

## **Minutes from the Annual Parish (Village) Meeting Harlton Village Hall, Tuesday 18 April, 2023 at 7.30 pm**

Ben Banks Chairman of the Parish Council - Chair

Kim Quince (Recorder – Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public were present (approx. 25 people). District Cllr Lisa Redrup was in attendance

Refreshments were available from 7 pm

- 1. Welcome – from the Chair of the meeting Cllr Ben Banks**
- 2. Minutes from Annual Parish Meeting 26 April 2022** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair
- 3. Report from the Chairman, Harlton Parish Council, Cllr Ben Banks - Appendices A**

The precept request 2023/24 remained the same as the previous year at £8,500. The Parish Council (PC) maintain the recommended general reserve including earmarked funds for anticipated projects.

The PC hosted a meeting to discuss the purchase of the Glebe land from the Ely Diocese. There was overwhelming support to buy the Glebe with very generous pledges of donations for the Glebe fund now totalling £16,400 – which secures sufficient funding to proceed with the purchase offer price. The ownership status of the children's playground is being investigated. It was presumed that the PC owned the children's playground but it is currently unregistered with the Land Registry. The PC agreed to explore the requirements for an adverse possession application. Unfortunately the playground refurbishment project will have to be put on hold under this has been resolved.

The PC has given a grant again this year to the Connections Bus, attended by Harlton children. It is felt the youth bus service offers benefits and the council will continue to support in conjunction with Haslingfield Parish Council. A donation has been given to Harlton Parochial Church Council (Harlton PCC) in lieu of grass cutting of the Glebe. Many thanks to Alan Banks and Stuart Gibbons for their time maintaining the Glebe.

The Council applied for the SCDC 6 free trees scheme, the trees were planted around the Glebe by Garry Johnson and Ben Banks, including two apple trees purchase and planted on Parish owned land next to the telephone kiosk in the High Street (where the Cherry tree had been felled).

A request made by Harlton Eco group to create a no mow area for biodiversity to flourish in the village was supported, and the council have asked Highways to remove the area from the cutting schedule ('triangle' verge in the village centre which sites the village sign).

The Council continues to monitor and request footpath and road repairs with the Highways team. The Council have been asked to consider traffic calming measures to help reduce speeding vehicles. It is looking into eligibility for the CCC Local Project 20 mph funding scheme as well as the option of lamp post mounted mobile vehicle activated signs. These were both considered less invasive than chicanes or speed bumps. The Speedwatch team are doing a great job monitoring and helping to reduce the number of speeding vehicles travelling through the village. Thanks to all.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to his fellow and District and County Councillors and the Clerk, Kim Quince, for their work and support throughout the year. Thanks were extended to Councillor Isabel Robinson, David Lean and residents involved in the East West Rail (EWR) Harlton Working Group. Grateful thanks were given to the Village Hall Trustees (VHT) for doing an excellent job managing and looking after the hall and organising the various social events across the year – extended thanks to Roger Mortimer the retiring Chair. Delegated authority was given to the Village hall floor committee to manage the hall floor replacement project and underfloor heating investigations. He also thanked the many Harlton volunteers who litter pick, Peter England for carrying out the monthly defibrillator checks, and Alison Benson for taking over the role and anyone else who contribute to making the village a great place to live.

#### **4. Report from Village Hall Trustees' retiring Chair - Roger Mortimer**

A summary of the report given to the Trustees at its March AGM was provided – Appendices A. Roger Mortimer reported he had stepped down as Chairman, and Fiona Davies has accepted the nomination of Chair to succeed him. He expressed how much he had enjoyed the company and working with his fellow trustees over the past 10 years. Thanks were extended to all the trustees for their contribution to the team and efforts to support the village asset.

#### **5. Reports from community groups and organisations:**

Reports received:

Janet Banks, Chair of Governors, Comberton Village College - Appendices B

Janet reported the Harlton sewing club were struggling to make it viable and had postponed classes until September.

Lucie Coleridge – Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Hub – Appendices C

John Helmsing – Harlton Gardening Club, and Harlton Organ Scholarship Trust (HOST) - Appendices D

Margaret Spencer – Luncheon Club, (Harlton & Haslingfield) the club continues to thrive. It provides around 30 people a 2-course meal for £6 across the communities.

John Watson, Speedwatch Team – Appendices E

District Councillor, Lisa Redrup was in attendance and was invited to give an address to the meeting. County Councillor, Michael Atkins had provided a written report – Appendices F. The report will be posted on the village website.

- 6. Open Forum** - Several people expressed disquiet with the condition of the footpaths and roads in the County and asked for an explanation of how the County budget was allocated; concerns were raised regarding the waste of money spent by Highways on the early April grass verge cutting when there was no vegetation to cut, and again asked for the matter to be raised with Cambs County Council; questions were also raised regarding the SCDC 4-day week and how the District Council would manage services across teams. The Speedwatch team reported more volunteers were needed to help with activities. It was noted Speedwatch has been reasonably successful with speeding down from 1 in 8 vehicles speeding (2011) to 1 in 20 now. Traffic volumes have not fully recovered after Covid presumably as a result of people working from home.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm