

# HARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the VIRTUAL (Zoom) meeting of Harlton Parish Council held on Thursday 25 March 2021, starting at 7.30pm.**

**Attendees:** Parish Cllrs Ben Banks (BB) Chair, Chris Coleridge (CC) Vice Chair, Richard Cottam (RC), Garry Johnson (GJ) Isabel Robinson (IR), Parish Clerk, Kim Quince

**In attendance:** District Councillor Ian Sollom

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – None received
- 2. COUNCILLORS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA** - None declared.
- 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (10 Minutes)** - No members of the Public were in attendance
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a) Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 25 February 2021 were approved as a correct record.
  - b) Parish Clerk’s report: There had been no reply from SCDC case officer, in response to the request for information regarding the planning application for Burnt Farm, High Street, S73 variation of condition 2 (Approved plans). The consultation period is now closed. CCC Highways Officer had been in touch to confirm the process and permissions to make highways improvements. Funding options were as described in Local Highway Initiatives (LHI) and Privately Funding Highway Improvements (PFHI) scheme applications. The Parish Council would have to pay for works to remove the layby in Haslingfield Road and extend the grass verge. Overall, the Parish Council were not in favour of taking the project forward as costs versus benefits to the village did not stack up. Also the landowner of the adjacent field to the layby, would like to retain the ability to re-instate the entrance to his field in the future. Village entrance gates would involve ongoing maintenance and were only really effective if part of wider traffic calming measures.
- 5. EAST WEST RAIL / CAMBRIDGE APPROACHES ( CA) ACTION GROUP UPDATE**

There were no significant matters to report. CA are waiting on the release of dates for the next EWR public consultation. They are yet to receive a response from Chris Heaton-Harris MP, the Rail Minister. The Clerk reported that the agreed response to recent communications from the EWR team, seeking to understand the basis of a potential judicial review, had been sent.
- 6. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS** – circulated.
- 7. FINANCE**

A bank reconciliation of Parish Council Funds was presented. It was noted that the approved Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGARs) documents for 2020/21 should be published no later than 1 July. The Certificate of Exemption, to claim exemption from a limited assurance review, must be completed and returned to the auditors (PKF Littlejohn) by 30 June.

**The council resolved to approve and pay the following order of payments:-**

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Clerks Monthly Salary – Standing Order

£208.45 CAPALC Affiliation fee 2021/22 (payable April 2021)

£35.00 CAPALC Clerk's refresher training, Year End Accounts and Internal Audit

£540 inclusive of VAT Gatward & Sons Ltd, repairs to Village Hall floor

£1,000 Cambridge Approaches, Approved financial contribution towards a potential EWR judicial review (paid 8 March agreed at the meeting of 24 February).

£1,035 Cambridge Approaches, balance of financial pledge (payable in next financial year April 2021 as agreed) **ACTION BB/GJ**

## 8. REPORTS ON ONGOING BUSINESS

- a) **Village Hall Trustee Liaison** - Cllr Robinson reported the village hall floor had been repaired. The Trustees were looking to obtain further quotations to insulate the hall floor as recommended by the flooring company. It was noted the brick pillar, damaged by a haulage lorry, at the entrance of Coach Drive and the Glebe had now been repaired. The contractor had done an excellent job. It was noticeably the opposite pillar also needs repointing and making good. All supported seeking a quote for the works. **ACTION BB**
- b) **Management of Clunch Pit** –Registering the Clunch Pit as a Local Nature Reserve was discussed. As the area is registered under the auspices of the Forestry Commission, it was agreed there were no further benefits in extending this to Natural England. The council discussed the proposal to create a habitat for wildflowers to flourish. It was noted that this had been tried previously without success. It is a fragile woodland area lacking in moisture that does not provide ideal conditions for habits to establish. This is compounded by the number people using the space as a recreational area. **ACTION KQ / GJ to feedback**
- c) **Monthly Playground inspection** –the surface power wash is yet to be organised. The annual ROSPA safety inspection is confirmed to take place in April. **ACTION BB**

## 9. AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING (VIRTUAL) – Tuesday 20 April

The consensus was to cancel the scheduled Annual Village meeting given the current pandemic restrictions still in place. It was also felt many local community groups had not been as active as normal during the past year.

## 10. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED – circulated and noted.

2021/02/26 CAPALC – Affiliation Fee 2021/22 – payable by 30 April.

2021/02/27 Email – report of a hole in the fence alongside the ridge footpath (Barrington Quarry). This had been passed to Barrington PC who would report to the CEMEX site manager.

2021/03/03 Email: To consider the registration of Clunch Pit as a Local Nature Reserve with Natural England – see item 8.

2021/03/11 Email: Proposal to consider measures to create a Wildflower habitat in the Clunch Pit – see item 8.

021/03/01 Connections Bus Project – new future ventures. The project team were looking at options to provide youth facilities over the summer period. The Clerk had asked Haslingfield Parish Council to provide details once plans were confirmed.

2021/03/06 Cllr Lina Nieto, Cambridgeshire Council, Monthly report for March

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2021/03/19 Anthony Bowne MP: A Public meeting was held by the MP to outline his petition in support against the Thakeham housing development and new town.

2021/03/22 Email: Concern was raised regarding the safety of pedestrians walking along the road between Harlton and Haslingfield and the need for a footpath. The council acknowledge the need for safer pedestrian and cycle routes between the villages. They were supportive of any Interest group who wished to explore options and costs, however it was still felt this is largely a cost prohibitive project.

2021/03/23 Email CCC Highways Service, response to enquiry to revert a layby on Haslingfield Road to grass verge and install village gates.

**11. INCIDENTS AND OBSERVATIONS RELATING TO THE VILLAGE** – reports of an increase of CEMEX Lorries passing through the village recently.

**12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** - Annual Parish Council Meeting, Tuesday 18 May

Meeting ended 9.30 pm

Signed .....

Chairman.....