

Hatley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held in Hatley Village Hall on Wednesday 24th July 2024

PRESENT: Cllr Paul Kraus (Chair), Cllr Samantha Abbasi (Vice Chair), Cllr Harold Nickerson, Clerk to the Council Kim Wilde, County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley and four members of the public.

ACTION BY

1. WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF MEETING PROTOCOL
Welcome and reading aloud of the meeting protocol by Cllr Kraus.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Received from Revd. Hilary Young.
3. INTERESTS
 - i. Declarations of interest: None received.
 - ii. Dispensation applications for items on this agenda: None received.
4. PREVIOUS MINUTES
The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 and they were signed by Cllr Kraus.
5. MATTERS ARISING
The Clerk advised that the updated statutory documents are still be added to the website.
6. OPEN MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL
A member of the public asked the Parish Council to consider responding to the CAA's post implementation review of London Luton Airport's Airspace Change Proposal. The member of the public felt that the impact, especially in terms of noise levels and the frequency of flights, were much greater than had originally been suggested and also their report understates the impact and contains a number of discrepancies. Flights are seen to be much closer 5,000ft in height, not 8,000ft which was stated in the proposal, and Hatley seems to have become a short cut route, resulting in many more flights passing in a much narrower area than had been proposed. The St Neots stack is rarely ever required. The member of the public explained that RELAS will be reviewing all eighty-five supporting documents before submitting its own response and urged the Parish Council to do the same. The member of the public reminded the Parish Council that the new route has been introduced ahead of the expansion of Luton Airport and therefore it is estimated that flights could be passing overhead every 3 to 5 minutes. This will not just create additional noise pollution but will have a wider impact on the environment and on the local house prices too. The Parish Councillors responded with questions about available evidence to support the argument and Council was unanimous in its

Clerk

view that the quantity of responses to the CAA would be of greater importance than the quality. Therefore as many residents as possible should be encouraged to respond on an individual basis, which should hold more weight than the Parish Council responding on behalf of the community. The Chair asked County Councillor Kindersley how else this issue could be escalated and it was suggested that people could contact their new South Cambs MP, Pippa Heylings, who is very much focused on environmental issues and also Ian Sollem, MP for St Neots and Mid Cambs. The member of the public offered to provide some text and photos that can be shared on the Hatley website to encourage residents to respond to the review. The Parish Council confirmed that it will be respond to the review, which is formally covered under agenda item 20. The member of the public gave thanks and excused herself from the meeting.

7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Kindersley apologised for not having shared a report ahead of the meeting, mostly due to the period of non-communication leading up to the Government election, but the report will follow shortly. The following information was shared:

- The search for a site in or around Gamlingay for a preschool. Cllr Kindersley noted this to be an agenda item for discussion and shared his ambivalence, commenting that in addition to bringing income to the parish it will also bring more traffic from the surrounding area.
- The County Council is working hard to prepare for the forthcoming early release of prisoners, who will need support with accommodation and issues relating to drinking and drugs which are not being addressed because the usual processes are not being followed.
- Qualifying families will receive two £37.50 vouchers that can be used to purchase food at a supermarket this summer.
- The Assets and Procurement Committee has reviewed bids relating to the future of Old Shire Hall and has made a recommendation for a new hotel on the site.
- A war memorial grant fund is to become available, full details will be provided in the next report.
- Cllr Kindersley attended the 60th anniversary of the mobile library service.
- On 16th July County Council adopted a new model code of conduct.
- Cambridge City Council is surveying the public to consider whether it should become a unitary authority.
- Cambridgeshire Fire Authority has appointed a new chief fire officer, Matthew Warren. Lithium-iron batteries are of great concern, noting this subject is on the agenda for discussion. When these batteries catch fire they are explosive and cause a thermal runaway which cannot be put out with water. This has resulted in a spike in fatalities, as the batteries are commonly used for second hand mobility scooters and the users are unable to make a quick escape. Climate change has seen the fire service being called out more frequently to floods than fires. Changes to police policies relating to people in need of support for extreme mental distress has meant that the fire service is now attending more incidents of this nature too.

- Cllr Kindersley is awaiting a response from the Director of Highways regarding the large and dangerous pothole that was not initially dealt with by the Council, to determine how the case had been closed without action being taken. Highways intends to commence with the rebuilding of Croydon Hill in November. The extent of the work is still not known so updates will follow. The work will be both budget and weather dependent.
- Cllr Abbasi asked how she could report the subsidence issue on the B1042 towards the Arrington roundabout and was advised to report it via the Highways online reporting tool.
- National infrastructure projects that may impact the wider area include the East West Rail with the potential new town at Tempsford and the Fen Reservoir at Chatteris that will not be built in time for the new housing.
- In the absence of District Cllr Williams, Cllr Kindersley noted that the District has a healthy 5 year housing land supply, and a review of the 4 day week at the District Council has been found to show that areas have improved, even if only slightly. More councils are expected to adopt this approach.
- Cllr Kindersley invited questions, and as none were raised he excused himself from the meeting.

8. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

- The Clerk shared a copy of the formal notice for the second vacant seat that has arisen due to the prolonged absence of Cllr Astor. It has been accepted by the District Council as of 17th July and the notice is on the parish boards. The period in which a by-election can be called runs until 8th August. After that time the vacancy can be filled by co-option. Cllr Nickerson explained how circumstances beyond M Astor's control meant he had to step down as a parish councillor, this being very sad news and that he will be greatly missed by all. M Astor had been a very active member of the parish council for 30 plus years, having served as chair for several years and having guided the Parish Council through some difficult times. Cllr Nickerson wished him well and hoped that one day he can welcome his return.
 - The Parish Council received one written application for the first vacant seat from P Hayward.
 - No questions were asked in relation to the application.
 - The **Parish Council resolved to co-opt** P Hayward as the fourth member of the Parish Council. The Clerk will organise training as soon as it becomes available via CAPALC. The Acceptance of Office form will be provided after the meeting.
- One member of the public left the meeting.

Clerk

9. INCOME RECEIVED 01.04.24 TO 30.06.24

The Clerk advised that the full precept amount has credited the bank account, with further receipts relating to hall bookings and the HVA.

10. RECONCILIATION OF THE CASHBOOK WITH THE BANK STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD 01.04.24 TO 30.06.24

The June bank statement and cashbook were shared with the Parish Councillors ahead of the meeting, with the difference explained by four uncleared cheques. The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the reconciliation of the finances.

11. PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL

The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the following payments:

- i. *A Wood* – Return of hall hire damage deposit – £50.00
- ii. *K Wilde* – Overtime payment May 2024
- iii. *H M Revenue and Customs* – PAYE for May overtime payment
- iv. *LGS Services* – Annual internal audit fee – £114.00
- v. *M R L Astor* – Village Hall water rates – £48.67
- vi. *K Wilde* – Reimbursements for purchases – £35.23
- vii. *K Wilde* – Travel expenses April to July – £21.33
- viii. *K Wilde* – Salary payments for July, August and September 2024
- ix. *H M Revenue and Customs* – PAYE payments for July, August and September 2024
- x. *O2* – Mobile phone contract – Direct Debits £22.19 on 13.06.24 and £22.19 on 14.07.24
- xi. *BT* – Village Hall broadband – Direct Debits £45.48.19 on 03.05.24, £35.94 on 23.05.24, £35.94 on 24.06.24 and £35.94 on 24.07.24
- xii. *E.on Next* – Village Hall electricity 01.04.24 to 30.06.24 – Direct Debit £86.22 on 16.07.24

The Clerk will meet with Cllr Nickerson on Thursday 25th July for the cheques to be signed.

Clerk/Cllr
Nickerson

12. HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING

- i. The Clerk provided a brief update regarding the recent Local Highways Improvement (LHI) proposal received from County Council (F-Plan) which now excludes East Hatley from the original plan to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph continuously from Hatley St. George Church (HSG) to Parkers Farm (EH). The Highways Team has reviewed the speeding data for East Hatley in conjunction with policies, guidance and best practice. The Highways Team explained that the stretch of road between the Village Hall and Parkers Farm must maintain the 40 mph limit because it is a rural road with a very low number of frontal properties and a considerable number of vehicles travelling above the current speed limit. In lieu of not reducing the speed limit in East Hatley, they have proposed a range of new features to help bring down speed. These include 40mph roundels on the road surface, refreshing the red surfacing at the start of the 40 mph limit and implementing a new gateway sign for East Hatley where the national speed limit ends on the Eastern side. The proposal will continue to include a 'Reduce Speed' on the approach to Thatched Lodge heading east, which was agreed at the meeting in February. The Parish Council's contribution has been reduced from £1485 to £1300. The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the latest proposal.
- ii. Cllr Nickerson confirmed that Speedwatch continues to be out of action awaiting the finalising of the LHI project. The Chair advised that the older battery for the speed monitoring sign is no longer charging and requested a replacement. **The Parish Council resolved to approve** the purchase of a replacement battery.

Clerk

Clerk

13. VILLAGE HALL

- i. The Clerk provided a summary of recent hire and future bookings, which have been a little higher than earlier in the year. The two elections that have been held have helped to inflate the hall income in the quieter months.
- ii. The Clerk gave a brief summary of the remote meeting that took place on Monday 22nd July with County Council regarding their search for a site to meet the expected demand for pre-school provision in the local area. No sites have been identified in Gamlingay. Cllr Abbasi joined the meeting as did M Astor, being Landowner of the Village Hall. Many questions were raised but they cannot be addressed until a possible pre-school provider has shown interest, as usage and needs will vary from one provider to another. It was agreed that a list of questions would be emailed to County Council to enable them to collate information from other community hall committees that have experience in this field. The next meeting will take place in late September with the view to hold an open day in October to enable interested parties to look at the hall facilities and discuss their needs with the Councillors on site. The Parish Council would then be better placed to determine whether the hall can meet the needs of a provider, what improvements are required, who will finance those improvements and whether they wish to proceed with this idea or keep the hall for community use only. Clerk
- iii. The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that it had previously approved the purchase of a new drink chiller for the bar area, but the order did not proceed as some minor repairs were undertaken to address the issues at that time. However the seal on the chiller remains to be an issue, gaping at the top corner of the door to allow cold air out and warm air in. It remains to be very noisy and when last used the chiller had to be shuffled about and have a wooden panel wedged under it to keep the door from opening. **The Parish Council resolved to approve** the purchase of a new drinks chiller but requested that the HVA is asked to contribute towards 50% of the costs. The Clerk will double check measurements of the current and new chiller and contact the HVA before purchasing the new chiller. Clerk
- iv. The Clerk confirmed that there is no issue with the outside bin, it does not need replacing, it was just lacking a bin bag. SCDC has confirmed they will ensure bags are being used and a member of the public has kindly used some pegs to ensure the bag does not blow away.
- v. The Clerk explained that litter and other such waste is regularly found in and around the hall and is believed to be left by people who choose to park at the hall in the evenings when it is not in use. Furthermore a recent hirer arrived at the hall to find some of the parking spaces had been taken by a walking group that was visiting the area. The walking group had not checked with the booking clerk or sought prior permission to park at the hall. The Clerk provided an example of a sign that could be placed on each side of the hall give notice that parking is for patrons only. Clerk
The Parish Council resolved to approve the purchase of two signs. A member of the public was concerned that the Parish Council should not discourage visitors to the area for walks. The Clerk reassured that many walking groups usually do seek permission to park at the Village Hall and permission is always granted if it does not coincide with a hall booking, as the hirer's

fee does include full use of the car park area. If the hall is in use the walkers can use the nearby layby in Hatley St George and should not assume the right to park at the Village Hall as it is private land.

vi. There were no other matters to discuss.

14. HATLEY VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

- i. The Clerk read the report that had been provide by the HVA which confirmed that at their meeting earlier this week the four remaining HVA members have decided that they would like to keep the HVA going, with the main aim of bringing the community together and not necessarily about raising lots of money. The calendar of events will now focus on special occasions only. They plan to host a harvest lunch, a Christmas tea, a pop-up pub at Christmas, and a pub quiz in February. They also hope to start organising the summer fete in the new year. The HVA will contact Cllr Abbasi with regards to the stock held for the pop-up pub and decide how best to sort it out.
- ii. Cllr Abbasi confirmed having completed a handover with L Hudson for the stock and cash held, as L Hudson has stepped down from the HVA and at that time the future of the HVA was uncertain. Cllr Abbasi has passed the cash, cashbook and stock room key to the Clerk. The stock and finances have been inspected and the out-of-date stock has been set aside. The remainder of the stock will need to be sold before the end of the year. The Clerk will liaise with the HVA to discuss the future events and to ensure events do not become loss making, possibly by introducing a 'bring your own' bar to avoid the expense of a bar licence and the risk of further losses from unsold stock if events are not held frequently. Cllr Abbasi gave thanks to L Hudson on behalf of the Parish Council and community for the events that she has helped to organise for the benefit of the residents, and the subsequent funds raised, and wished her well with any future events that she may be involved in.

Clerk

15. PLAY AREA

- i. Cllr Nickerson inspected the play area today and reported that all is fine. Cllr Kraus undertook the inspection in June and followed it up with a visit to smooth over the sharp-edged cable ties on the goal posts, as recommended by Playsafety Ltd in their RoSPA inspection undertaken in May.
- ii. The play area project to replace the play tower remains on hold until the highways project has been finalised.

16. PLANNING

There were no matters to consider.

17. PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR

- i. The record book update has been received by the Clerk.
- ii. There were no other matters to consider.

18. CLIMATE ACTION

The Clerk advised that discussions on electric car charging points are on hold until an update has been received from M Astor. N Jenkins

provided details of the Repair Café due to be held at the Eco Hub in Gamlingay on 2nd November 2024. M Eagle has stepped down from the local Climate Action Group and new members would be welcome, especially a representative from the Parish Council. Cllr Abbasi enquired as to what was involved but gave no commitment. N Jenkins reported that the churchyards in East Hatley, Gamlingay and Everton have all recently been scythed, which has helped to encourage wild flowers and wildlife. The butterfly count has remained low to date but more than fifty swifts and fifty swallows have been counted in East Hatley.

19. COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

A date was agreed for the autumn litter pick, being Sunday 20th October 2024. Meeting time and location to be confirmed.

Clerk

20. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- i. London Luton Arrivals Airspace Change (AD6) – Post Implementation Review

The **Parish Council resolved to submit** a response to outline issues and concerns regarding noise and frequency of flights and stressed that residents should take this opportunity to share their own views too.

Clerk/Chair

- ii. The Safety of Electric-Powered Micromobility Vehicles and Lithium Batteries Bill

The **Parish Council resolved to support** the Bill and to share any material that is available to help highlight the dangers.

Clerk/All

21. CHURCHES

- i. N Jenkins shared a report on St Denis' Church with the Parish Council ahead of the meeting. The report will be available on the Hatley website.

- ii. There were no updates for Hatley St George Church.

22. TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

7.00pm on Tuesday 15th October 2024.

23. TIME OF MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.