

Hauxton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 23 May 2019

Present: Jane Ward (JW) - Chair, Sue Cook, Jill Down (JD), Philip Allen - District Councillor, Hazel Hammond – RFO and John Hammond – Clerk and 21 members of the public.

1. Apologies were received from Gary Page, Caroline Ruben, Janet Lockwood, Richard Geyman, Ian Sollom (District Councillor) and Tony Mason (District Councillor)

2. Introduction

The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced the team from BPHA and Domovo for the update on the Mill View ExtraCare apartment block.

3. Update on Mill View

Kathryn Beck Community Development Officer, BPHA (Cambridge), Paul Murfin (Marketing Manager, Domovo) and Sarah Brown (Senior Housing Co-ordinator, BPHA) presented four lamp shades, which had formed part of the initial décor of the Mill View, restaurant to the Parish Council. A cheque for £500 was also presented.

Paul explained that the development, which had cost £8m to build, was planned to open around July. There would be 25 apartments for rent to local South Cambs or Cambridge City residents, and 45 apartments for sale. He explained that in order to qualify for residence the applicant must have a care package in place.

Domovo are the sales agent and Sarah Brown from BPHA will be on site. They will be operating a show home in Mill View. Residents were invited along to the show home or to make contact if they wished to view before the official showhouse opening.

4. Finance Report

The RFO had made copies of the financial statement available to residents on entry. This showed the level of general expenditure and reserves held, together with a detailed statement of expenditure on the village hall project. It was explained that there was now a shortfall on the village hall build and that the parish council had decided to apply for a PWB loan of £50K to be repaid over 7 years. It was emphasised that this would not necessitate an increase in the precept.

The RFO also reported that grants obtained for projects in the village in the last few years had totalled in excess of £300,000. (Full statement filed in the minutes and report available on-line)

5. Chair's Report

The Chair reviewed the year and commented on the fact that the Recreation ground is now a thriving meeting place and the new picnic tables are well used. New benches had been purchased and would be installed as would a dual recycling/general waste bin. She commented on the shrubs donated by Redrow for the landscaping, currently awaiting replanting.

The speed sign had been installed and was being maintained by a resident volunteer. Jane concluded by mentioning the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan, but this had to be a resident driven project. (Full report filed in the minutes and available on-line)

(A resident commented that he had produced a document which could form the basis of a Neighbourhood Plan, 4 years ago. A copy was subsequently passed to the Clerk. Another resident asked about the level of activity on the Sports Ground, and was advised that there had been over 80 football matches played during the season just finished)

6. Primary School report

The Headteacher gave an update of progress of the school. Pupil numbers now stood at 94. The Head commented on the many achievements of the pupils during the academic year.

7. Village Hall update

The Chair commented on the difficulties of progressing accepted offers on the sale of the old hall through to contract exchange, but that a cash offer had now been accepted. A new main contractor was expected to start work soon on the new build. Fund raising for internal equipment was still needed. (Full report filed in the minutes and available on-line)

(A resident sought reassurance concerning the Public Works Loan and its impact on the level of Precept. The Chair clarified that the PWB loan would not increase the precept. The resident also asked about the total cost of the new build. The RFO advised that in addition to the £850K build costs, professional fees, soil disposal and contingency would bring the final total to around £900K)

8. District Councillor report

Philip Allen commented on South Cambs issues over the year, and was questioned about the proposed Park & Ride at junction 11. He advised that the final proposals will be considered by the GCP during June, but were not yet published.

9. Sports Ground update

The Clerk commented that the new tennis courts - funded by grants from Wren, the LTA and Cambs LTA - were nearing completion and an opening event was planned during the summer. To date over 80 local residents had expressed an interest in paying an annual subscription to play.

The cricket pitches, funded by Sport England, were improving but more volunteers to mow and roll them were required. The Clerk reported on the increased amount of use for football, with two clubs now using the pitches every week.

He also reported that sufficient funding had now been gained to enable phase 1 of the pavilion to be built during the rest of the year, thereby providing changing and shower facilities as well as team and public toilets. Further funding was still being sought for the remainder of the pavilion as well as equipment for cricket. (Full report filed in the minutes and available on-line)

10. Hauxton Mill plans

Sunil Shah, CEO of o2h, updated residents about his plans for Hauxton House (previously known as the Old Mill House). Planning approval had been gained and work to restore the building would take place over the next 6 months. He advised that a Pre-App had been submitted to South Cambs for the mill itself and the rest of the site.

11. Additional reports were made available from St Edmund's Church, the WI, the Luncheon Club, Little Acorns, The Amblers walking group, the Birding group, Allotments, Neighbourhood Watch, the Tree Warden, Royston & District Community Transport and the Living Sport report following the Active New Communities survey conducted during 2019. (Full reports filed in the minutes and available on-line)