

HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - May 2017

THE ANNUAL MEETING IS ON MONDAY MAY 22nd 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notes of Annual Parish Meeting 2016
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Presentation of Accounts:
Haslingfield Parish Council
Village Hall Committee (Badcock Recreation Ground Trust)
6. Report from S. Cambs. District Councillor
7. Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor
Short break for Tea and Coffee
8. Guest Speaker - Iain Webb from the Wildlife Trust
9. Open Forum:
An opportunity for village residents to comment on any issues

After a short break there will be a presentation by Iain Webb, Cambridge City Greenways Project Officer. Iain Webb, who also looks after Haslingfield Quarry, will speak this year about the habitat and species found at the chalk pit, and its importance in the wider landscape. The Wildlife Trust works to make our county a place where nature matters, where wildlife can flourish and enrich the lives of the people who live here.

Frances Laville
Parish Clerk

Traffic Calming (TC) Working Group

The first meeting of the TC Working Group took place on 08.03.2017 which followed the 2016 November Parish meeting where the Parish Council was given a clear mandate to implement TC measures in the Village. The Working Group was also supported by representatives from Cambridge County Council (CCC) and Skanska, both being instrumental to the approvals and ordering process. The Aim of the meeting was to review the results of the 16/17 Traffic Calming questionnaires with clear focus on the Traffic Calming 'hotspots' raised by the Villagers in order to support a 5-year plan to increase road safety in the Village.

A status report of progress was reviewed by the Group as follows:

- Phase 1: is now complete (in sum: being speed restrictions at the School and on surrounding roads entering the village).
- Phase 2: the Gates have now been installed and associated road markings will be installed by Skanska within the next month. The Barton Road designs have been amended and approved, being one only central chicane now with road pillows at either end of Barton Road.

The following was out of Scope of the TC meeting and is being reviewed separately by the Parish Council: Mobile (rechargeable) Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS): it was registered that the data collected from these would be able to 'inform' future priorities within the 5 year plans as well as attempting to reduce traffic speeds. Please note: many village locations are being looked into and these VAS will be rotated on a regular basis by the Parish Council when approved by CCC.

After a detailed assessment & a summary review, the following areas were agreed to be the key focus, here named as Phase 3 Traffic Calming [#] e.g. P3-TC1:

- P3 – TC1: the junction Cantelupe Rd/New Road & Fountain Lane: consideration – to reduce vegetation; install pavement extensions to the current path to improve visibility.
- P3 – TC2: High Street: consideration – where sufficiently wide enough, to install central island(s) that would also facilitate pedestrian crossing point(s). Pillows and road narrowing are also being considered.

- P3 – TC3: School bend – village green-side: consideration – to install double yellow lines & possible pedestrian fencing so that cars can proceed safely on the road within the 20 mph zone without blind spots due to parked cars.
- P3 – TC4: Harlton Road junction with Church St through New Road/Barton Rd junction: consideration – 2 mini-roundabouts and associated traffic pillows so that cars speeds are reduced along this stretch but also maintain traffic flows.
- P3 – TC5: New Road stretch from Sydney Gardens through to Watsons Yard: consideration – traffic pillows or full width raised pillows (similar to Thriplow). All pillow sighting avoiding drives/roads. The whole length of New Road will also be reviewed.

The next steps will be to meet with the Skanska Manager to determine approximate costs and then report back to the TC Working Group and Parish Council with the next measures to derive the 5 year plan. These, in sum, were perceived as being:

- To prioritise the implementation of the P3-TC#s as above.
- To commence TC where not requiring CCC approval such as P3-TC1.
- To agree to which TC the Parish Council would proceed with ahead of the next round of Local Highway Improvement grants (LHIs) (i.e. being within accrued funds in fiscal).
- To proceed with an LHI submission for the Nov 17 round noting that the Parish Council has twice been successful in the past with Grants, so defraying some of the design costs.

The Working Group continues to look for supporters and if you would like to join then please contact Jenny Jullien (Parish Chair) or John Miller (Working Group Chair). Progress is being made to improve the safety of our Village.

John Miller
Traffic Calming Working Group

Haslingfield Environment Report

Haslingfield is a lovely village and has been maintained by several volunteers who work behind the scenes to keep our village tidy and looking attractive by picking up litter and mowing communal grassy areas etc. Earlier this year some further jobs were identified which were not being covered, so Jay Cole offered to organise a group of volunteers to take on environmental tasks. She is helped by Pat Fullick and Clive Blower is the Parish Council liaison. Jay has enlisted the help of around ten villagers who kindly offered their services. Other villagers have also made tea and cakes for the team on the work days, which has been much appreciated.

You have hopefully noticed some of the work the volunteers have done: clearing ivy from the historic wall round the Wellhouse Meadow, planting some additional fruit trees in the community orchard and helping the locals on the corner of Lilac Close with a bit of clearance and tidying where the new lilac trees have been planted. Future tasks planned include walking all the footpaths and alleyways in the village to check for any maintenance required.

Villagers are encouraged to join the volunteers and to contact Jay or the Parish Council if they notice any things that need doing on our public spaces.

The annual count of the orchids at Haslingfield Quarry will take place on Wednesday June 7th at about 10am. There should be about 2000 in full bloom at that time, and it is well worth a visit. See the Church and Village magazine for details, or contact Clive Blower.

Clive Blower
Parish Councillor for Environment

Haslingfield Cycle Path

Good news! At last we have permission for a cycle path from Haslingfield to Barton and Grantchester. The route runs from the end of Cantelupe Road to the bridge over Bourn Brook then along the footpath to the footbridge over the M11. At that point it will run west on the edge of the field along the M11 to the bridge carrying the bridleway from Barton to Grantchester. Cyclists will then have the option of going towards Barton and either on to Comberton along New Road or into Cambridge along the A603 cycle path. From the M11 bridge cyclists can also go into Grantchester and then along the Grantchester cycle path to Cambridge or along the road to Trumpington to join the cycle paths there.

Discussions with the Cambridge City Deal Greenways Team are taking place to ensure they are fully aware of our proposed route. The type of surface will be decided later in consultation with Barton and Grantchester Parish Councils, the Countryside Restoration Trust and Trumpington Farm Company. Funding for the project will also be discussed with the Greenways Team. Further information will be available in due course so please read the Parish Minutes to get updates.

Lucian Hatfield
Parish Councillor

Parish Emergency Plan

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have a duty to prepare an Emergency Plan to deal with incidents that could arise, threatening injury or serious disruption to significant numbers of people in the region. The Parish Council in turn are required to have their own Emergency Plan in place to support the County and District Councils, or to deal with an incident within the village.

While many incidents would be dealt with by the emergency services (fire, police and ambulance), the local Emergency Team would work with them to provide specific support for local residents. For instance, if the village was cut off by floods and snow, it would coordinate support for old and vulnerable people, or if a major incident resulted in residents being excluded from their homes, it would coordinate temporary accommodation for them.

The Parish Emergency Plan includes details of local residents who have specific skills; (for instance medical skills which would be vital in the case of multiple injuries), and also details of equipment and services that could be required; (such as generators which would be required in the event of long-term power loss). If you have skills or equipment that you think could be useful in the case of an emergency, please contact the Parish Emergency Officer, Tony Adcock, on 870708 or e-mail tony@tonyadcock.co.uk.

Village Hall Extension

The Parish Council are intending to extend the Village Hall to provide a larger kitchen and additional storage space for the many organisations which use it. Plans of the extension are displayed on the notice board in the Village Hall car park. Planning permission has recently been granted by South Cambridgeshire District Council and we are now applying for Buildings Regulations approval before going out to tender.

Tony Adcock
Vice Chairman

Speedwatch in Haslingfield

So far, sixteen volunteers have attended initial Police training with PC Paul Jenkins at Cambourne Police Station. PC Jenkins has visited Haslingfield and identified nine potential sites for the Speedwatch Tripod. He has submitted the associated Post Codes for approval.

In the meantime the Parish Council has demonstrated its commitment to the scheme by purchasing the necessary equipment and we are currently awaiting delivery. This is good news and means that we won't have to borrow a Speedwatch Tripod from the Police.

Over the past few years the number of vehicles using the Village as a short cut, between the A10 and A603, has increased. There have been some frightening near misses with drivers travelling far too fast. Speedwatch is not about harassing Village residents but operates, with Police support, as a deterrent.

Linda Shankland
Speedwatch Coordinator

Precept 2017/18

The parish councillors considered it necessary to increase the precept for 2017/2018 for the following reasons:

1. Cambridge County Council has been cutting back on services, such as cutting verges, footpaths and green areas, and this now has to be financed by the parish council. For the last two years CCC was able to increase their precept by 1.99% but refused to do so, preferring to reduce the level of services to cut costs, but Haslingfield residents still expect the same level of services and the Parish Council has had to fill this gap.
2. Residents have made it clear that they want the Parish Council to introduce traffic calming measures in the village, and this has to be paid for by the Parish Council – not the County Council. Additionally, the Council has to budget for ongoing maintenance of the traffic calming furniture.
3. Residents have made it clear that they would like to see improvements to the Village Hall, and plans for an extension were displayed at a special meeting last year. The Parish Council has to pay for this.

Unfortunately, the charge for each household was further increased by the fact that, from 1st April 2017, 89 Trumpington Meadows households move out of Haslingfield parish to a new Trumpington Meadows parish, so the charge has had to be apportioned to fewer households – 701 instead of 790 as previously. So even if we had not increased our precept this year for the reasons outlined above, each household in Haslingfield would still have received an increase of 13% just to stand still to replace the £9,000 a year which Trumpington Meadows had been contributing to us previously. Of course, as the village continues to grow and new houses are built the charge per household may fall.

The precept for 2017/2018 was discussed at the December Parish Council meeting. It was on the Agenda which was displayed on the Parish notice boards and on the Parish website at least 5 days before the meeting. Members of the public are invited to attend all Council meetings to witness proceedings and have an opportunity to put forward their points of view. The Precept that is agreed at the meeting is shown on the minutes of the meeting which is also displayed on Parish notice boards and on the Parish website.

Jenny Jullien
Chairman

HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCILLORS April 2017

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