

Helpston Parish Council: Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March 2017

in the John Clare School

Present: Cllrs J Dobson (chairman), R Morton, A Bradley, J Mead, A Driver, L Newitt, D Dykes, G Jolly; the Clerk S Smith; four members of the public.

Actionees are shown in Bold and Italics

- 164/16-17 **1. Apologies:** Cllr T Thompson and City Cllr D Over.
- 165/16-17 **2. Declarations of interest:** No pecuniary interests were reported.
- 166/16-17 **3. Public Participation:** None
- 167/16-17 **4. Minutes of 6th February 2017:** Agreed and signed.
- 168/16-17 **5. Matters Arising as Actions:**
5.1 Further Draft Peterborough Local Plan: In response to Gemma Wildman's note indicating that our objections had only been logged against Policy LP39, the Chairman had asked for them also to be considered against Policies LP2, LP8, LP3, and LP13. Mr Eric West had written to thank Council for their cogent and convincing arguments against HEL006H.
- 169/16-17 **6. Reports from Councillors and Clerk:**
6.1 Parish Councils Liaison meeting...Cllr Mead Peterborough is the third fastest growing city in the UK. It has a £28 million budget gap next year. City is attempting to implement an Empty Houses Strategy (currently there are 540 empty in Peterborough). **Clerk** will issue this strategy document to all councillors.
6.2 Meeting with Celia (nee Montague) and Stephen Glover...Cllr Dobson The land behind the Village Hall, in their ownership, was proposed by this Council for use as a play area and site for a new Village Hall. They will consider our proposals. During this report it was resolved "That Helpston PC ask the John Clare Trust about using the Exeter Arms back land as a Children's play area" An amendment to suggest "Leasing the land as a Children's Play Area and to use the building for Educational and Cultural benefits" was accepted and agreed unanimously. Action: **Clerk**
6.3 It was also proposed to "write to the City Council to ask them to consider including The Exeter Arms in the proposals given in the Empty Houses strategy" This was agreed unanimously. Action: **Clerk**
- 170/16-17 **7. Planning – City Council decisions:**
7.1 17/00105/HHFUL at 17 Woodgate: Permitted.
- 171/16-17 **8. Planning – Helpston Parish Council comments:**
8.1 17/00332/FUL New Garage at 6 Cromwell Mews: No objections
8.2 17/00333/LBC Gable end changes at 6 Cromwell Mews: No objections
- 172/16-17 **9. Finance:**
9.1 Payments approved: Clerk (12/12 salary), Clerk (12/12 expenses), HMRC (12/12 PAYE), Groundsman (12/12 fees), Cllr J Mead (expenses...Liaison meeting), Helpston Scout and Guide Assocn (£137 grant), Helpston Community Assocn (£137 grant)
9.2 Press correspondence re. Precept: The Clerk reported on the press comparison of the 2013/14 precept with the 2016/17 precept and his response.
9.3 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2016/2017 Audit: It was agreed to invite Colin Brown to audit our 2016/17 accounts and procedures.
- 173/16-17 **10. Christmas Tree:** Cllrs. Jolly and Newitt: Proposals for a Parish Council Christmas Tree Event were outlined which included seasonal refreshments, carol singing and a competition for lighting the tree, all as a "community" event. A budget of £200 was unanimously agreed. **Action: Cllrs Jolly and Newitt**

- 174/16-17 **11. Web site and Facebook:** Meeting with Emma Long reported. The resolution that “The Parish Council approves the creation of a Parish Council Facebook page” was agreed. **Clerk to implement** (with Cllrs Jolly and Newitt and with Emma Long) and then to operate in consultation with the Chairman.
- 175/16-17 **12. Community Asset Retention:** Cllr. Dykes described the benefits of identifying assets within the Parish as suitable for the “Asset Retention designation”. He was asked to seek further information / guidance from Ian Dewar (CPALC) possibly with a view to him addressing the Council on a future occasion. **Action: Cllr Dykes**
- 176/16-17 **13. Litter Pick Plans:** Cllr. Driver. Planned for Saturday 18th March 2017 at 9.30am. The resolution ... “The Parish Council approves purchase of Litter Pick equipment to the value of £517.75” was agreed. It was also agreed to provide all participants with a £2.00 voucher towards refreshments at Willow Brook, John Clare Cottage, or The Bluebell. The Scout group is to be invited to participate. **Action: Clerk**
- 177/16-17 **14. Village Entrance Signs:** Cllr Bradley. In view of the potential cost implications, this project will not be pursued at this time.
- 178/16-17 **15. Grant Applications:**
 15.1 The Resolution ... “To grant £100 to the Helpston Scout and Guide movement” was agreed. (S137)
 15.2 The Resolution... “To grant £745.00 to the Helpston and Etton Community Association for replacement heaters” was agreed. (S137, but Clerk to claim against S106 if the City agree).
- 179/16-17 **16. Correspondence:**
 16.1 Highways: City will attend to work required in Broadwheel Road.
 16.2 Buffer zone: All enforcement correspondence passed to those residents concerned in Woodland Lea.
 16.3 Cpl. Neil Richardson had requested the establishment of a footpath between Helpston and Bainton Green. The Clerk reported that he had asked City to give some indication of costs but will also respond to Cpl Richardson that his request refers entirely to Bainton Parish.
 16.4 The Clerk had reported two more fly-tipping incidents in Heath Road to Amey who had cleared them.
 16.5 Police Crime report given.
- 180/16-17 **17. Items for Next Agenda:**
 17.1 Cllr Morton: Parking Restrictions
 17.2 Cllr Morton: Dog Fouling
- 181/16-17 **18. Date of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 3rd April 2017 and NEXT ORDINARY MEETING: 3rd April 2017**
 The Chairman then closed the meeting to the public at 9.10pm
- 182/16-17 **19. In Committee...Groundsman Tenders:** Opening and award of contract for the coming year 2017/2018. Four tenders were read out and the Resolution that “The Parish Council awards the Contract for Groundsman duties as per tender submitted, to Anglian Landscapes” was agreed unanimously.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm