastructure list. The purpose is twofold. Firstly, regulations prevent us from securing money under Section 106 for infrastructure items that are listed. This means developers will not be asked to pay twice for one piece of infrastructure.

Secondly, the list sets out our infrastructure priorities over the coming years. Parish Councils have previously expressed deep concern that their 15% proportion will result in less money being paid to them. It is therefore important that Parishes tell us their views on any particular infrastructure item, of local or strategic importance which would require investment to support additional development.

If approved, this will be submitted to the Planning Inspector for examination. This should take part in the Autumn following The Local Plan examination. If adopted, it is intended that CIL will be in place by April, 2015.

Greater Cambridge City Deal

Councillors have backed a proposed deal with the Government which could unlock one £billion of investment and more affordable housing for the Greater Cambridge area.

From 2015-19 the Deal would see £100 million released to invest in transport infrastructure, with two further rounds of £200 million each being released IF The Council along with City Deal partners, Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Councils, The University of Cambridge and the Greater Cambridge/Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership achieve agreed triggers.

As part of the City Deal, an additional one thousand additional affordable homes on sites on the edges of existing villages would also be delivered. This follows more than a year of negotiations including the details of 'GainShare' which would release later rounds of extra funding. This works by the local area keeping a share of the additional tax income that will be generated as a result of future growth. The first £100million would be provided as a grant from Government.

In addition to funding for transport and more affordable housing, the Deal would see the three Councils (City, District & County) sharing some of their funding and powers and working more closely than now. The details of the shared authority for the City Deal will be put in place by the end of the year. The two Councils have been key players in getting the A14 upgrade back on the national Agenda.

Val Barrett
Jose Hales
May, 2014

ADDENDUM 3 – County Councillors Report Annual Parish Meeting - 2014

The County Council is responsible for physical infrastructure and social services. This translates to roads and transport, waste disposal, trading standards, public health, schools and libraries, and social care. There are about 500 Looked-After-Children in Cambridgeshire and councillors have a statutory role as corporate parents for those children.

Unprecedented cuts and investment: paradoxical position

Cambridgeshire has been identified as an area of huge economic growth potential and as such is receiving significant investment from central government. For our area this comes in the form of the Greater Cambridge City Deal, which means about £500 million in transport infrastructure investment to accommodate 31,000 new homes across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire between now and 2031, with a focus on supporting the high-tech and biotechnology industry. The idea is not to build new roads but to make it more realistic for people to travel sustainably where there are heavily used transport corridors – so rail, cycling, and buses – in order to avoid increases in traffic congestion.

At the same time, the council's annual budget for running public services is undergoing cuts of 28% over four years. The lion's share of what the council spends comes from grants and Cambridgeshire's government settlement is one of the lowest in the country. It cannot raise more money because Council tax is capped by government.

The council's annual budget outside of the schools grant is about £500 million; it is also £500 million in debt and 10% of its annual expenditure goes to servicing that debt. Cambridgeshire is the fastest growing county in the country, and it has a rapidly growing aging population – which brings new and significant costs. The overwhelming slice of the spending pie after schools goes to adult social care, followed by children and young people. This is helpfully set out in the booklet that comes out with our council tax bills.

Transport and roads

Most of the queries I get relate to transport and highway maintenance, two areas that make up a relatively tiny slice of the spending pie. While A, B and even some C roads are in decent condition, unclassified village roads are in a terrible state. £300 million is needed to bring the Highway network to a good standard. This includes not just roads but pavements, cycleways, bridges, traffic lights and the drainage network too.

The council has minimal control over public transport operations other than the Guided Bus, where for better or worse it owns the infrastructure. Guided Bus passenger totals have exceeded forecasts but there is as yet no evidence that it has reduced traffic on the A14. The legal battle over the responsibility for the cost overrun (£161 million rather than the £127 million expected) has been settled out of court at significant cost to the Council.

The council's revenue budget is so strapped that it can no longer afford to run subsidized transport services and while there is some budget set aside for keeping subsidized village buses running for a limited time and in a limited form, this and the grants to community transport operators have no guaranteed future. What the council can do is build infrastructure such as park and ride facilities and dedicated bus lanes that make bus routes an attractive proposition for commercial operators. In my view we need to argue the case for a minimal level of subsidized lifeline public transport, and this means setting out its role in helping to mitigate the consequences of isolation. This is obviously critical in small villages like Heydon and the Chishills. The Cambridgeshire Future Transport project has yet to demonstrate a workable transition for the 31 bus though the council continues to assure us that the 31 will remain in place until an alternative is worked out.

Health

The council took on a new responsibility for Public Health last year. In addition it works closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group which is designing a new system for providing care for older people. This is an incredibly complicated set of bureaucracies with much change due to restructuring of the health system. Individual case work always offers a glimpse into how these systems actually work.

Education

All Cambridgeshire secondary schools except one have converted to academy status. Only 25 primaries out of 230 have done so. The County Council retains responsibility for the 'well-being' of children in academies though it has no formal role in intervening when things go wrong. It also remains responsible for home-to-school transport in academies.

There has been widespread concern that Cambridgeshire's grant to schools from central government is the lowest in the country, and vigorous efforts have been made to encourage a fairer funding formula. A recent announcement of an uplift to Cambridgeshire of some £275 per pupil is welcome though the gap remains enormous and much more work is needed to bridge it.

Running the council

The political administration of the council is about to undergo a fundamental change due to the lack of overall political control. The Cabinet and Leader system is being replaced this month by five decision-making service committees with politically proportionate representation. This will require cooperation across all the parties to make the system work as well as possible. The council needs to find £150 million in savings in the coming five years so the bite of austerity cuts will continue to be a feature of these reports for a good while.

Local projects

Heydon Lane: The County Council has employed an Enforcement Officer to help tackle long-running case work which through being unresolved costs the public purse. We seem to have made some progress on tacking the years-long problem of water run-off in Heydon Lane, though close monitoring and continued working with the Enforcement Officer is necessary. Diana MacFadyen's persistence and dedication to seeing this through has been hugely important in getting things moving.

Rail and cycle campaigns: I've found that community campaigning groups are an effective way of helping to get things done and on this basis the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxtton Rail User Group and the A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign have both proven to be worthwhile endeavours. Both have offered windows on mechanisms for improved services around local rail and cycle ways generally.

The Rail User Group continues to sponsor teenage volunteers on Duke of Edinburgh and other schemes at station gardens, and has a productive working relationship with First Capital Connect and Network Rail. As the change of train operating company franchise approaches this coming September, the Rail User Group has established contact/met with all five short-listed bidders to convey local priorities. We have

particularly stressed the importance of retaining the advantageous 16-19 year-old 50% discount, which saves about £140 per year for each student and relieves the county council of providing a transport subsidy. This discount has been matched by the train operating company running the Cambridge-Liverpool St line. With the future of bus transport so uncertain it is important to cultivate improvements to all our local rail services.

The cycling campaign has been remarkably successful at tapping into government grants for safe off-road cycle routes. As with the Rail User Group, this project would not work without the active support of local residents, including Heydon residents, so many thanks to everyone who has contributed. With City Deal funding on the horizon, I have asked the cycleways team if it would consider an off-road cycle path along the A505 between Heydon and Fowlmere.

Small villages: All in all, at a time when council budgets are depleting so rapidly, and parishes are being asked to cover more and more costs, it going to remain a difficult time for the smallest villages. Exceptional funding mechanisms for localized projects will be critical.

ADDENDUM 4 FOWLMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Heather Mepham - Headteacher

Fowlmere Primary school mission is that:

‘We exist to inspire children to love learning and achieve excellence in all they do within our caring village school’.

Our school motto is: ‘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, Stapleford, Little Shelford and Shepreth. The current roll is 96 pupils. We have 12 children leaving to attend secondary schools at Melbourn Village College, St Bede’s Inter-Church school and Sawston Village College. The intake for the Reception class in September 2014 is expected to be 20, which will increase our roll to 104.

The end of Key Stage results for the academic year 2012/13 resulted in very good attainment at the end of EYFS, with outcomes exceeding Cambridgeshire and National. At KS1 assessments showed an increase in reading, writing and mathematics on the previous year. Attainment at KS2 increased in mathematics on the previous year. Progress of pupils from the end of KS1 to the end of KS2 was good, with 88% pupils making a minimum of 2 levels progress in reading and writing, and 94% in mathematics. 35% pupils made 3 levels progress in reading.

Looking back over the last year:

The children have participated in a wide variety of sporting activities and competitions, including Kwik cricket, athletics, swimming, rugby, football, netball, hockey, tennis, gymnastics, dance, cross country

We have enjoyed visits to:

Whole school to Pantomime; Class 4 to Classical museum, Science day at Sawston Village College, MVC for storytelling bazaar; Class 1 to Toy museum at Stansted; Class 2 Castle Hedingham.

...and/or visitors from:

Rev. Linda Church, Harvest Festival, Rev Trudie Morris, monthly assemblies, (both from the Anglican Church), Mrs Tess Maddin, monthly assemblies, (Methodist), Mrs Carole Pearl, Remembrance Day (United Reformed Church), and the GenR8 team from Royston. Visitors also include Denny Abbey, 3 Authors, a storyteller, MVC band on the bus, History Off the Page, Nick Juett MVC art teacher (art project with class 4),

We have organised:

Science Fair, treat days (wheels day, cooking day, outdoor day), KS1 nativity, KS2 Christmas concert, school discos, Global reading challenge, Children Challenging Industry project with Johnson Matthey and the University of York, Mothers' Day lunch, Fathers' Day lunch, waste free lunch (eco-team), and we achieved the Eco-schools Bronze national award.

Easter egg hunt, World Book Day event, Charity events for Children in Need, East Anglia Air Ambulance, Phillipines Disaster Appeal and Magpas.

At the end of the summer term 2013, we held a special performance of the KS2 play, based on World War 2, for the older members of our school communities. We provided afternoon tea, and the audience joined the singing and flag waving during the performance.

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 Fowlmere United Reformed Church.

Small teams of children have participated in Gifted and Talented events organised by Bassingbourn Primary school, in maths, writing, poetry and dance. We also took part in the Local Authority organised Maths Challenge for Y5 pupils.

We teach French throughout the school, and last summer took a small group of Y5/6 children to the Auvergne for a week. The highlights of the week were a visit to Padirac caves, we made croissants in a Boulangerie, spent a day in the primary school, visited an accordion museum and a goats cheese farm. The remainder of the class went to Eaton Vale, just outside Norwich, for an outdoor pursuits week where they canoed, climbed and abseiled and encountered a range of team problem-solving activities.

We have again hosted trainee teachers from Cambridge and Bedford Universities, providing guidance and support to the training of the next generation of primary school teachers.

Our House team events include a writing day, a dance competition, a singing day, Christmas and Easter quizzes. House buddies made a giant friendship jigsaw, prepared and seeded the garden plots, planted fruit trees (Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall), and read to one another on World Book Day.

We belong to the Cluster of schools that feed into Melbourn and Bassingbourn Village Colleges. One of the cluster schools events was a storytelling project, which involved a storyteller working with children across the schools and culminating in a storytelling bazaar at MVC.

The Reception aged children have enjoyed their weekly visits to the Round Moat in Fowlmere for Forest schools. Unfortunately the strong winds in February have rendered the area unsafe, so we are temporarily using the trees at the top of the Butts as a temporary site.

I hold a termly Parent Focus Group meeting to discuss a range of topics and issues with parents. Our most recent meeting focused on homework with discussions around school, pupils and parents perspectives.

We are one of few primary schools that provides voluntarily-run after-school clubs. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents and community members, and sporting governor bodies. We offer a range of sports and non-sport clubs. We also benefit from classroom support from parents, and members of the community.

Cambridgeshire Music provides piano, flute, recorder and violin tuition to a growing number of children.

We are extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA. They raise an extraordinary amount to benefit the children at Fowlmere School.

Our new rising 5s will be visiting the school for messy play during this term. The teachers visit the pre-school providers and ensure a smooth transition for the children into school in September. September will also see the introduction of a new National curriculum in KS1 and KS2. I am pleased that we have appointed an Assistant Headteacher, Mr Philip Atkin, who will be supporting me in leading the work of the school.

We were expecting an Ofsted Inspection this year, but have recently received notification that we have sustained our Good performance, and will not be inspected before summer term 2015. We have plenty to do in the meantime, and it continues to be a privilege for me to be leading Fowlmere school.

Finally, our Annual Art Exhibition is this weekend (10/11th May). Please do come along to see the work of local artists and support the school.

ADDENDUM 5 Dr Young's Charity Report May 2014

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. There are now four Heydon residents who share this annual distribution, which is taking place during May as usual.

Elizabeth Livingstone

Trustee and correspondent