

HEMINGFORD GREY PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of Hemingford Grey Parish Council held on Monday 11 March 2024
in the Reading Room, High Street at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs: Richard Allen (Chairman) Tony Jackson
 Maria Di Gaetano Anne Meredith
 Janice Flint Robin Waters
 Nick Irish Stephen Wright

In attendance: District Cllr D Keane and B Stoehr (Clerk).

Comments and observations from members of the public and from the County and District Councillor

A resident spoke about a proposal to plant near the river. Historically it had always been open land and trees would destroy the open outlook and obstruct access for people carrying boats to launch. There was a possibility of damage to nearby properties, the flood defences and the river bank.

Commenting on the elder stump in the Braggs Lane hedge, a resident expressed the view that it was not reasonable to disturb the newly laid hedge and it would be better to use a root rotting compound. Cllr Meredith explained that the hedge contractor had recommended a licensed product and the Council was unable to use it themselves.

District Cllr D Keane's written report was noted. He highlighted:

- The HDC budget had been passed. The precept was increasing by 5%.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner election was coming up.
- It was important that people register to vote now in case a general election was called.
- The green bin charges were now in place. The food waste arrangements are to be confirmed.
- On Friday tree planting will be taking place in Huntingdon.

Cllr Waters reported that County and District Cllr Doug Dew had arranged a meeting with the local CCC Highways Supervisor, which he would attend.

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

Apologies were received from Cllrs Elliott (unwell), Elliott (out of parish) and Jakes (child ill).

Cllr Meredith declared a interest in item 5.1 as she had an expenses claim.

Cllr Di Gaetano declared an interest in item 6.4 as she lived nearby.

Cllr Irish declared an interest in item 6.4 as he lived nearby.

2. To approve the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 12 February 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop RA, 2nd TJ, unanimous)

3. Co-option to fill casual vacancy – to consider any applications received

None received.

4. To consider matters arising from the last or a previous meeting

4.1 (7.1) Power supply for new defibrillator – to consider quotation

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from K&M Lighting Services for £175.00 and that Cllr Waters should be the contact regarding which post should be used. (Prop RW, 2nd JF, unanimous)

5. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

5.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED that the payments listed in the finance report, below, should be paid plus Cambridge Trees Ltd (Allotment stump) £120.00 and Cllr Meredith (expenses) £61.05. (Prop RA, 2nd SW, unanimous)

Salaries and pension	£2045.13
St James Church (Room hire)	£20.00
Hemingford Handyman (Lych gate repair)	£155.00
Kettering Playsafe (Wet pour repair)	£342.00
LGS Services (Admin support Feb)	£2557.49
Wave (Allotment water)	£38.87
K & M Lighting Services (Street light maintenance)	£88.74
CME (Payroll)	£97.20
Aesus Countryside Management (Hedge laying)	£1674.00
NALC (Member training)	£52.04

Credits, including cemetery fees and bank interest, were noted. The Payment to Cambridge Tree Surgery is on hold pending confirmation that the works have been completed.

5.2 Clerk report on any action taken using delegated powers or because of risk or health and safety

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk will submit the response to the survey on the use of weed killer on highways. The Parish Council will support the use of weed killer with a review next year.

5.3 To consider any matter that is urgent because of risk or health and safety

None.

5.4 To consider grant applications

Runner Beans Cookery School

RESOLVED, noting that this was a commercial group and not a charitable group, to forward the HDC small business grants email.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would have no objection to a similar application from the School as it supported the idea and the intention to subsidise some places once the group was established.

Hemingford Lawn Tennis Club

RESOLVED, noting that the sum of £30,000 was too high, to approve a grant of £1,500 subject to the Club holding a free open session for children in the summer. ^(Prop RW, 2nd SW, unanimous)

Hemingford Pavilion Playpark Project

RESOLVED to approve grant funding of £1,500 from the FY24 S137 budget and £3,500 from the FY25 S137 budget, to be released when needed. ^(Prop RW, 2nd SW, unanimous)

6. To receive reports and items from Committees, working groups and members for information only unless stated

6.1 Environment Working Group report and proposals

6.1.1 Proposal that HGPC provides a letter of support for Land Designation status for the Ouse Valley Trust that will tie in with our own “green” aspirations

RESOLVED to support the proposal. ^(Prop RW, 2nd RA, unanimous)

6.1.2 Proposal that any underspend of Green budgets to be carried over into the next financial year for Green projects

Already agreed.

6.1.3 Proposal that the Council contacts the Environment Agency requesting that it surveys the river bank at the end of the High Street and considers planting willow trees on the green bank

RESOLVED not to ask the Environment Agency to plant trees but to ask them to look at the brambles. ^(Prop RW, 2nd RA, unanimous)

- 6.2 Proposal that the Parish Council approves the expenditure for refreshment costs for works involving residents. This would cover tree planting, litter picks, Food Bank collections, and general environmental work
RESOLVED that whilst this had already been agreed previously, the Parish Council is happy to continue, with a new limit of £75.00. (Prop RAAM, 2nd SW, unanimous)
- 6.3 Proposal that the Council supports the Summer Sports Programme in principle, offering the programme again this summer with a full report with costings being presented to Council once information is available from HDC and discussions have been held with Hemingford Abbots Parish Council
RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees in principle to support the Summer Sports Programme up to a maximum of £4,500, even if Hemingford Abbots Parish Council does not agree to continue. (Prop AM, 2nd RA, unanimous)
- 6.4 Proposal that the Council considers fencing the playground at the Yes Estate to prevent dog fouling
The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had made a commitment to upgrade the play equipment at the Yes Estate, and proposed not just to install a fence but to undertake this work as part of the overall project.
RESOLVED to ask the HDC dog warden to visit with a view to educating the dog owners. (Prop RA, 2nd NI, unanimous)
- 6.5 Proposal that the Council considers contacting the BPHA to establish a system for raising any issues that arise
Cllr Irish explained the background to the item.
RESOLVED that Cllr Irish should obtain the contact details of the BPHA. District Cllr Keane undertook to check whether HDC have a contact. (Prop NI, 2nd MDG, unanimous)
- 6.6 Proposal that the Parish Council raises a formal complaint to HDC about the lack of progress in transferring the second part of Yes estate and Daintree Green to the Parish Council
RESOLVED to make a formal complaint to HDC. (Prop RA, 2nd SW, unanimous)
- 6.7 Proposals following recent flooding events:
- 6.7.1 Proposal that HGPC writes directly to the Environment Agency to express our concern at the continued 'Poor' condition of the control gates at the St Ives Stauch where only 3 out of the 7 gates are actually working at all. Also that we are worried that the EA only aspires to a target condition of 'Fair' for most of the flood defence assets in our area
RESOLVED to write in the terms proposed using robust wording similar to that in John Hesp's report. (Prop RW, 2nd TJ, unanimous)
- 6.7.2 That HGPC writes to all local Parish and Town councils potentially affected by the EA's apparent lack of priority for the St Ives area flood defences to encourage them all to express their own concerns to the EA and to be represented at the next Regional Flood and Coast Committee meeting on 25th April.
RESOLVED to write in the terms proposed to the Parish and Town Councils between St Ives and Bluntisham. John Hesp was concerned that there was no maintenance budget for flood defences. Copies of the letters are to be sent to the local MPs. (Prop RW, 2nd TJ, unanimous)
- 6.7.3 That HGPC formally requests Tarmac to install an easily accessible water level gauge in Marsh Lane Lake for the monitoring of this essential component of village surface water drainage
RESOLVED to request Tarmac to install an easily accessible water level gauge in Marsh Lane Lake for the monitoring of this essential component of village surface water drainage. (Prop RW, 2nd JF, unanimous)

6.8 Proposal that the Council kills off/removes an elder stump in the newly laid hedge in Braggs Lane

RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk to make the arrangements at a cost of up to £200.00. (Prop AM, 2nd RA, unanimous)

6.9 Football club pitch maintenance

RESOLVED to defer this item.

7. To consider correspondence/communications received

None.

8. Closure of Meeting

RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 8 April.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)

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