

# Haslingfield Parish Council (“HPC”) Minutes (Final)

## Annual Parish Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Attendees:** 25 members of the public, Parish Councillors Jenny Jullien, Tony Adcock, Ron van der Hoorn, Ben Mavely, Clive Blower, Lucian Hatfield, Simon Duke, Diana Offord and Andrew Gillies; District Councillor Phillip Allen and the Parish Clerk - Vicky Crowden

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Parish Councillors Helen Brown and David Revell. Christine Kipping, Sheila Walker and Janet Hendy
- 2 **Notes of Annual Parish Meeting 2018** – accepted. Proposed by Tony Adcock, seconded by Simon - Duke
- 3 **Matters arising** - none
- 4 **Chairman’s Report – presented by Parish Councillor Jenny Jullien**

**Council Members:** During the course of the past twelve months, we have co-opted six parish councillors, Helen Brown, Simon Duke, Andrew Gillies, Ben Mavely, Diana Offord and David Revell. This gives us the full complement of eleven parish councillors.

**Council Staff:** At the time of writing, the Council employs three staff, all part-time, including Clerk to the Council, and two Maintenance staff. It should be borne in mind, however, that the total basic hours worked by the three staff equates to less than one full-time staff member of staff. Vicky Crowden took over as Clerk to the Council/Proper Officer with effect from 1st June 2018.

**Council Facilities:** The Council owns, or is responsible for The Village Hall; Recreation Ground; Playground; Skatepark; Wellhouse Meadow; Tennis Club courts (managed by the club); an Allotment and a small part of the quarry

**Village Hall:** Work will shortly begin on extending the Village Hall, to increase storage, increase the size of the kitchen and create a meeting room on the first floor. The Architect’s plans are displayed at the back of the room and a copy is also available to view on the Village Hall noticeboard.

The loan for the last extension is now complete, the last payment having been made this month. The original loan was for £110,000 taken out in May 1994, and we have repaid £10,570 per annum for the last 25 years, a total repayment of £264,250, £154,250 interest.

**Recreation Ground:** Work has been undertaken to improve the quality of the playing fields. Apart from a play area the recreation ground is regularly used by the Cricket club, Football teams and the fitness club.

**Playground:** The playground is a popular venue and is regularly checked to ensure that it is a safe place for the children to play in. The flooring is in need of some repair and plans are to do this during 2019/2020.

**Skatepark:** The skatepark has reached the end of its financially viable life and plans are being considered to replace all the original structures. Regrettably it has to be closed on a fairly regular basis as the signs of its age become apparent and work needs to be done. Fewer companies are prepared to repair old and wooden structures. £10,000 was put in the budget from the Parish Council’s funds to start the fundraising campaign.

**Wellhouse Meadow:** Wellhouse Meadow continues to be managed by the Environmental Group and our contractor Buchan’s.

## **Environment**

A considerable amount of work has been done, to cut back overgrown hedges and trees, work that has been neglected for many years. We now have an ongoing plan to maintain these. The Environmental Group continues to meet on a regular basis, both tidying and cleaning.

## **Traffic Calming**

The Barton Road scheme has now been fully implemented and is proving a success, as is the movable vehicle activated sign.

## **Finance**

At the time of writing, the Council's accounts for 2018/19 are yet to be finalised. The figures to hand suggest a substantial budget surplus, but the Council has agreed that this surplus should primarily be earmarked for the village hall extension. The Council reviewed its reserves policy as usual in January 2019.

## **Precept**

As for 2019/20, the Council set its precept at a level resulting in only a modest increase in the Parish Council portion of the council tax. The precept gave a Band D equivalent for 2019/20 of £136.54. This is an increase of £0.77 or 0.57% above the Band D equivalent charge in 2018/19.

## **The Council provided financial assistance to:**

Connections Bus	£7,931
This is a charity providing youth work services across Cambridgeshire and is the largest provider of open access youth clubs in Cambridgeshire.	
Little Owls	£4,400

Little Owls is our village Preschool. They are a small village charity, managed by a committee of volunteers. Their aim is to provide good Early Years education to local children and give them a sound transition to primary school.

The Warden Scheme	£3,000
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Haslingfield Community Warden Scheme provides support to the elderly and infirm in the parish of Haslingfield. Visits are made on a daily basis, Monday to Saturday by the Warden, Deputy Warden or one of a team of volunteers. The Warden is available as a 'friendly neighbour' to ensure members, of all ages are well and to help with small tasks and local shopping.

All Saints Churchyard Maintenance	£500
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The Council continues to make its premises available at concessionary rates, and in some cases free of charge, for various community events and services.

Other major items of expenditure for the period were:

Village Hall loan repayment	£10,570
Salaries	£16,830
Groundworks	£15,307
Village Hall extension fund	£30,000
Skate Park fund	£10,000

**Haslingfield Parish Council:** The Council meet on the 2nd Monday of each month and everyone is welcome.

**Publicity/Information:** The village website – [haslingfieldvillage.co.uk](http://haslingfieldvillage.co.uk) – continues to be updated on a regular basis and is well worth a visit for anyone who wants to stay abreast of what's happening. We also keep residents informed of what is going on in the parish through Newsletters which are hand delivered to all properties in the village every four months. This year's Annual Parish Meeting was publicised on the village website, in Church and Village magazine and on the two Parish Council noticeboards.

**Planning:** The council met 15 times to discuss 35 planning applications, some straightforward, some not. It's important to bear in mind that it's the South Cambridgeshire District Council which makes the final decisions on planning applications, but the parish council submits comments and recommendations, having taken on board the views of members of the public who are welcome to attend the meetings.

**Plans and Priorities for 2019/20:** In my view, the Parish Council's most important priorities for 2019/20 are: investigate the possibility of upgrading a new skate park; ensure the successful build of the extension of the Village Hall; resurfacing of the Playground; repairing the Wellhouse Meadow wall / repainting the Bakehouse and continuing the care and maintenance of the Parish Council's hedges, trees and green areas.

**Finally** I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their dedication and for the amount of time they are prepared to give to enhance life in the Village and my sincere thanks to the Parish Clerk, Vicky Crowden who hit the ground running in June last year and hasn't stopped running since.

## **5 Presentation of Accounts – presented by Parish Councillor Tony Adcock**

- Haslingfield Parish Council - Points to note:
  - o Other income lower in 2019 as there was a large, one off retrospective VAT claim in 2018
  - o Groundworks continues to increase as more work is undertaken locally
  - o Financial support extended to Little Owls (as funding previously received from the Government was lost)
- Village Hall Committee (Badcock Recreation Ground Trust) – Points to note:
  - o Income increase was due to £2k bequest left by the late Mrs Phillipson
  - o Insurance costs reduced as duplication with the Parish Council policy was identified and removed.
  - o Water costs appear high as there was a large retrospective bill for waste / sewerage when water services were divided between two providers.

## **6 Report from S. Cambs District Councillor – presented by District Councillor Allen**

Cllr Allen talked to the annual district report to Parishes which has been distributed via the website and in particular mentioned that he was happy to help the Haslingfield Warden scheme's bid for a S Cambs grant at the next application. Cllr Allen also responded to a question about refuse collection which is a shared service with Cambridge City but does not believe this a settled question at present. Neil Gough is the Member responsible for Environmental Services and Cllr Allen will refer any specific questions to him. Finally, questions were raised about whether the Redrow housing development were contributing to local infrastructure (e.g. school / surgery). The Clerk explained there is an agreed s106 document which does give funds to Barrington school and some other initiatives within Barrington but does not cover the surgery. General concern expressed about the traffic impact on Haslingfield, especially Chapel Hill.

## **7 Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor**

Annual report has been distributed via the website. County Councillors Hickford and Cuffley did not attend.

**8 Update on Traffic Calming / results from Haslingfield's recently purchased Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign ("MVAS") – presented by Parish Councillor Clive Blower**

This informative talk concentrated on the chicane now installed on Barton Rd and how and where speed was being measured in Haslingfield using the MVAS. Both initiatives have had a positive effect on reducing speed in the village.

Q: There is a 20mph limit from The Knapp along the road to the School but other hazards existing on this stretch on road. Can speed be measured here?

A: This section of road can not be measured because of the bends - the Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign requires 80m of straight road to operate.

Q: Do we measure the speed on Chapel Hill? (Concerns about the speed of cars on this road.)

A: No, we will consider this, especially given the potential impact of the Redrow development on this road / junction.

Q: Why aren't there double yellow lines 20m either side of the Barton Rd chicane?

A: Highways were responsible for installing and maintaining the chicane and all requirements have been satisfied.

Q: What is happening with Speedwatch and has its operation affected speed?

A: Linda Shankland is stepping down from her role as the Speedwatch co-ordinator and currently a new co-ordinator has not been identified.

**9 Playground / Skate Park – presented by Parish Councillor Ben Maveley**

The Skate Park is closed again and clear that it is very near the end of its useful life. Considerable investment required for this and also the Playground going forward. A group has been set up for those locally who would like to help define / fund raise / deliver the future of Skate Park. Any help is appreciated and this will be a key priority moving forward.

**10 Open Forum – the following Questions and Answers were raised:**

Q: Some pavements are in poor repair, especially problematic for those with sight impairment. Examples include outside Offord's bungalow and Trinity Close footpath.

A: Report to Highways (Clerk will do so on your behalf if photos / detailed description sent).

**Attending Electors voted on the options for spending the £2000 bequest received from the late Mrs Phillipson – results as follows:**

Option 1: Flower bed – 5 votes

Option 2: Playground equipment – 17 votes (WINS)

Option 3: Outdoor Gym equipment – 8 votes

**Written by Haslingfield Parish Clerk: Vicky Crowden  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**