

**Minutes of Horseheath Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 17 January 2013 at 7:45 p.m. in the Village Hall**

Present:	Stuart Miller (Chairman)	Ninian Bickerton
	Tori McKillen	Christine Newman
In Attendance	John Batchelor (County Councillor)	Richard Barrett (District Councillor)
	Bernard Yallop (Parish Clerk)	Two Parishioners

The meeting began at 7:45 pm.

1. Apologies for Absence Denise Lindsell and Richard Southwell sent their apologies. Dawn Gouldstone sent a letter of resignation to the Chairman before the meeting.

2. Parishioners' Question Time

The main topic for discussion was the refusal of planning permission for the three affordable houses in Audley Way. Richard Barrett said that it was not the end of the road. Planning had rejected the proposal for several reasons. Hastoe Housing Association Society had already entered a fresh planning application taking those reasons for rejection into account. The Chairman said that the plans are being submitted today and he expected permission would be granted within two months. Copies of both the new and old plans were shown to the two parishioners in attendance. They commented that they now had a much clearer understanding of why the old plans had been rejected and they could see that the new plans had taken those objections into account. Everyone was pleased that the project was still going forward.

3. District and County Council Items of Interest

3.1 District Council – Richard Barrett

Richard said that the big issue at present was finance. He anticipated an increase in council tax of almost 2%. It was not likely to be more because that would need a referendum.

Richard then reported that the in-house contact centre, which was established at St Ives had been moved to the district council offices at Cambourne. The advantages were that at busy times staff can be added to the section to give a better service, whilst at slack times they can return to their own departments.

The public consultation of the Local Plan was due in June. At present our area was not affected. A big contract was due to take place at Waterbeach where it was planned to build 6,000 houses.

3.2 District Council – John Batchelor

John Batchelor arrived after 8:30 having attended another meeting first. He said that the budget was the main topic, but it was not good news. Due to cuts 100 staff were due to leave. The county council precept would be agreed on Monday. It would be increased by 1.95% on last year's figure. Over 2% sparks a referendum.

4. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 12 November 2012

A few typing errors were noted by the Chairman who corrected them. The minutes were then agreed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Overhanging Trees by Church The trimming was eventually completed. Richard explained that the district council is responsible for the maintenance of far more churchyards than it ever thought it would, and the council is tight for money to pay for the work involved. The Chairman asked if in future the parish council could arrange to have the trees lightly trimmed once a year itself before they got too out of hand, without making itself responsible for the rest of the maintenance to the churchyard. Richard said that he thought that would be in order.

5.2 King's Stone in Churchyard Wall Jane Gifford, the district council S106 Implementation Officer informed the clerk that open space money is meant for sports or play whether for improving or providing facilities or play equipment, so she would not approve the use of S106 money for work on a stone in the churchyard wall.

5.3 Grit Bin David Luckham was trained by Highways to grit the pavements, and he was provided with a manual gritter to make the job easier. The clerk levelled the surface and installed a 400 Litre Nestor Grit Bin, coloured yellow adjacent to the cycle racks and the allotment at Alington Terrace,

Cardinals Green on Thursday 15 November. Many days later the bin was moved to a new position and after further delay it was filled with grit by Highways, ready for use.

6. Planning

To speed up the parish council planning procedure it was agreed that the clerk would in future circulate the basic planning information by email.

6.1 Parish Council

S/2135/12/FL Erection of 3 affordable dwellings following demolition of existing garages at land adjacent to 9 Audley Way for Hastoe Housing Association was approved.

S/2495/12/FL Change of use of B1 business use buildings to one dwelling (a live/work unit) including alterations and extension at 2 Limberhurst Court, Haverhill Road for KD ImpEx Ltd was approved.

S/2354/12/FL Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent S/0476/12/FL for erection of replacement dwelling and garage following demolition of existing dwelling at Mill House, Linton Road for Mills and Covey is in hand.

6.2 District Council

S/2135/12/FL Erection of 3 affordable dwellings following demolition of existing garages at land adjacent to 9 Audley Way for Hastoe Housing Association was refused.

7. Finance

7.1 Receipts

Date	Drawee	Amount	Remarks
10/09/12	HJ Paintin	£240.00	Burial Fee
19/09/12	Precept	£3,850.00	Second and Final Instalment
27/09/12	Peasegood & Skeats	50.00	Cremation Space Fee
01/10/12	JJ Memorial Fund	£16.34	Dividend
01/10/12	VS Maintenance Fund	£48.58	Dividend
Total		£4,204.92	

7.2 Payments

The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

Date	Ch No.	Payee	Amount	Remarks
19/11/12	526	Glasdon Limited	£154.93	Grit Bin for Alington Terrace Area
30/11/12	528	BD Yallop	£465.30	Clerk's Salary, for Oct, Nov, Dec
30/11/12	531	K Potter	£645.00	Grass Cutting and Tidy Pond Path
03/12/12	532	†Peasgood & Skeates	£50.00	Refund of Cremation Fee Paid in Error
03/12/12	533	HH Community Association	£70.00	Hire of Village Hall for Meetings
04/12/12	534	Cambridgeshire CC	£412.87	Street Lighting Energy Charge
22/12/12	529	HMRC	£116.32	PAYE for Oct, Nov, Dec
Total			£1,914.42	

†Peasgood & Skeates used one of the last remaining cremation spaces in the Churchyard, not the Burial Ground and they paid the fee to the parish council in error. When the error was discovered the clerk refunded the money.

7.3 Account Balances On the dates shown in the table, the balances were:-

Petty Cash (26/11/12)	£56
Treasurers Account (18/12/12)	£14,538
Burial Ground Access Fund Account #1 (09/10/12)	£1,099
Burial Ground Access Fund Account #2 (31/03/12)	£18,382
Village Sign Maintenance Fund Account (03/09/12)	£4,333
Total	£38,408

7.4 Precept 2013/14

In 2013/14 the parish council will have to make a large capital outlay of between £10,000 and £15,000 on the road restriction project, assuming that it obtains a grant from Highways of £10,000. John Batchelor gave some useful information on this subject. He said that Highways was in disarray at the moment due to redundancies. It should have decided on who was to receive jointly funded grants by now but in fact the answer will not be known until the end of the month. He pointed out

that the total fund was only £50,000. Even if Horseheath was offered a grant it was not possible to say when the work would start or when it would be invoiced. The Chairman asked Ninian if he would contact David Lines and ask him 'What was the likelihood of Horseheath parish council obtaining a grant and when would it be invoiced?'

Although the parish council had reserved nearly £20,000 towards a vehicular access to the burial ground it was not known if the money was needed and if it was when would it be required and how much money would be needed. The diocese has been asked how urgent this project is and how long could it be postponed or indeed if it is really necessary; so far it has not replied. The Chairman said that the parish council should not use this money to fund another project. He proposed that the precept be increased by £2,500 for the next five years so that we could pay our way and not borrow from other accounts if possible. Since the problem of traffic calming affected everyone in the village the parish council had every right to increase the precept. He also said that we should try to continue saving £1,000 per year for the burial ground access fund. The clerk said that he would apply these conditions to the budget account to see how it would affect the precept. The precept request has to be in by 4 February 2013.

7.5 King's Stone in Churchyard Wall

In view of the fact that this project is not entitled to S106 Open Spaces money, and that the total cost to the parish council would be £1,650 (assuming that the PCC makes a contribution of £500), under current financial circumstances the project is not feasible unless money is obtained from other sources. The Chairman proposed a motion that he would explore the possibility of private or business sponsorship. Ninian seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

7.6 Road Pinching to Reduce Speeding

Richard Southwell has prepared the parish council's application for funds from the Local Highway Improvement Scheme and sent it off. The total cost to the parish council will be in the region of £10,000 with a grant of £10,000 from Highways.

7.7 30 mph Speed Stickers for Wheelie Bins

The clerk managed to find that the person who deals with these at the district council is currently Philip Aldis who can be contacted using the email address speed.stickers@scamb.gov.uk. He works three days a week, which may lead to some delay. The first 120 stickers are free, after that limit is reached they cost 60p each. If there are 150 houses and 6 stickers are used per household then $(150 \times 6 - 120) \times £0.60 = £468$. This was considered too expensive so the number of stickers required will have to be considerably reduced.

8. Website

Tori said that the number of bookings of the Village Hall had increased significantly since the Website had come into operation.

9. A1307 Meeting

The meeting, which would include MP's, will take place on Thursday 24 January starting at 7:30 pm in Linton. Parish councils will be allowed to send a representative but not to speak. Unfortunately our main representative Tori will not be able to attend.

10. Correspondence

The clerk has circulated a few important documents by email this month, including precept payment consultation letter and a proposed parish council liaison meeting. Other documents circulated by email are on topics such as SCDC Website, HCV Strategy, Council Tax (16 pages), Localisation of Council Tax Support and Area Joint Committee Disbanded, Online Payment Control (Lloyds Bank).

10.1 Online Payment Control

Lloyds TSB says that it has come up with a solution to using online or internet banking when 2 or 3 signatories are required. First you have to register for internet banking. You can still use a cheque book as well apparently. There are several advantages. For example they offer business accounts that pay a little bit more interest, and of course you can check the balance any time.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Jubilee Oak Tree Warden Nita Miller says that unfortunately this tree was accidentally killed by someone using a strimmer during verge maintenance. The Tree Officer says that she will provide a replacement tree.

11.2 *Footpaths* Footpath Officer Karen Champion says she will be organising work on the following footpaths: (1) FP 21, College Farm; (2) FP 7, The Mountford Arms; (3) FP 31 Bridleway on Covey Land.

11.3 *Bush at Cardinals Green* Dawn Gouldstone reported that the high hedge on the triangle in front of Alington Terrace, Cardinals Green is overhanging into the road blocking the right of way and needs cutting back. John Batchelor said that he would deal with it.

11.4 *Open Notice Board at Cardinals Green* The Chairman complained that this notice board was rock hard and it was impossible to pin notices to it with drawing pins. The clerk will try to find a solution.

12. Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will be on Monday, 11 March 2013 at 7:45 p.m.
The meeting ended at 9:35 pm.