

Haslingfield Parish Council
Notes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 22nd May 2017

There were 41 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies** were received from Graham and Christine Kipping and Michael Coles.
2. **Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016** were approved; proposed by Tony Adcock, seconded by Ron van der Hoorn. Copies were available on request. Copies of this years' Finance Reports and Chairman's Report were distributed.
3. **Matters arising from 2016 Notes** – None
4. **Chairman's Report May 2017 by Jenny Jullien**

I am pleased to submit my first report on the work of the Parish Council over the past year. It has been a very busy, productive and enjoyable time.

Just a few statistics to start with – we've met every month, in the last twelve starting with just 7 Councillors in May 16 rising, currently to just 8, we are still three short. If you would like to join us to make a difference, please contact either myself or the Parish Clerk. Over the last 12 months at our meetings we had on average four members of the public. It would be great if there were more people that side of the table than this.

I will begin by looking back over the past year at what's happened.

In **June 2016** we celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday. It was a fabulous weekend, I'm sure enjoyed by all, and what was especially pleasing was how so many of you worked together to make it the success it was.

In **July 2016**, it was reported that the Cambridge authorities have started consultations about the proposed devolution which would mean that Cambridgeshire together with Peterborough would have a mayor. This has now happened, and James Palmer is the elected mayor of the combined authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. He has £20 million a year to spend.

In **August 2016**, it was agreed to replace the front door of the Village Hall, which has been faulty for some time, and, on a much more serious note Bob Branch told us he would be resigning as Chairman due to family reasons. We thanked him for his leadership for the last three years but this did mean we were now down to just five Parish Councillors.

September 2016 was first Parish Council meeting with me as the Chairman and Tony Adcock was appointed as Deputy Chairman.

At this meeting, final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for CCC had been made. Despite HPC writing to ask to be put with Harlton they decided not to modify their recommendations, that meant that from May 2017 Sebastian would no longer be our County Councillor, we would be grouped with Sawston and Haslingfield and Harlton would now in different wards.

October 2016 A South Cambs Development officer attended the meeting to talk about the plans to create a new civil parish to serve Trumpington Meadows - previously, the southern part of Trumpington Meadows had fallen within our Parish Boundary. The Parish Councillors supported this, it has now happened, and the new Parish is called South Trumpington.

November 2016 We welcomed three new Parish Councillors to their inaugural meeting, Peter Agar, Clive Blower and Tricia Knibbs, all very necessary additions to the team.

Special Meeting 30th November

We held an open meeting to discuss traffic calming and the proposed plans for the Village Hall. Prior to the meeting a questionnaire had been delivered to every household in the village asking first if they thought we needed traffic calming in the village and, if so, to suggest ideas. The meeting was attended by representatives from both Highways SCDC and Skanska. A lively discussion ensued, and we took on board many of the ideas and suggestions. Tony Adcock then displayed plans for the first stage of the Village Hall extension.

December 2016 Harlton PC reported that it was keen to support Speedwatch which means that we can share the costs of the equipment. Linda Shankland kindly agreed to lead the team in the initial stages.

January 2017 Jay Cole and the recently formed Environmental Group got her team to start work in the Wellhouse Meadow with the pruning and staking of the trees. Further work has taken place to remove the ivy from the wall and to purchase and plant more fruit trees. Work continues, meeting monthly, and recently the area at the end of Lilac Close has been tidied up. The next plan is to walk around the Village tidying up the footpaths.

February 2017 The Planning Committee approved the extension of Cambourne which will provide an extra 3,250 houses.

March 2017 Stagecoach reported that they would be making improvements to the No 26 Bus service, but the No 27 would be lost. Concern was also expressed about the parking problems outside the School. This will be looked at in detail by the Traffic Calming Committee.

April 2017 John Miller, who is spearheading the committee, reported that the first Traffic Calming Meeting was held, the next one planned for 18 May, and that it was agreed that Linda Shankland, who is coordinating the Speed watch scheme, would be invited to attend to the meetings. A figure of up to £15k was agreed by the Councillors to ensure the next stage of the Traffic Calming scheme.

That's just is a snapshot of what's happened in the last twelve months.

I've not mentioned the Grosvenor development at Trumpington, the housing development at Barrington, and its consequential traffic problems, or the Hare and Hounds at Harlton – perhaps more on that next year.

With this continued workload, we still hope to be able to recruit more Parish Councillors, if you are interested please talk to any one of us. We really do need more help.

I'm going to conclude this report with some thank you. Firstly, to my fellow Parish Councillors for their help and support in this my first year as Chair and to Frances Laville also for her help and support and for keeping me on the straight and narrow. To Sebastian Kindersley and Doug Cattermole for keeping us up to date with what's going on in the County and District and finally I wish to formally welcome Roger Hickford and Kevin Cuffley, our new County Council Representatives.

Jenny Jullien May 2017

5. Parish Council Accounts presented by Tony Adcock. Copies had been circulated.

Allocated reserves were explained and are listed in the Balance Sheet. The Parish Council has a general reserve of £50,709.20, amounting to 54% of the precept income.

The total income, to 31st March 2017, was £82,972.99 and expenditure was £70,510.66, giving a surplus of £12,462.33.

The Village Hall income, to 31st December 2016, was £12,127.10 and expenditure was £11,639.46, giving a surplus of £487.64.

6. District Councillor's Report by Doug Cattermole

This report covers the 12 months since taking up my duties on the District Council in May 2016.

Council meetings

I attended all the Council Meetings (8) during the period (19 May, 28 June, 22 September, 17 November, 20 November, 26 January, 23 February and 13 April).

Jean Hunter, the Chief Executive of the Council, resigned and Alex Colyer, Head of Corporate Services, covered in an interim capacity. A new CEO, Beverly Agass, will be starting soon.

Boundary Changes

There have been changes to the boundaries for both County and District elections. For the County elections (May 2017) the Eversdens and Harlton will be part of the Hardwick Division and Haslingfield part of the Sawston and Shelford Division.

For the District elections (May 2018), the old election district will be split. Haslingfield and Harlton will be part of an enlarged Harston and Comberton Division (Hauxton, Harston, Haslingfield, Harlton, Comberton, Barton, Coton and Grantchester) to be represented by three councillors. The Eversdens will be part of the Barrington Division (Eversdens, Orwell, Wimpole and Barrington) with one councillor. This is part of a re-organisation that will result in an overall reduction from 57 to 45 councillors on the council.

The new South Trumpington parish was created splitting off from Haslingfield and will have their first parish meeting on 30 May.

Devolution

Following public consultation and all the local authorities voting for a new mayor for Cambridge and Peterborough, an election will take place in May. This will be an extra layer of local government sitting above seven local councils (including Cambridge County and South Cambs Councils) and the local enterprise Partnership. There will also be a Mayoral Combined Authority with the heads of the Councils and LEP sitting with the Mayor in the Authority. Peter Topping the South Cambs leader represents this District.

Housing strategy is to build 100,000 new homes by 2037 with 40,000 of these to be affordable. There is a £100m Housing Capital Fund to deliver over 2,000 affordable homes and a separate £70m fund for housing for Cambridge. Lead Partner for housing will be SCDC.

The initial costs of the new Authority will be funded centrally but the Mayor has the power to set a precept for the authority costs after the first year. The Authority will operate with several committees

and additional officers. The Authority can impose a levy for ‘transport functions’ and ‘other functions’ later and has the powers to borrow funds.

Recruitment is currently underway for a CEO on a salary of £150,000 per annum.

Planning

There are now around 10,000 homes approved through the planning system in South Cambs but not built. Recent decisions have included an extension of the areas being developed at Bourn and Waterbeach. Some of the development in Trumpington falls within South Cambs and the extension of Cambridge Biomedical Site (Addenbrooke’s) on green belt land in the district was also approved.

In January, the planning committee approved the extension of Cambourne up to the Caxton roundabout. This will provide 2,350 extra homes (30% affordable), plus 3 schools, shops, offices, and community facilities.

Council Priorities

There was a consultation on the SCDC website regarding a review of the four Council priorities:

Living well

Homes for the Future

Connected Communities

An innovative and dynamic organisation

These were reviewed as part of the 2017/18 budget process.

Ice Rink

The Council approved a £1,850,000 loan repayable over 25 years to support the Cambridge Leisure and Ice Centre. This is the new ice rink to be situated near the park and ride near Cambridge Airport. Assurances were given over the security of the project and recognised the fact that the council will make money on the loan (the difference between the rate of interest to the Council and the rate charged to CLIC) which can be ploughed back into supporting local services. Given that this will add a popular fixed local leisure facility that can be used by the residents of South Cambs then this was something worthy of Council support.

South Cambs Budget

South Cambs for 2017/18 has been set. Further savings were required to cope with a cut in government rate support of around £700k. The increase in Council Tax rates will raise around £300k but with other changes in revenues, around £600k of savings are needed over the year. Over a five-year period this savings figure rises to a potential level of £2.8m.

Council tax rates for 2017/18 will increase by just under 4%.

Because of the funding situation, spending will be tight, and reserves will have to be used. The council will also need to look at other ways of raising revenue.

The Council has innovated with commercial activities like Ermine Street Housing, a wholly owned private rental housing company (with many properties outside of the district) to help provide extra revenues. The Council will be borrowing considerable capital sums over the next four years to pump

into this venture and to grow it. Further commercial opportunities may be sought. The financial future of the Council will depend heavily on the performance and management of these new ventures to provide external revenues during an uncertain period of funding.

Bin rounds

Changes to the bin rounds have been made with collections in Haslingfield, Harlton and the Eversdens now on Wednesday. This is because services in South Cambs and the City are aligning and this will provide efficiency savings of around £150K.

Greater Cambridge City Deal (GCCD)

I have attended numerous briefings on the GCCD and we have seen various initiatives and direction changes proposed by the GCCD over this period. Back in June the proposals were for traffic control via cameras and road closures at peak times to ensure traffic flow. However, these proposals were seemingly dropped after the results of the public consultation were reviewed. Congestion charges were briefly considered but dropped. A workplace levy or tax on workplace car parking spaces (£1.50 per day on 10 spaces or more) is still being mooted as is extension of resident parking only schemes in the city.

New P&R's are being considered on the A428 as part of the new busway, extension of Trumpington (maybe upwards with extra storeys) and at Foxton. The idea is to take traffic off before the congestion pinch points but whether this will provide any great benefit is unknown. Some of these developments will be in the green belt. The idea of a site at Hauxton seems to have been dropped. Feasibility work will start on the South Cambridgeshire Travel Hubs - £100k in 2017/18

The Western Orbital route is still being considered i.e. M11 improvements between junctions 11 and Madingley. Highways England has not shown enthusiasm for a separate road and has suggested a Smart Motorway approach which uses variable speed limits and use of the hard shoulder (target date 2020- 2025). A bus only slip road at junction 11 was being considered. Recent focus has been on the Cambourne to Cambridge busway and the debate about whether this should be on the existing road routes or on a separate busway routed through the countryside.

Cycling is being encouraged but the main activity is within the City such as the extension of the cycling lanes along Hills road and work in the north of the City. Work has also continued on the development of the cycle route from Cambridge to Royston. The 'cycle greenways,' radial routes into the City, including routes from Barton and Haslingfield have recently been allocated development funds.

One of the provisions of the City Deal was the commitment to 1,000 extra affordable houses. To be built on Rural Exception Sites with priority to be given to those with a local connection.

At this point, it is hard to see what real benefits will accrue from the GCCD to those living in our villages and how travel around this part of South Cambs will improve.

Grosvenor Sporting Village

Grosvenor estates put in a planning application for a new sporting village facility of a sports hall, cycle track and all-weather pitches plus 520 homes on the green belt in Trumpington. This is tied in to the development of the Cambridge United stadium by the same developer where they will improve the

stadium and build more flats and houses. Part of the development will be on Haslingfield/South Trumpington land.

The housing at Trumpington will provide the funds for both development so the proposal to build on the green belt is driven by a funding requirement by a commercial developer.

Major problems will arise from if this development goes ahead in terms of further congestion on the routes into Cambridge on this side of the City. It will also be part of the infill on the southern fringe where development is stretching further towards our villages and the green belt needs to be protected from further intrusion.

The villages around the south side of Cambridge are generally seeing issues of quality of life with added congestion and difficulty of accessing amenities in the City. The land between the villages and the city is gradually being built on for houses changing the whole aspect of the environment.

The application is likely to go to the JDCC (Joint Development Control Committee) soon. The application is a joint one linking the development in Trumpington to the one at the Abbey Stadium.

75 bus service

There have been problems over reliability with this service. I asked Whippet how they intended to ensure reliability and give people confidence in the service.

Their response said

‘From 14 November we reduced our commitments in order to provide a more robust operation and we will do the same at the end of December and mid-January. These actions should restore customer faith in our ability to provide a reliable and punctual service.’

I later saw that this meant reducing other routes due to a lack of resources. I am unaware of any recent issues.

Doug Cattermole May 2017

7. County Councillor’s Report from Sebastian Kindersley

Sebastian Kindersley started his report by introducing the new County Councillor Kevin Cuffley, one of two new County Councillors. Cllr Roger Hickford will also be representing Haslingfield.

He continued by saying it had been an enjoyable twelve months and thanked the Chairman for her kind words earlier on. He had attended nearly all the Parish Council meetings over the last year, reporting on the declining level of Public Services and the increasingly bare services in what is one of the most affluent parts of the country. Cllr Kindersley said for the County Council to continually refuse the small increase in government Council Tax meant having to accept a reduction in services.

The Government allows an increase of Adult Social Care costs by 2%, to cover the costs of living for people delivering services. The County Council is shedding services and has stopped providing 16-18-year old’s transport to college, causing pupil numbers from less affluent areas to drop.

Potholes now need to be deeper, wider and more dangerous before they will be addressed (some have now been planted up!). There have been several large infrastructure projects including street-lighting by Balfour Beatty. The Council is now buying back all gritting lorries and re-employing drivers and will be looking to the public to provide the income. They cannot demonstrate a 5-year land supply and are now looking to develop outside village frameworks, including at Waterbeach and Cottenham.

Local government is a flexible world and has an uncomfortable future. The County Council looks after 650 children and has a quota to accept 97 asylum seekers, although currently only 68 have been taken on. The Council also has Public Health responsibilities to enable people otherwise trapped in their homes to see people, and there will be more on this issue in the future.

County Councillors are responsible to ensure school places for all who need them. 45 new schools are needed over the next 15 years. There is pressure on CEMEX to find a developer to build the new houses at Barrington, before the Planning Permission expires.

Cllr Kindersley finished by saying that he had always felt that Haslingfield has a very go-ahead Parish Council, is a wonderful place to live and one of the nicest parishes in South Cambs. He thanked everyone for all their support over the years and said he looks forward to following our fortunes in the future.

Tony Adcock (Vice Chairman) said that Sebastian had been around for twelve years, and will be much missed. Although the news is usually bad, councillors always come away smiling from his reports. He said the Parish Council had very much appreciated all his support and the way he 'tells it as it is'. Sebastian Kindersley was then presented with a card containing a gift of gardening vouchers, from Parish Councillors and Clerks past and present.

After a short break for tea and coffee, Clive Blower introduced Iain Webb from the Wildlife Trust.

8. Guest Speaker – Iain Webb from the Wildlife Trust

The Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity that purchases nature reserves, encourages private landowners, does outreach work, arranges walks and gives talks. The Trust's main function is to preserve wildlife and habitat, providing enjoyment and enriching the lives of many local people.

Iain Webb gave an interesting and informative talk on Haslingfield Quarry, and said every year several local volunteers do practical conservation work there. It is a very special site and his favourite place to work in Cambridgeshire.

Haslingfield Pit (the Quarry) has been dug out for clunch over many years, and covers 1.6 hectares of land (or just under 4 acres). It is a special site of open chalk and grassland, where many rare species of flora and fauna thrive, and has been identified as a County Wildlife site. Cowslips have increased in abundance, yellow birdsfoot trefoil ('bacon and eggs'), milkwort, St John's wort and oxeye daisies provide a very good nectar source, attracting many different varieties of butterflies and moths. Where the chalk has been scraped back, a delicate plant called fairy flax creates a 'drifts of mist' effect and thrives alongside the woolley headed thistle.

The quarrying of Haslingfield Pit started in 1885, and since then botanists from Cambridge University have often visited to check out the orchids. The orchids used to cover only a tiny area of the quarry, but since the scrub has been cut back they have happily spread out to other areas. Every autumn volunteers brush cut the scrub by hand, which helps to reduce nutrient levels in the soil. There is now very little chalk grassland left in the UK, resulting in hugely dwindling numbers of rare wild flowers across the country.

Many different varieties of orchid thrive in the Quarry, including the common spotted orchid, with a tall blue flower. The bee orchid is a beautiful purple colour, and grows on some local people's lawns. The man orchid is very scarce and only grows on chalk in just a few places in Britain, but survives in Haslingfield Pit – the only place where it can be found in the whole of Cambridgeshire. For this reason, it is vital that the population here is maintained. In the 1970s only about four or five plants were left, but the number has now risen to around one hundred orchids.

Since 2002, on the first Wednesday in June, there has been an orchid count across the whole site. Regular cutting of grass and clearing of scrub has had a positive reaction with a general increase in numbers of rare species. On 6th June 2017 at 10 am any resident is welcome to come along and help with the orchid count.

9. Open Forum

Liz Heazell said she had noticed marvellous displays on verges up Chapel Hill towards Barrington most years, but there had been a downturn over the last couple of years. She thought this could be because the grass was being cut before the seed pods had died.

It was mentioned that there used to be bats by the quarry on the left-hand side, halfway up Chapel Hill, but these have not been seen for the past few years.

Iain Webb said he would be happy to offer a Bat Walk for Haslingfield by the river, for those who might be interested.

It was asked if there had been any attempt made to preserve Barrington Quarry?

Iain Webb said it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), so hopefully some space will be preserved for wildlife around the proposed development.

A member of the public asked how to control cow-parsley.

Iain Webb said this is a valuable nectar source and advised cutting it in May, but always to leave some remaining to attract wildlife.

Jenny Jullien thanked Iain Webb for his interesting talk and all the residents for coming along to the meeting. She said she always knew that Haslingfield was a great place to live, but didn't realise quite how special it was until now.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Frances Laville
Parish Clerk
01/11/2017