

# HEYDON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at The Mission Hut, Heydon

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 Vokes, Margaret and Peter Wynn, Melanie Chandler, Rollo and Virginia Barnes, Oliver Stracey, Mr and Mrs Radley, Michael Barley

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Actual Start: 20:05

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

#### 1. Apologies

Mr and Mrs Duffus sent their apologies and thanked the Parish Council for all they do.  
David MacFadyen

#### 2. Agreement of minutes of 2014 Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman proposed the minutes were a true and accurate account of the meeting and Cllr van de Ven seconded them. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

#### 3. Chairman's Report – Addendum 1

The Chairman read out her report. She also added that Yvonne Harris will take over the Clerking duties from 1<sup>st</sup> June for an initial period of four months.

Cllr Smith reported on planning applications for the last year. There had been 6 applications, one of which is still in the consultation process and one was withdrawn. A solar farm in Melbourn had also been erected. The biodigester plant application had also been withdrawn.

#### 4. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were none.

#### 5. Annual Accounts

The Clerk took the Parish through the accounts and explained why the Parish Council had agreed a small increase in the Precept. The Parish Council started the year with a combined balance of £4445.00 and ended the year with £3169.00 in the bank. The precept has risen this year to £4400. Mrs Barnes asked how much this Precept rise would add to the Council Tax – the Clerk referred her to the 'Your Council Tax Explained' leaflet which shown the breakdowns of costings. The Clerk did find this out for the end of the meeting.

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

Cllrs Barrett and van de Ven read out their respective reports.

Mr Barnes asked if the County Council borrowing is stable or increasing and Cllr van de Ven said it was stable. Highways has £90m to deal with potholes throughout the County and in real terms £500m is needed to get all roads up to scratch. It was reported that money from City Deals could be used for cycle paths and now would be the time to lobby for one on the A505.

**7. Report from Fowlmere School – Addendum 4**

Heather Mephram, head teacher, read out the report from the Fowlmere School.

**8. Report of Dr Young’s Charity – Addendum 5**

Cllr Livingstone read out the report.

**9. Other Points of Interest**

Mr Barley spoke about Speed watch and his concerns that car speeds drop as soon as they see the Speed watch signs. Unfortunately this is the stipulation for Speed watch that signage must be in situ to show it is taking place. Mr Gough said that the problem of speeding was actually in educating the drivers. Speeding would be put on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting and it is hoped that Mr Barley and Mr Gough would attend the meeting to discuss this further.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming along and there being no further business closed the meeting at 21:14.

**ADDENDUM 1**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT HEYDON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

We have a sad announcement – Sarah who has been our Clerk for over 5 years has resigned. She now has a full time job, and will continue to be Clerk to Gt Chishill, but she feels she hasn’t got enough time to look after us as well. Thank you Sarah for all you have done for us - you have been an excellent clerk and it has been a joy to work with you.

I should like to thank Melanie and Dawn, who for years have undertaken tasks for the village – Melanie cleans the bus shelter and empties the bin, and Dawn looks after the garden. The bus shelter tiles are kept free of moss, the gutters and windows are cleaned on a regular basis. Melanie has the yews cut back so they don’t drip on the roof. We finally got the finger post repaired and painted, the hedge and grass are well maintained by Billy Crotty, so the Cross looks good, as the centrepiece of the village.

The rabbit proof fencing around the Chalk Pit has been repaired and the Jubilee orchard is doing well – the fruit trees are in blossom and we have a small commemorative plaque in place. Michael is weeding the trees, which is a bit of a task as they are in anti-deer cages. The Chalk Pit is cut regularly and we plan to get the nettles sprayed again.

We believe that the threat of a wind farm has gone away. Mr Akhtar’s agreement with Volkswind expired last June and Volkswind closed their office in Britain last year. One of their employees inherited some residual rights from the contract but he tells us that there are no plans to develop the site.

Heydon Lane has had water problems for many years – in village records there was a problem as long ago as 1932. However, during the last year great progress has been made and we have been constantly on the case. It is a complicated situation but

Thanks to Susan van de Ven, to George Hay, the Enforcement Officer and more recently Gavin Wiseman the new Depot Manager, specialist contractors have been employed and work and investigation continues. Happily the situation is much improved.

SCDC held a couple of training programmes – one on planning policies and applications that Peter attended, and another on trees, listed buildings and Conservation areas that Peter and I went to – the latter was particularly interesting.

Last year there were a spate of shed and other burglaries in Heydon and surrounding villages. Inspector James Sutherland sent several PCSOs to call on houses in Heydon and Great Chishill to encourage everyone to be vigilant and lock sheds and outbuildings. Don’t forget that Philip Gough is our Neighbourhood Watch representative, so please contact him if you have anything to report.

There were travellers, in two caravans, on the Icknield Way on three different occasions last year. They were moved on by George Hay, the Enforcement Officer, who has dealt with this particular group for years, and who says that he thinks Heydon is now on their route. After their departure George then arranged for all the mess they left behind, to be removed. George is the most effective and helpful officer.

The huge fire in Bridgefoot Farm Quarry last November caused distress and inconvenience to many of us. The clean up and removal of debris from the site has begun, but the latest news from SCDC on 5 May, 2015 is that ‘the Environment Agency issued an enforcement notice to the operator Akhtar Waste and Energy Development Ltd

requiring it to remove all waste material remaining on site, including ash, and suspends all permitted operations until 13 April 2015. The operator has failed to meet this deadline and the Environment Agency is now discussing further enforcement action with their legal team. They are also continuing to investigate the circumstances around the fire and are in discussion with the operator about the future of the site'. The information from the police was that the suspected arsonist was released from bail and no further action will be taken, due to lack of evidence.

On a more cheerful note you will all have seen the wonderful wild flowers on either side of the Bran Ditch – they are 20m margins in either side of the Ditch and part of the High Stewardship scheme that Mr Akhtar has with Natural England. I understand from Alice Bateman of Natural England that some spraying of ragwort will be done behind the Chalk Pit to try and control this pernicious plant that has spread from Reeve Hill. They are reluctant to spray Reeve Hill as it also contains many plants for nectar, but it has a huge amount of ragwort and giant thistles so they will try regular topping this year, but may have to plough it and re-establish nectar plants and grasses in future.

The footpaths are in quite good shape, but the Bridleway, the Icknield Way, was badly damaged by sugar beet harvesters and lorries. Michael is in touch with Peter Gaskin about it and hopefully there will be funds to repair the damage. There was a proposal from Peter Smith about a possible path, inside the hedge, to the Chalk Pit. Mr Akhtar has said 'no' to a path. He has seen local people walking their dogs in the field, and doesn't mind at the moment. However, he has gates and is planning to have them installed at the entrances to the field and to the field opposite, which is Reeve Hill, after which there will be no access to this land. He is going to put up gates wherever possible, to discourage fly tipping, and for insurance purposes.

I have spoken to Mr Akhtar on several occasions about the damage to the verges, caused by sugar beet lorries – he said he would get in touch with British Sugar again, about repairs.

Sarah checks the usage of our website – there is regular and consistent use. Thank you Sarah the website is of huge benefit to the village.

Just a couple of reminders – please make sure your shrubs and trees don't hang over the pavement, and please pick up after your dog. There are three dog bins in the village so please make sure you use them, even on the entrance to the Bran Ditch. It is a cross country route used by walkers from elsewhere and groups of children.

Peter will now tell you of planning applications we have received during the past year, and of the outcome.

I should like to thank you all for coming this evening, and to Sarah and the Councillors all their help and hard work during the past year. Finally we would like to express our gratitude to Rollo and Virginia for allowing us to use the Mission Hut, once again, and for their excellent hospitality.

## **ADDENDUM 3 & 4**

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT:**

**Cross party committee system:** The committee system of governance has been operating for coming up to 12 months and the general impression is that it has worked well. It is certainly resulting in a more collaborative approach to running the council. The system was made possible because the council is in no-overall control. Would it survive if a single party were to find itself with an overall majority?

**Council tax and funding cuts:** Government has significantly reduced its revenue grant to local authorities (28% over four years) and has capped the capacity of councils to increase tax levels. This has required the County Council to make severe reductions in its expenditure.

The result is some services being eliminated completely, and inevitable trend is for the council to confine itself to statutory services only. Increasingly, we will see charges attached to services. Parish councils are doing more and sometimes collaborating to gaining economies of scale.

The County Council has set its tax increase for 2015-16 at 1.99% (=48p per week for a Band D householder). Although the government would have preferred the Council to freeze tax, doing so now could create even greater problems in the future. Independent consultations indicate that a majority would sooner pay a little more in tax than see much-needed services reduced.

CCC's debt is estimated to be £463.5m during the 2015-16 financial year and we've budgeted £35.5m to service it. Of that amount, £17.8m is for interest and £18.6m is for repayment of the principal. The gross non-schools budget is £549.1m so £35.5m is about 6.5%.

**Education:** All Cambridgeshire secondary schools except one have converted to academy status. Only 37 primaries out of 230 have become academies. 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 retains responsibility for home to school transport.

Cambridgeshire's grant to schools from central government was the lowest in the country in 2014-15. After vigorous efforts to persuade the government to revise its formula, Cambridgeshire has received a better settlement for 2015-16 amounting to about 11% more per pupil. This raises Cambridgeshire from bottom to 136<sup>th</sup> out of 151.

Government has been providing free school meals since September 2014 to all infant school pupils irrespective of financial need. Those who qualify for and claim Free School Meals also attract to the school a Pupil Premium which is currently £935 for secondary and £1,300 for primary pupils. This is spent on 'narrowing the gap' in academic attainment between the well-off and the poor and early indications are that it is having the desired effect.

A major reduction will take place in the services provided through the Children's Centres (£1.3 million reduction in a £6.5 million budget). The intention is to target resources more accurately at those who need them and make less provision of 'universal services'.

**Aging population:** More and more people are living longer and, in the main, healthier lives. When they do lose their independence, the cost to the Council is very considerable. The Council's aim is to enable more people to live longer at home and be supported there rather than going into sheltered accommodation. 'Reablement' is the term now being used. Self-directed budgets will give older people more choice but at a lower level of funding.

**Health:** The County Council has a responsibility for helping to deliver the Public Health agenda, and scrutinizing changes to health services in Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group announced the award of a mega-contract to UnitingCare Partnership, a consortium of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust with Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. This will cover a range of older people's and other health (including mental health) and social services. UnitingCare has made lots of claims about improved service and lower costs.

**Programme of economic expansion:** In spite of revenue pressures and funding reductions, the county is growing and the council is involved in the creation of new infrastructure, funded by central government but delivered by the council. Superfast broadband is being implemented across the county; work will start shortly on a new rail station in Cambridge and a new by-pass for Ely. Cambridge and South Cambs benefit from a special grant from government called the 'City Deal' designed to help cope with population growth driven by the economic potential encompassed by the high tech and biomedical industry.

**Roads and pavements:** Hopefully, scarce resources will be spent more effectively in terms of extending the life of our roads and pavements, however both are in a terrible state of repair and we all know the potholes in our area. We will see a reduction in Highways grass cutting to just twice per year, except for visibility splays. Winter gritting has thankfully not yet seen a change, but it would appear that this is inevitable.

**Subsidized transport:** I'm on a committee that is working hard to bring in new ways of looking at the funding of community transport and subsidized buses. We absolutely need local car schemes and organizations like Royston and District Community Transport to survive.

**Education transport:** Post-16 transport assistance is discretionary and I would expect that eventually it will go. However, the student rail discount we get is far cheaper than the council-subsidized bus anyway.

**Park and Ride charges** – This was not well handled, resulting in higher than expected decrease in usage and bus patronage (about 12%) and an increase in gridlock congestion events around the A10 approach.

**Bridgefoot Farm Fire:** The EA permit is still suspended and many issues remain in flux. It is frustrating that the criminal investigation concluded with insufficient information. This event cost the public purse dearly at a time of cuts to public funding. South Cambs District Council is now coordinating the post-fire phase, as well as information dissemination.

**My role at CCC:** This past year I have served on the Highways and Community Infrastructure committee; Cambridgeshire Future Transport steering group which deals with transport subsidies; Economy and Transport committee dealing with new infrastructure; and Education Transport Appeals, mainly in Fenland with far more difficult economic challenges.

#### **Supporting local groups:**

The A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign has worked very hard to facilitate successful funding from the Dept for Transport. Our Annual Awareness Ride is on 17 May, and our next meeting is at AstraZeneca Melbourn Science Park on 7 July, 7 for 7:30.

The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group spends a good deal of energy cultivating and maintaining useful relationships within the rail industry. The Department for Transport has recently confirmed and approved our unique 50% student rail discount as a revenue generating scheme.

## MELBOURN WARD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS 2015

The district council's principal services are planning, housing, licensing, refuse collection and recycling. It also administers elections and collects business rates and the precepts levied by county and parish councils, police and fire services. We also offer grants up to £1,500 for small capital projects for community groups, and awards to fund further training for promising athletes.

SCDC's General fund annual budget is £16m. Council housing turnover (a separate account) is £29m. We employ about 450 people, equating to about 420 full time equivalent.

The county council is responsible for adult social services, highways, education, minerals and waste.

The council is landlord of 5,500 council houses which we strive to maintain to a very high standard. We have installed solar panels to provide free daytime electricity to over 2,500 of them.

We are responsible for tackling homelessness, helping an average of 40 struggling households per quarter remain in their own property or find an alternative home.

We have kept bed and breakfast accommodation at very low levels. 35 new council houses are already planned or under construction.

We are responsible for collecting rubbish from your house, taking it to the recycling and refuse disposal site run by AmeyCespa under contract to the county council.

Once the leaves have fallen, green waste falls overall by 50% in winter. To save money, the green bin crews have moved to annualised hours contracts, working the same number of hours as before (and the same as the black and blue bin crews), but skewed more to summer than winter. This is how your green bin came to be emptied just once a month in December, January and February. The new schedules have saved around £400,000 a year.

There has been no significant move of green waste to the black bin. We have also brought a string of successful prosecutions for fly tipping (and fraud).

The LDF is still being looked at by the inspector, Laura Graham. As yet SCDC haven't had any serious comment from Ms Graham that would likely give concern to the district Council that the plan was flawed. This is particularly good news as other district councils such as Uttlesford have just had their plan refused by inspectors due to deliverability issues.

However as has been previously mentioned by us throughout last year and beyond, all communities are very much at risk of entrepreneurial applications until the plan has been signed off by the Secretary of State.

Moving to a more local aspect of our work as councillors, In Melbourn, we have worked closely with Lightsource in order to obtain the best possible outcome for our community with regard to the two solar farms at Black Peak and Muncey's. This has seen investment in the Melbourn community in the region of £750,000 over 20 years. This will deliver a significant benefit to the community.

District Councillors Barrett and Hales

### **ADDENDUM 4 FOWLMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Heather Mephram – Headteacher  
2015

As usual, I start with our mission statement:

'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, Melbourn and Shepreth. The current roll is 102 pupils. 19 children will be leaving at the end of July 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 13, therefore the school roll will decrease.

The end of Key Stage results for the academic year 2013/14 resulted in very good attainment at the end of EYFS (5 year olds), with outcomes exceeding Cambridgeshire and National. At KS1 (7 year olds) assessments also exceeded national data in reading, writing and mathematics. Expected attainment at the end of KS2 (11 year olds) exceeded national in reading and writing, but fell in mathematics on the previous year. We have therefore focused on mathematics across the school, and can report that good progress is being made.

An Assistant Headteacher, Mr Philip Atkin, was appointed in September to support the Headteacher in driving forward school improvement. Mr Atkin has played an important role in developing mathematics across the school, and also ran three evening workshops for parents to enable them to gain understanding of the strategies used in school and to help them support their children with homework.

We began the school year with agency staff in Class 2, due to a teacher vacancy, but we were very pleased to appoint Mr Chris Martin to the post in November.

The children have participated in a wide variety of sporting activities and competitions, including Kwik cricket, athletics, swimming, rugby, football, netball and cross country. The Year 4/5/6 rugby team earned a place at the School Games Spring Finals tag rugby competition, competing against schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They won their pool, and achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place overall. We had a number of pupils who were placed amongst the fastest runners in both the Y3/4 and the Y5/6 cross country competitions.

We have enjoyed visits to:

The West End theatre production of War Horse, St Alban's Verulamium, Ely Museum, Y5 Well-being conference, Y4 to MVC, Burwell House, Huntingdon cinema for the BBC Ten Pieces project, Y5 Arts Day at MVC, Fowlmere Friendship Club to sing Christmas carols, Fowlmere Playgroup Nativity.

...and/or visitors from:

Rev Trudie Morris, monthly assemblies (Anglican), Mrs Tess Maddin, monthly assemblies (Methodist), and the GenR8 team from Royston, and Quantum Theatre.

We have organised:

Harvest assembly, Red, White and Blue Day, Remembrance Day Assembly, Class 3 museum presentation to the community (WW2), class assemblies, treat days, Christmas craft afternoon, KS1 nativity, KS1/2 Pantomime, Children Challenging Industry project with Johnson Matthey and the University of York, Mothers' Day lunch, Fathers' Day lunch, Easter egg hunt, Cooking day, Class Christmas parties, Cycling Proficiency training for pupils in Year 6

Fundraising this year has focused on Child Cancer charities following the sad loss of Eilish to Wilm's tumour in October. Eilish had desperately wanted to start school in September, and she was able to attend whenever she was well enough. We made a coin trail in the shape of CLIC, for the CLIC Sargent cancer charity and have supported Marie Curie, Child Cancer Awareness, and in particular the Beads of Courage initiative which provides different beads for children each time they have a treatment or hospital visit. Eilish had over 1,000 beads, demonstrating her courage and bravery throughout her illness. We have also supported the Children in Need day and the Save the Children 'Wear a Christmas Jumper' day.

A team of Y5 pupils took part in the Local Authority organised Maths Challenge for Y5 pupils. This year Madame Veronique Sanders from Melbourn Village Cillege teaches French throughout the school.

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

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 guitar tuition to a 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.

We are still awaiting an Ofsted Inspection, having 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 (9/10<sup>th</sup> May). Please do come along to see the work of local artists and support the school.

## **ADDENDUM 5**

### **Dr Young's Charity Report May 2015**

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 has taken place during May as usual.

Elizabeth Livingstone

Trustee and correspondent