

YELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th January 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Minute Ref.

25.00 Agenda Item 1: Apologies for absence:

Mr S. Ferguson, (County Councillor).

25.00.1 Present:

Miss K. Davies, (Chair), Mr A. Fusco (Vice chair), Mrs S. Ascroft, Mr J. Peal, Mr C. Griffith and Mr T. Race.

Mr J. Catmur, (District Councillor).

25.01 Agenda Item 2: Declarations of interest:

None.

25.02 Agenda Item 3: Public Open Forum

No parishioners present.

25.03 Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council of 8th August 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of 8th August 2024 were read. It was proposed by Mr Griffith, seconded by Mr Race and agreed unanimously that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair accordingly.

25.04 Agenda Item 5: Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 8th August 2024

25.04.1 Planning Application 24/00938/FUL - Retrospective siting of a single mobile home with associated parking and amenity as part of a proposed traveller site

It was noted that this application had not yet been determined by HDC notwithstanding the target date of 18th September 2024. The Clerk had emailed the case officer seeking clarification of the position but had not received a response. Mr Catmur suggested he contact Clara Kerr, Head of Planning.

25.04.2 Quotations for repainting of dragon's teeth & white lining at eastern village approach

The Clerk advised that he had contacted Simon Dixon at Cambs CC on several occasions to establish when the works were likely to be undertaken. Simon had confirmed that he had instructed the works supervisor at Milestone, the Council's highways contractor, and had followed up each of the Clerk's requests without success. Given the potential clawback of the CIL funding, it was agreed that the Clerk inform Cllr Ferguson for further information.

25.04.3 The Chair noted that all other matters arising were covered by items on the meeting agenda and could be considered accordingly.

25.05 Agenda Item 6: Verbal reports from County and District Councillors (if in attendance)

Mr Catmur noted the following points:

- In December 2024, the Government had published a white paper, 'the English Devolution White Paper'. Following its publication the Minister of State had issued a statutory invitation to all councils in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities to develop unitary proposals - which will bring together lower and upper tier local government services in new unitary councils. This was at an early stage but would potentially see the dissolution of district councils.
- HDC had announcing 'Net Zero Villages', a funding initiative in conjunction with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority aimed at rural communities under which grants of £5,000 and £50,000 would be available for projects to assist communities in reducing their carbon emissions. Applications close on 26th January.
- HDC have launched a new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding round inviting requests for funding from the 'Strategic Portion' of the CIL funds. This is separate from any CIL funding payable directly to parish councils and any parish council will need to fund 50% of the costs.
- East West Railway Company's third non-statutory consultation, launched on 14th November 2024 to obtain feedback on the early designs, including areas where they're considering options would close on 24th January 2025.

The Chair thanked Mr Catmur for his report.

25.06 Agenda Item 7: Resignation of Cllr Reilly-Lloyd and co-option requirements

The Clerk advised that Mr Reilly-Lloyd had resigned from the Council on 11th November 2024. As this took effect immediately, the Clerk had advertised the vacancy under the usual procedures and had received notification from HDC that the vacant seat could now be filled by co-option. The members of the Council undertook to canvas parishioners for interest.

25.07 Agenda Item 8: Traffic management strategy plan

(a) A428 Highways England Development - Update

The Council noted that recent road closures and diversions associated with the works had resulted in very significant increases in traffic using the village, (understood to be of the order of 9,000 vehicles in one 24-hour period. The village was not part of any official diversion strategy so not much could be done other than to establish what additional measures might be possible with the Highways England Project Manager.

(b) Traffic statistics

No update available.

25.08 Agenda Item 9: Footpath, footway and carriageway matters

(a) Maintenance of verges and footways

The maintenance of verges and vegetation within the village was discussed and the obligations falling on landowners abutting the public highway noted. The Clerk advised that he had received an email recently from Cambs CC in this regard which indicated that the County Council considered it had responsibility for maintaining the verges in the village. It was noted that this obligation was unlikely to extend to vegetation not rooted in the verge. It was agreed that this matter be deferred pending clarification with Cambs CC.

The overgrown vegetation and boggy conditions affecting the bridleway from the Yelling Equestrian Centre towards Eltisley were noted. The Clerk confirmed that maintenance of bridleways fell, in the first instance, to local authorities and it was agreed that this be raised with Cambs CC's Rights of Way Officer. The Clerk also added that he had recently received an invitation to report carriageway, highway or rights of way maintenance works under Cambs CC's Capital Maintenance programme and had registered that the bridleway and the footway between Holy Cross Church and the culvert needed attention.

(b) Road traffic accident at traffic calming measure on 30th July 2024

The Clerk advised that as the overgrown vegetation had now been cleared by Cambs CC and no further communication had been received from the driver of the vehicle this matter could be considered closed.

(c) Flood risk assessment and mitigation

It was agreed that the recent flood risk assessment and mitigation reports from HDC be carried forward for consideration at a future meeting as necessary.

(d) Recurrent drainage problems in the vicinity of Yelling Equestrian Centre

It was noted that it was unclear if the remediation works carried out in 2024 had been effective. Mr Race agreed to contact Simon Dixon, Cambs CC's Local Highways Officer.

25.09 Agenda Item 10: National Air Traffic Services - Luton Airport stacking pattern

It was noted that the Civil Aviation Authority consultation to the airspace changes had closed in September 2024 and that Ian Sollom MP had written to the Civil Aviation Authority requesting a comprehensive and detailed response to the issues raised by members of the public. The CAA confirmed in October 2024 that it would be carrying out a review of responses with the intention of releasing their report by the end of December 2024.

25.10 Agenda Item 11: East West Rail - update

The Clerk had distributed an email from the Planning Inspectorate received on 2nd January requesting that any comments the Council had on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation required from EastWest Rail be provided by 31st January. It was proposed by Mrs Ascroft, seconded by Mr Race and carried unanimously that the Clerk submit the response formulated by the Chair.

25.11 Agenda Item 12: North Weald Solar Farm - Community Liaison Group

Mr Race advised that planning application 24/00295/FUL was still extant.

25.12 Agenda Item 13: Cotton Farm Community Benefit Fund - Funding opportunities

Mrs Ascroft advised that the Cambridge Community Foundation wanted to encourage all eligible village groups to consider funding opportunities as the available balance had been climbing in recent years due to a lack

of applications. Yelling's share of that balance was approximately £21,000.

The current application window ended on 1st February so it was impractical to put anything forward but various opportunities were discussed for the Council and other village groups for future consideration.

- 25.13 Agenda Item 14: Highways Act 1980 & Commons Act 2006 - Notice of landowner deposit- Land surrounding cricket pitch field

The Clerk advised that a meeting had been held on 4th December to enable Mr Bownass to explain in more detail the procedures and evidentiary requirements for submitting a change to the mapping for Public Rights of Way, (a Definitive Map Modification Order, 'DMMO'). Eligible councillors had volunteered to complete the relevant documentation and liaise with other parishioners similarly eligible. This would hopefully provide a population of 10 to 12 respondents.

It was intended that the documentation be returned to the Clerk who would then liaise with Mr Bownass to collate a response on behalf of the Council.

- 25.14 Agenda Item 15: Refurbishment of village sign

Mr Peal had identified a woodcarver prepared to undertake the refurbishment. Mr Race delivered the sign to his premises near Peterborough and Mr Peal is waiting on further progress.

- 25.15 Agenda Item 16: Planning Application 24/02262/TRCA - Holy Cross Church - To note works to trees in conservation area

As this application relates to works to trees in a conservation area and does not involve any subject to a tree preservation order, the Council is not a statutory consultee and no response is required.

- 25.16 Agenda Item 17: HDC Precept Application

The Clerk had previously circulated the funding estimates for the precept for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2025, noting the various outstanding commitments and other planned and potential expenditure. After discussion it was proposed by Mrs Ascroft, seconded by Mr Griffith and carried unanimously that a precept of £6,000 be set.

- 25.17 Agenda Item 18: Biodiversity Policy under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021

The Clerk outlined the Council's requirements under the above policy and the obligations it creates. It was proposed by Mr Race, seconded by Mr

Peal and carried unanimously that the policy be adopted

25.18 Agenda Item 19: Barclays Bank Account - Authorised signatory additions

The Clerk advised that additions to the signatory panel were required and that this was likely to be a protracted process. It had been agreed previously that the Chair and Mr Race be added, (minute ref 20.53). The Clerk put forward that he also be included to make operational activities with Barclays Bank more straightforward. Given the limitations of the service received from Barclays, Mr Peal suggested that the Council consider options for alternative banking arrangements to provide online access and payment facilities. It was proposed by Mr Race, seconded by Mr Griffith and carried unanimously that approval to the signatory additions and investigation of alternative accounts be undertaken as necessary.

25.19 Agenda Item 20: Accounts to pay

It was proposed by Mr Peal, seconded by Mr Griffith and carried unanimously that the following accounts be approved for payment;

- H. Jackson: BKGC engraving costs £ 12.00
- Zurich Municipal: Insurance renewal £241.00
- Clerk's net salary 2024/25 (before 05/04/25) £594.00
- HMRC: PAYE on Clerk's net salary 2024/25) £396.00

25.20 Agenda Item 21: Huntingdonshire District Council - Free compost offer not taken up

The Council noted that the offer had been for bulk rather than bagged compost, this would have created difficulties both in where it could be dropped and collection by residents so it was not practical for the offer to be accepted.

25.21 Agenda Item 22 Items for future consideration - (for information only)

- MAGPAS - application for donation
- St Neots Museum - application for support
- Application for support for Riding for the Disabled group
- Retention of documents

25.22 The meeting closed at 22.00.



20/2/2025