

Hauxton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 July 2016

DRAFT

Present: Jane Ward (JW) - Chair, Richard Geyman (RG), Sue Cook (SC), Owen Patman (OP), James Kean (JK), Gail Kenny (GK), Tony Orgee (TO), Hazel Hammond (RFO) and John Hammond (JH) - Clerk

Members of the public present were: Mr Norman De'Ath, Mr John Mead, Mr and Mrs R Brown, Mr Peter Elliott, Mr Ben Noble, Mr Faraj Haji and Mr Roger Cook.

Those present were asked if they wished to make a presentation before observing the parish council meeting. Only Mr Haji requested this.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>By</u>
	Public Forum					
		Mr Haji expressed concern at 1 or 2 crack willow trees on Mr W Garfit's land which are leaning onto silver birch trees on the recreation ground. The Chair said that the PC would take this up with Will Garfit.			Chair to inspect the problem. Clerk to send a request to ask WG to address this issue	JH
1	Declarations of interest:	None				
2	Apologies:	Janet Lockwood and Gary Page. Tony Orgee sent apologies for a late arrival due to other meeting commitments				
3	Minutes of Parish Council meetings					
		3.1 Minutes of the meeting on June 1 2016. These were approved as correct	RG	SC		
		3.2 Matters arising: Item 3.2/3.2: The Hawthorne Avenue sign was removed during the cable laying work by Virgin Media and is currently in store with RG, who is in contact with the SCDC person responsible. Item 7: The Child Protection Policy will be represented for approval at the next meeting following additions by SC Item 8.6: The 40mph speed limit between Little Shelford and Hauxton is being progressed by Highways Dept. The gateway village signs, traffic light safety issues, etc - no action yet. (Post meeting update: This work has been started but will take a couple more weeks to complete.) JW reported the poor standard of footpath construction to Highways but was advised that there are insufficient funds for any improvements. The replacement of the bus stop sign is still on Highways Dept to do list.				JH
4	Finance					
		Councillors received copies of the accounts and payments for approval before the meeting				
		4.1 The RFO reported that expenditure was at 27% of budget, in line with what would be expected at this stage of the financial year. A number of credit notes had been secured from CGM because of errors in invoicing.				
		4.2 Payments approved were: Cavaleri Partnership (architect) £8,400.00, CGM (grass cutting) £468.00, Cambridgeshire Cricket (pitch maintenance) £1,050.00. Bruce Huett (audit fee) £112.50, JDK (Hedges and grass cutting) £510.00, Chris Parr (village work) £165.00, Jane Ward (Newsletter copying) £105.00, Viking (stationery) £83.92, Walton Loo Hire (WC hire) £129.60, HMRC £109.00, and salaries.				

It was agreed that the rental from Walton Loo Hire could be paid on an ongoing basis at £105.60 including VAT every four weeks.

- 4.3 The RFO advised that new legislation requires the PC to provide a pension to certain employees and to offer a pension to all employees if they wish one. The relevant compliance has been registered.
- 4.4 Transparency Code: Due to the S106 income, Hauxton PC is now required to amend the information supplied on the web site, under this code. The new web page was approved.

Clerk to make this page live

5 Fund raising

JH reported that the application for a Protected Playing Fields grant from Sport England, to restore the cricket square on the sports ground is in the latter stages of formal approval. This grant will permit 8 cricket strips to be constructed in spring 2017 and hopefully allow play to commence in summer 2018.

6 Hauxton Meadows

The Chair proposed that the parish council should host a welcome event for the new residents at Hauxton Meadows. There are now 30 homes occupied. It was suggested that this takes place at the show homes. Some grant funding may be available for this. Also Redrow may support it.

Chair to check with Phil Clark.
Clerk to investigate grant funding.

JW/JH

7 Recreation grounds and open spaces

- 7.1 Church Road recreation ground:
 - 7.1.1 Wild flower meadows: The Clerk reported that the high infestation levels of coarse grasses has led to the decision to cut and clear the wild flower meadows earlier than usual, before they shed their seeds. This is part of a programme to recover the wild flower areas.
 - 7.1.2 The cost of the contract for mole control in the village, with our current contractors, has been quoted to increase substantially, rising from £262 in 2015, to £700 for the Church Road rec and village green only, or £1,500 if Willow Way rec and the sports ground are included. It was noted that additional treatments outside the contracted area in 2015 were undertaken at both Willow Way and the sports ground, and that problems on the sports ground would have implications for sporting activity, safety and income.
An alternative mole control contractor has quoted £880 for all areas. It was agreed to use this contractor for the season 2016/17.
 - 7.1.3 Playground equipment: A final decision on this has been delayed whilst the school canvasses the children. This phase is now complete. The Chair will call a separate meeting to make final decisions.
- 7.2 Willow Way:
 - 7.2.1 Litter and dog bins: The SCDC had been asked if they would empty an additional litter bin near the woods. They had responded that their intention was to remove the existing litter and dog bins because of lack of use (they are emptied weekly). It was agreed that the PC should contract Chris Parr to empty the existing and a new litter bin on a two weekly basis, and request that SCDC empty the dog bin.
 - 7.2.2 Giant Hogweed: The attempt to control this chemically has not been fully successful. RG and JK to arrange a working party to dig it up and remove it
 - 7.2.3 The Clerk reported that the area in the woods with broken glass, reported at the last meeting, is covered with nettles and does not need fencing off. As a permanent solution the quote by Chris Parr to bury it at £175 will be probably be taken up in the autumn.

OP

JK

Clerk to progress

JH

Chair to arrange separate meeting

JW

Clerk to purchase litter bin and reach agreement with SCDC re dog bin. Order to be placed with Chris Parr

JH

Clerk to check with Peter Gaskin regarding disposal restrictions

JH

Review decision in autumn

JH

7.3 Village Green: CGM have cut the grass but left the dead plants beside the fence, which should have been strimmed according to the contract.				Clerk to contact CGM to action	JH
7.4 Jopling Way: SC advised that the mini previously reported as having driven over the grass area has returned. The situation will be monitored to see if this is a recurring incident.				SC to monitor	SC
7.5 Sports Ground:					
7.5.1 Update of usage: JH reported that Cambridgeshire United Women Football Club have hired the sports pitches for the pre-season training, three times per week, until mid-September. The revenue will help to prepare and maintain the pitches for the upcoming season. A temporary WC has been placed at the sports ground, which will remain for the duration of the football season. The Chair proposed a small noticeboard should be placed at the sports ground entrance to advise casual users when the pitches will be unavailable, and to request that they use the litter bins.				Clerk to advise cost of notice boar	JH
7.5.2 A10 access update: It was explained that the entrance drive to the sports ground from the A10, will be moved south if the WWTP planning application is approved. This means a realignment of the boundary hedge. For this reason the pedestrian gate proposed at the A10 end of the drive will not be installed for the time being.					
7.5.3 Pavilion plans: The stage 2 report from the architect had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was approved and payment agreed.	OP	JK	RFO to pay stage 2 invoice		HH
7.5.4 Dog bin and litter bin: It was agreed to purchase an extra litter bin, to supplement the two inherited from Bayer, for users of the sports ground. It was also agreed to purchase a dog bin for location near the A10 entrance.	RG	SC	Clerk to purchase and organise emptying of bins with SCDC and Chris Parr as agreed		JH
7.5.5 Working party: It was agreed to form a working party to clear leaves and weeds from the drive beside the sports ground. Clerk to check with Harrow if the waste can be disposed of on their land. Mr Ben Noble agreed to join the working party.				Clerk to propose dates	JH
7.5.6 Sports Ground signs: A selection of options for signs were shown to the meeting and to the public. A preference was expressed and this will be developed.				Clerk to progress	JH
7.6 The A10 traffic light safety issues highlighted previously will be taken up on behalf of Haxton PC by County Councillor Gail Kenny at a forthcoming meeting.				Clerk to brief GK and provide photos	JH

8 Report from representatives on VHMC

Normally this would be done by a PC representative on the VHMC, but following the permission to sell vote, JK, Chair of the VHMC, himself reported. He advised the PC that at the vote 215 residents had voted, 161 (74.9%) in favour of the sale, and 54 (25.1%) against the sale. He reported that there had been an issue relating to the integrity of the ballot box at the start of the meeting, and the speed at which the ballot box had been closed at the end of the meeting. These had led to complaints from residents who felt disenfranchised by the process. The VHMC had subsequently met to discuss this and decided to declare the vote 'null and void'. Consequently, and following legal advice, there will be a new meeting to allow residents to express their wishes with clearer guidelines on the process. A number of the members of the public present questioned JK regarding this decision, but he advised that the VHMC had made their decision which will stand. A letter will be sent out to residents imminently by the VHMC.

9 Update on the new village hall The Chair advised that since the VHMC were to have a re-run of the 'permission to sell' vote, there was little that could be discussed usefully until the picture regarding the funding became clear.

10 Reports from:

10.1 County Council: TO and GK reported on two matters - the City Deal consultation on reducing congestion and devolution.

A link to the City Deal proposals for preventing people using cars in Cambridge at peak times has been put on the web site for residents to use and provide feedback.

Regarding devolution, it is proposed to form a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority chaired and led by a Directly Elected Mayor. There is a consultation period for this running until 23 August.

10.2 Consultative Committee: It has been agreed with Highways that technically the shuttle bus between Hauxton and the Trumpington Park & Ride can turn round at the village hall.

10.3 RG was thanked for his work to recover the Calendar section of the web site after technical problems arising from software updates

Clerk to circulate City Deal info JH

11 Correspondence

A formal complaint had been received from Mr Des Mead. This complained about the District Councillor, the Parish Council, the VH Sub-committee and the the VHMC. The Clerk advised that since this left no-one to form a Complaints Committee as required in the Standing Orders, it had been passed to the Monitoring Officer at SCDC.

12 Date of next meeting

3 August 2016