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|  | Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th April 2023 at Horningsea Village Hall |  |
| Present | Tessa Pleasants, Cath Martin, Will Neale, Rob Balm |  |
| Apologies | Emily Williams, Hayley Livermore |  |
| Parish Council Report  |  |  |
| County Councilors Reports  | NationalI think we will all remember 2022 as being the year in which HM Queen Elizabeth II died and in which the accession of HM King Charles III was proclaimed in Cambridge and Ely, and elsewhere in the county.County CouncilThe composition of the County Council has changed, following the death of Independent Chair of the Council, Derek Giles and a Liberal Democrat being elected to that seat and a Conservative Councillor switching parties. The Council make up is currently Conservatives 27 Liberal Democrats 22Labour 9 Independents 3The Joint Administration of Lib Dem, Labour and Independent councillors continues to run the council. The Agreement signed in May 2021 will be reviewed after elections in May.I continue as a member of the County (Minerals and Waste) Planning Committee, Environment and Green Investment Committee and the Member Steering Group for Waste. I joined the Children and Young People Committee during the year and I continue to chair the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. I am the County’s nominee to the Police and Crime Panel and on the Conservators of the River Cam, of which I am Vice Chair. The council’s Chief Executive, Stephen Moir has been re-organising the senior staff structure, making senior appointments and gradually separating out the previous joint arrangements with Peterborough City Council. In July 2022 the council’s offices were formally opened at Alconbury Weald. It is a pleasant building to work in, although the Red Kite Room (council chamber) feels very cramped with 65 members at full council. On days when a large number of the public wish to attend some must be accommodated in a room on the ground floor with a live stream. There is no direct public transport link from Cambridge to Alconbury WealdCouncil FinancesThe high rates of inflation and the confusion caused by the Truss/Kwarteng mini-budget increased the cost of providing council services and the costs of capital projects, which increased the budget gap.The Council increased its portion of the Council Tax in February by 4.99% (2.99% for general services and 2% for adult social care). This was to ensure we could continue to provide services for adults and children, roads, infrastructure and environmental projectsAdults and HealthNationwide changes were made during the year, creating local Integrated Care Systems which are responsible for decision making across health and social care. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough created a joint Health and Wellbeing Board.It has become apparent how stretched and vulnerable our NHS services are, in particular, dental provision. A recent investigation by the BBC found that no dental practice in Cambridgeshire was accepting new adult patients. Residents are having to travel long distances and pay for private treatment. One resident of Ely travelled to Ukraine for dental treatment which was quicker and cheaper than that available in the UK.Children and Young PeopleThe council has continued to fund vouchers for those eligible for free school meals over the school holidays, along with the Holiday Activity and Food programme. This is in recognition of the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis on families.The Council was praised by Ofsted for the work of senior leaders in Children’s Services in responding to the challenge of Covid, and for maintaining continuity during structural change. Most children in need and those with a child protection plan were supported well.Looking at local Primary Schools: Milton Church of England Primary School, after an Ofsted rating of Inadequate in Sept 2021, a monitoring visit in March 2022, reported in May 2022, found that “Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action towards the removal of the serious weaknesses designation. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The school’s improvement plan is fit for purpose.” Waterbeach Community Primary School was last inspected in 2020 and was rated as Good.In April 2022 Fen Ditton Primary School continued to be rated as Good.The council is still seeking residents who would like to make a real difference to the life of a child by becoming a foster carer. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)In a piece of good news for Cambridgeshire, the council and the Government reached agreement on the ‘safety valve’ process to resolve the escalating deficit in the cost of SEND education. The deficit had been expected to grow to over £90M by 2025/26 if left unchecked, and the council was not permitted to divert funding from other sources to fill the gap. Thankfully, Cambridgeshire has been awarded £49M which will be used to create 463 new special school places, with a further £11.3M in capital funding to support new SEND provision on mainstream school sites. Cambridgeshire has historically received less funding per child for education than other areas, whilst having a high proportion of SEND.Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee (COSMIC) oversees the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship, to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment. COSMIC agreed to use some of the money from the fund to give a ‘payment holiday’ to pensioners in arrears with their water bills.A Warm Hubs programme over the winter was funded by the Integrated Care System and administered by Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), with fantastic support from volunteers in local parishes including Milton and Landbeach.Libraries - A review of the mobile library service resulted in a number of improvements, including more stops, more fuel-efficient routes, and local storage of vehicles. Cambridgeshire’s Library@home volunteers were one of three voluntary organisations in the county to be given the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service. Waterbeach Independent Lending Library continued to offer children books and incentives to read through the Summer Reading Challenge, which keeps children reading over the summer holiday. Photographic ID - The Government is introducing a requirement for voters to provide photographic ID at elections. This starts with the elections in East Cambridgeshire and parts of Cambridge May 2023, and will cost up to £180M over ten years, despite cases of voter identity fraud at polling stations being almost non-existent. Around two million voters in the UK do not have the right form of ID to enable them to vote—they can apply for free Voter Authority Certificates, but the application process for these is extremely slow and many people are likely to find themselves deprived of their right to vote on 4 May. EnvironmentCouncil awarded the first spending from its Just Transition fund, including £2.175M to provide a business case for the first phase of the Council’s plan for Cambridgeshireto reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. £1.75M was also awarded for flood work and nature restoration.The County Council is working with district councils on energy retrofits in homes with poor energy efficiency. Waste The waste disposal contract with Thalia (formerly Amey) at Waterbeach has taken a considerable amount of council time. Firstly the Environment Agency has required works to comply with new odour emission standards and secondly, in the new year, the EA enforced rules on persistent organic pollutants in waste upholstered domestic seating (POPs in WUDS). This led to a week in which the council was unable to accept unwanted furniture, which must now be incinerated not landfilled. In addition to this, discussions are also ongoing with Defra regarding proposals to introduce weekly food waste collections.South Cambs District Council has been doing a separate food waste collection trial in Milton and other locations, although this ends 31 March.Renewable energy - The first households in Swaffham Prior are now receiving renewableenergy from the new energy centre. Interest in this project has been considerable. Other energy projects (solar panels on Park & Ride sites, North Angle solar farm, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools and in the Council’s own premises around the county) are continuing to progress. In conjunction with iChoosr the council ran another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.The Examination into the planning application by Sunnica for the large solar farm between Burwell and Red Lodge began in autumn 2022. Water resources Anglian Water and Cambridge Water announced in autumn 2022 theirpreferred location for a new reservoir in the Fens, north of Chatteris, to come on stream in the late 2030s. A planning application will come in due course and progress through anumber of stages. It will be a decision for the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate, as with other major infrastructure schemes.We received details of the County Council’s carbon emissions for the year. There was a significant reduction in the early stages of the pandemic, due to construction work ceasing, but this is likely to increase again in future years.Trees The council has published an interim Tree Strategy, which it will revise once it has baseline information about what trees the council has, where they are, and how the council can expand and improve its tree assets. The Council persuaded National Highways to review the success of its tree-planting scheme along the new A14 route. They felled 400,000, replanted 800,000 but some 600,000 have died. Around 125,000 will be replanted. Highways and TransportThe condition of Cambridgeshire’s roads and pavements remains a serious challenge. This situation has developing for many years during which the council’s approach was admitted to be one of ‘managed decline’. However, recent extremely hot and extremely cold weather has speeded up that decline very significantly. The soil under roads and the tarmac itself has shrunk in hot dry weather, and expanded in wet weather causing it to crater and split. The severity of the problem is far beyond our maintenance budget, so the council has been actively engaging with the Department for Transport to seek their support and funding.Flooding - The council used a data interpretation and modelling tool to identify a ‘Safeand Dry’ programme of 115 locations where work was needed to improve flood resilience, and work began on the first fifty of these locations in 2022. The council is also undertaking a two-year programme to clean and plot all gullies and surface drainage features to improve highways drainage management into the future.Street Lighting The council plans to fit street lighting with energy-efficient LEDs. The council spends £3.3M a year on energy for street lights, and this sum will pay back within six years.20 mph schemes - The new funding pot has attracted numerous applications.Greater Cambridge PartnershipMaking Connections - In autumn 2022 the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) consulted on its proposals for improved bus provision and active travel in the Cambridge area, which in due course would be funded by a charge for driving in a ‘Sustainable Travel Zone’ between 7:00am and 7:00pm on weekdays. Requests for a referendum on the charge have been declined at both District and County Council, since it is not until the consultation responses have been analysed and responded to, that final proposals will be drawn up. What is clear is that action is needed to address the decades of decline in public transport inflicted by successive governments.Waterbeach to Cambridge Busway the public consultation closed on 24 March. Feedback from this consultation will support their recommendations to the GCP Executive Board “later on in the year” for a preferred route option for the busway and a preferred location for a new P&R.Waterbeach Greenway - we await clear plans for a preferred alignment for the route.Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)The Combined Authority has had a somewhat turbulent year, including an attempt to depose the elected Mayor which was unsuccessful. Most significantly, the auditors (EY) wrote to the Authority in June expressing concerns about the functioning of the CombinedAuthority, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has become involved, setting some clear requirements for improvement. The Combined Authority has agreed an Improvement programme with a package of external support, and an Independent Improvement Board has been established.Buses In September 2022 the main bus operator Stagecoach gave six weeks’ notice of its intention to withdraw from a large number of bus routes. The CPCA pulled together a tender process at very short notice, and was able to find new providers for most of those routes, though there have been changes in frequency and extent of several of them. Additional funding was diverted to support these routes, and the Mayor decided to levy a precept which will be added to the council tax to ensure the stability of these services for a further year. The Service 9 route between Milton and Waterbeach was not part of that rescue package and despite my direct requests, Stagecoach refused to re-instate that part of the route. I continue to seek restoration of this vital village link.The Combined Authority needs to move ahead with a system of franchising of local bus services, which would give democratic control of routes, timetables, and fares, but it needs large amounts of income, and it would take around five years to implement. Meanwhile the Combined Authority is finalising a Bus Strategy for submission to Government.The CP Combined Authority remains starved of resources by the Government compared to other Combined Authorities. It received no money for its Bus Service Improvement Plan and very little active travel funding. The Government also decided there would be no more money for affordable housing for any Combined Authorities.Anna Bradnam anna.bradnam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk |  |
| District Councilors Report  | I have been a District Councillor since 2015, first representing Fulbourn and then from 2018 the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward which covers eight villages Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Great Wilbraham, Horningsea, Little Wilbraham, Six Mile Bottom, Stow cum Quy and Teversham.At South Cambridgeshire District Council my role is as an opposition councillor and deputy leader of the Conservative group and deputy chair of Scrutiny. As District Councillor I always try to be approachable and listen to residents’ concerns. I have been involved in several local issues that residents have brought to my attention. These issues have ranged from concerns around local repair works, speeding, maintenance such as grass cutting, youth projects, streetlamps, lobbying for cycleways and answering questions on welfare and taxation. Specifically, within the ward I have made representations and worked with officers and developers on a whole range of issues such as the congestion charging and cycle greenways.The biggest issue lately for residents to get in touch with me about is the congestion charge the reasons I have opposed this is as follows:• Small businesses (many people will not use businesses within the Congestion Charge Zone)• Employees (teachers, nurses, Drs, cleaners) who are often on shifts. • Traders in vans (plumbers, electricians, decorators who would be paying £10 to enter the Congestion Charge Zone)• People who live in the Congestion Charge Zone would have to pay to leave their property, even when exiting the zone.• Traffic caused by people circumventing the Congestion Charge Zone, causing traffic around the outlying villages (Fulbourn and Teversham would suffer hugely being half-in and half-out of the zone). • Has parking on the outside of the zone been considered? With change of behaviour, you will have people driving to the edge of the zone (Fen Ditton, Teversham, Fulbourn), parking on streets then getting a bus or cycling from their car to avoid paying the Congestion Charge. • The report indicates that those on low pay would potentially get a discount but having studied the full proposals of what has been put forward, it doesn’t say who would qualify for a reduced rate. I have asked this at Full Council and been left none the wiser by the Liberal Democrat Administration. Many of the correspondence I have had are from those on lower earnings who are worried about the effect this is going to have on them. We don’t know if reductions will apply to someone on benefits, or someone who earns “x” amount per year, or how this will be administered (it is my view that any form of welfare or earnings exemption would be very costly to administer in staffing costs). • Will there really be enough buses and a stable service with the proposals put forward? It is my view that many people will still slip through the net in terms of being able to catch a bus that fits their work and social life habits. • Addenbrookes Hospital and Papworth Hospital are within the Congestion Charge Zone. This means people visiting relatives, patients and staff, will be paying to get to Addenbrookes Hospital via car (on top of parking charges already in place). • Will the Park and Rides have the capacity to deal with the modal shift that is predicted within the report? I still think this is questionable. • There are no exemptions for low emissions vehicles. I have been contacted by residents that have invested in electric vehicles at a higher cost, who are not very happy that they will still have to pay the same as a non-efficient diesel / petrol vehicle. • Mopeds and motorbikes would also have to pay the £5 Congestion Zone fee, (expect your takeaway costs to go up).• Lorries would be charged £50 to enter or exit the city per day. If you are a business that requires a stock delivery each week or a pub that needs kegs delivered, this will be a large burden upon these businesses and inevitably the costs would be passed onto the consumer.• The Congestion Charge runs from 7am-7pm. If you are a cleaner that starts work at 6am to get a premises ready for opening and finish work at midday, it is likely that the bus service will still not be available at 4/5am when you need to leave and you will be charged on the way out of the zone. • Change of habits for hauliers. Due to the Congestion Charge Zone being 7am -7pm, I would guess that lorry drivers will try and work outside of these hours to avoid the charge where possible, meaning more heavy goods vehicles at unsociable times of the day. Where lorries are delivering to villages outside of the zone, I would expect those lorries to now drive around the zone and through our villages to avoid the charge.• We are not London with and Underground or Manchester with a Tram system, we do not have bus hubs and the GCP has sat on the money from Central Government for Cycle Greenways for years and have done very little so I have had many correspondence regarding alternatives to congestion charging like not dropping the CAM Metro scheme that had already had a lot of money spent on it, bus franchising, Uber style bus services like those that are being trialled in Huntingdon etc. I have been proud to be involved with the Ukrainian refugee re-settlement program as Vice Chair of Scrutiny and Local Member. I am proud of the Government who has provided funding for this scheme insuring local councils have the recourses they need to deliver vital services for Ukrainian refugees. South Cambs can be very proud of the effort within this district achieving the following:• 995 visa applications by Ukrainians (Gov data 28/02/23). • 894 visas granted in South Cambridgeshire (Gov data 28/02/23). • 408 hosts have received 787 Ukrainian guests into their homes. • 914 DBS checks have been completed. • 405 welfare visits have been made. • 516 home checks have been completed. • 747 payments (totalling £261,450) have been made to guests upon arrival. • 3,353 thank you payments (totalling £980,000) have been made to hosts. • 232 hosts are currently housing 475 guests (as of 10 March 2023). SCDC’s role covered the following areas: • Accommodation checks – to check host accommodation was suitable. • DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks – carried out on hosts and all people over 18 living with them. This was to ensure there was not a clear reason why a guest should not be placed with the host’s family. • Welfare checks – to ensure Ukrainian guests were settled and safe once living together. • Payments – an initial one-off payment to guests upon arrival, and monthly ‘thank you’ payments to hosts. • Data processing – to manage and process data, including daily interaction with Government databases, to ensure the smooth running of the scheme. • Community related activities – to ensure needs of guests and hosts are considered and met using tariff funding. • Rematching and homelessness cases – responsibility for emerging homelessness cases arising from the Homes for Ukraine Scheme if host/guest. relations break down. This includes rematching to a new host where necessary. • Communications – to keep guests, hosts, councillors, parish, and town councils, community support groups and the wider community informed and updated. I would love to see South Cambridgeshire to continue to be one of the best places to live in the UK with huge employment opportunities and rural villages where people want to live close to a vibrant city. Our area has, in some way, become a victim of its own success as it is a hugely desirable place to live and it has a high number of large employers such as Addenbrooke’s Hospital and all the businesses on the Biomedical Campus, the various science parks, companies like Arm and people like to live close to where they work. Thank you for taking the time to read my report; if you have any questions or want to discuss any of the issues raised email me on graham.cone@councillor.online or ring 07595 361 285 (please leave a voicemail if I am unavailable) Councillor Graham Cone |  |
| Fen Ditton Primary School  | Following a successful Ofsted inspection in April 2022, which resulted in an overall judgement of good, wehave continued to focus on being even better, but also needing to respond to the current challenges allschools are facing - School budgets, recruitment, well-being of staff and responding to the many challengessupporting families from vulnerable backgrounds and an increase nationally of pupils with SEND needs.We have appointed a dedicated teacher to lead on physical education and physical activity. This hasresulted in better quality of lessons and an increase in the number of pupils representing the school forsports activities.Following a trial last year of a specific staff team consisting of two Level 3 teaching assistants and a level 2teaching assistant supporting pupils in a dedicated space in school known as the nest (nurture room), wehave we now recruited a teacher to lead this provision, with the support of some teaching assistants. This isto meet the increasing level of complexity of need and has enabled class teachers to focus on the quality ofteaching and learning in class with less disruptions.To support the quality of outcomes for pupils, we have given one of our senior teachers the responsibility ofdeveloping the quality of teaching and learning across the school. There is evidence that this is making apositive difference and we know school staff really value this continued professional developmentapproach. We have a great reputation for being a school where people want to work due to the support,teamwork, and innovation we do. Fen Ditton Community School is very well thought of in the AnglianLearning Trust and our staff are increasingly influencing practice across the Trust.We, like all schools in the current climate, are finding the recruitment of teaching assistants very difficult.These important staff members are expected to do more than the old traditional teaching assistants, oftensupporting pupils with SEND needs. Wages are poor, the cost-of-living crisis, along with better paid jobs inother sectors is making it a challenge for us to find appropriately skilled people. We are constantly trying toreach the point where all our teaching assistants are our employees and not agency workers. Manyteaching assistants are also requesting part time or flexible working which we need to manage also.We are developing our partnership with the Marleigh Academy and currently supporting them as they tooare finding it very difficult to recruit staff. At the current time we see a longer-term partnership supportingpupils with send might be the right option for both schools.We have six mixed classes, but we are currently teaching maths in straight year groups which we believe issupporting better outcomes and helping teachers with the planning demands.We have been supporting a lot of pupils with their mental health and access to learning this year with KICKmentoring taking place weekly for pupils. This organisation use sport as a tool to discuss and providestrategies for pupils in and out of school that they can apply.Despite the government thinking, school budgets are inadequate, and with the increase in energy costs,funding for pupils with SEND not meeting the needs, along with increases in salary costs, it is making itvery difficult for school leaders. However, despite this, with the support of the PTFA and an intention ofschool staff, we are still proving pupils with as many opportunities and experiences as we can.All of our Year 5 pupils have now been learning on a weekly how to play the violin or viola. Our Year 4pupils began brass, but this has been paused as Cambridgeshire Music cannot recruit a teacher followingthe music tutor leaving their service. Music concerts have taken place to showcase the strings, but manyKindness Respect Courage Resilienceother children are playing instruments, and there is a culture of pupils inspiring each other to play musicalinstruments.We have two members of staff who are dance teacher trained and they are providing an after-schoolactivity dance club.With the recruitment of Mr Parker, PE teacher, already 70% of pupils have taken part in an interschoolcompetition or event.Two classes recently attended a writing workshop with Michael Rosen which I arranged via the help ofHistory Works.Our Christmas carol concert was held in school this year as the cold spell of weather left the pavementsextremely icy for a week. It was our first concert following the pandemic and highlighted how much we hadmissed these big community events.A Shakespearean actor recently delivered his acting skills in a school assembly. As a school we would liketo further enhance our literature experiences moving forward and would like to build on existing work thathas gone in already to develop the quality of our reading provision.We have been developing a new vision for the future for the school and will be providing someopportunities for some community thoughts about this.Finally, I would like to thank, in particular the Horningsea community for the ongoing support they haveprovided for me and my staff. |  |
| Statutory Groups Reports  | Horningsea Parish charities- The Parish Charities have a formal obligation to report annually to the Parish Council and to submit the annual accounts. Due to my computer having issues this week I am unable to download the financial statements but will submit in the next few weeks.The Charities now have a full set of Trustees with Will Neale being appointed by the Parish Council to replace Michael Gingell. Our new Vicar, Nick Moir, is an automatic Trustee.The Trustees met in the autumn to introduce the two new Trustees to the terms of the Trust and the assets. The annual meeting took place in December. In between there were discussions by email to consider various issues. The income in 2022 was £650 from investments and in addition donations were received from the HRA and Parish Council. These have enabled the Charities to give additional assistance during the cost of living crisis. During the year the Trustees made grants of £612 which includes the provision of Christmas food hampers for a number of residents. Food was provided in the church porch during winter months at a cost of £166. One resident requested the provision of a slow cooker to help with the cost of cooking meals. The Trustees are keen to look at increasing the income so that more significant grants can be made to those in need. The last few years have demonstrated how important it is to have funds available to make urgent grants in unexpected circumstances. A new email address has been set up: horningseaparishcharities@googlegroups.com. This has not been used very often but is still live for anyone who has a request for assistance. Quy Fen- The past 2022 / 2023 year has seen further good progress with upkeep of Quy Fen:Activities:The Frog pond, previously overgrown with scrub, has now been cleared with help from Swaffham Drainage Board and is largely complete. The intention is to cut a section of meadow and spread this on the cleared areas to encourage wild seed growth, which will be completed when the conditions are right.Three willow trees have been pollarded as planned and work has continued with control of scrub and repair of hedge gapping.Planned work:Following review on site with Natural England, the following works have been agreed:On the east side of the Cut, additional measures will be introduced to assist with control of the reeds. Three distinct areas will be fenced from the bank to the reeds, which will allow access by the cattle to be rotated for each area. This project is being completed by the grazier and will be carried out progressively over a three year period. A new ‘circular’ walk / footpath will be created on the east side of the Cut and a kissing gate will be relocated to be situated nearer to the frog pond. The hedge from Alicky Footbridge along to Alicky Side Pond requires additional maintenance, along with clearance of the nettles at the bridge.The current Quy Fen Trust Website is being reviewed and options being explored to replace the existing site.Village Fund:The QFT has a fund for each of the surrounding villages from which they may request funding for specific projects. Typically, these tend to be projects that align with the Trusts environmental objectives. Each year QFT contributes an amount to each village fund and as at the last QFT meeting 6 February 2023 the Horningsea fund contained £1,459.Applications by HPC for funding can be made via the Trusts HPC representative. Anglian Water Consultation:QFT formally submitted its response to the Phase 3 Consultation issued by AW for the proposed Relocation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and awaits the latest update from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the application by AW for a Development Consent Order.QFT has objected to the principle of relocation and to the design, landscape impact and risk of contamination to the Fen through both surface and groundwater.Access to the Fen:Following the retirement of Michael Gingell, PX Farms took over as the new tenant farmer for Quy Estates land. In doing so, PX Farms changed the lock at the Horningsea gate. While access has since been provided, QFT is continuing with the Land Registry activities necessary to formalise vehicle access for trustees, contractors, and the grazier etc. necessary to ensure the fen can be maintained as required, into the future.Changes to Trustees / Secretary:Following notification in the 2022 Annual Report that Andy Clarke was stepping down due to his move to Bristol, the replacement Trustee for Horningsea is Emily Williams. Subsequently, Alan Alderson (Fen Ditton) has also resigned and has been replaced by Jennie Conroy.The role of Trust Secretary previously held by Andy Clarke is now being conducted by Tracey Thorby.Vote of thanks:After many years in the role, Bill Watts has stepped down as Chair of the Trust but remains a valued member of the Trust as one of the Trustees for Stow Cum Quy. Bill has done a tremendous stint as Chair and the Trust would like to place on record its thanks.Matthew Asplin has taken over the role of Chair from Bill. | Notes on file |
| Horningsea Village Hall and Millennium Green Trust report.  | 1. Recent Past - As expected, both trusts have had a rather quieter year or so, because of our need to pick-up after Covid-19 Pandemic, although access to the hall has been unrestricted since earlier with ‘changing’ government rules. Even outside events on the green have not been happening as often as we’d have liked. Charity Commission Trustee Records & Annual Returns are up to date and we’ve again acquired NNDR Zero Business Rate exemption. Other grants from SCDC,have not been awarded to us during 2022/23, but Insurances and Licence renewals, ACRE membership have all been paid/renewed. Amending bookings/cancellations/ returning deposits, agreeing access/licences for geo surveys for the proposed AW relocation of new sewage works etc have also taken up a fair proportion of time during last 12 months.2. Trustees - We lost 1 trustee before our last AGM with Jayne Neale finding her work pressures too hectic to give sufficient time to the Trusts. Thanks and appreciation was extended to her, we now have 8 trustees remaining having warmly welcomed Marilyn Dew as representative of our Horticultural Society, but we look to recruit a Toddler Group representative and A N Other?3. Recent Achievements - Thanks to John/Sue for re-cording the flagpole and refurbishing the flags, Paul Kemp repaired post and rail fences, Alan Leader has just re-decorated the interior of the hall and we now have Cambridge Fibre’s improved WiFi installed. For the green, we must again congratulate our groundsmen for superb grass cutting, Marilyn and Gary for the Daffodil bulb planting, Richard for tending the bank beside the pond, John H for the superb clean-up of the southern ditch, plus fitting the ‘Sheffield’ cycle stands and Richard for his very recent re-seeding of the bank of spoil. Our appreciation also goes to Scotsdales for the kind donation of the Java Teak garden bench to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.4. Finance - Thanks again to the income from earlier Covid Grants and more recently ACRE/SCDC grant for our 15 recently run ‘Warm Hub’ meetings by Sue and Michael, our wealth remains good for the hall, whereas finances for the green remain less wealthy over the last twelve months with no income from marquees, plus a need for pond/ditch maintenance. More information/figures later from both our treasurers. Hall/Green letting fees were increased at the start of 2023 and will be reviewed more regularly so as to keep abreast of ‘rocketing electricity rates’ and new WiFi charges, until our bookings have again resumed and business and utility rates becomes more ‘back to normal’. Alternative HVHT/HMGT bankers to Barclays are being considered. 5. Future Plans - Our applications to SCDC’s Zero Carbon Community Grant (with replacement heaters in mind) were sadly unsuccessful. A further round of SCDC applications have been invited and we ought to submit another application during 2022/23. Our renewing Hallmark status has again been promoted by Cambs ACRE, for our decision. A quotation for paving the apron in front of hall main entrance was obtained, but this was considered fairly expensive, so other plans / quotes are still needed for more consideration. We fit out a new wall cupboard for sound equipment and generally tidied up our storage facilities. Replacement roller blinds were purchased and some have already been fitted in the hall. A new cupboard in cloakroom is to be fitted to house our re-sited electricity meter. 6. Summary - We remain delighted to continue our close working relationships with HPC, HRA, Parish Church, Horticultural group, Toddlers, Musicians, Artists and all regular hall hirers. We are also more recently giving all support possible our SHH Action group. As chairman, I wish to thank my fellow officers and all fellow trustees for their invaluable input. Although being slightly biased, from the Chair I recognise and thank Pauline on behalf of us all for her tireless work with bookings/cancellations/collection/banking of fees/return of deposits. Furthermore, Garrick was welcomed and deserves thanking for grasping the task of keeping the hall clean and tidy over past 12 mths, to now handover to a new volunteer Alan for the future. Michael HellowellChairman HVHT/HMGT | Notes on file |
| Horningsea Residents Association |  |  |
| St Peters Church | Our new Vicar - Canon Nick Moir - took up his post in April last year, so we have had a full year with him in post. He has managed to build a team of trainee priests and Lay Ministers so that we have benefitted from ideas from a number of other people. We have worked out a new pattern of services which means we have a service in Horningsea 2 or 3 times each month. One service is called a Village Service at 4pm - that has allowed us to have special services including one celebrating Paddington Bear which ended with marmalade sandwiches for tea! We have introduced coffee mornings in the church every other Wednesday morning which is followed by a time for prayer. Numbers that come to ordinary Sundays are not huge and there is always room for more! We had a full house for the Carol Service for the first time since COVID. We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee with an exhibition and concert as well as a special service. We hosted a Book of Remembrance which members of the village signed in tribute to HM QEIIWe have enjoyed the organ playing of Julian at each of our services and we were delighted that Lilly Goodbrand was able to come and play on Mothering Sunday. There were two weddings last summer, no baptisms this year but sadly a number of funerals, burials in the churchyard and burial of ashes. The Memorial stone will have a number of names added in the summer, after a gap of years.Major reorganising of the church porch took place to get rid of the steps up and down. The church is now fully accessible for those with mobility issues. The spring and summer months this year have the church full of activities - art exhibition, concert and service in celebration of art. The Save Honey Hill campaign are using the church to record another song. The Coronation will be streamed on a big screen all day - with refreshments starting with breakfast, an exhibition and special service. The bells will Ring for the King and there will be Wildlife exploration in the churchyard. In June we have a Pilgrim visiting, she will run a singing workshop, play her medieval harp and sing about Margery Kemp. Also in June the church will host the Horningsea Short Story Literary afternoon. In between the church is open most days for quiet prayer for anyone in the village to just call in.  |  |
| Horticultural Show  | The Horningsea Horticultural Show is a small traditional show offering the opportunity to showcase the incredible talent of the people of Horningsea, their children and also friends and family (which has its own section) covering a wide range of not only fruit, vegetables and flowers, but home baking, flower arranging, art and crafts and have been advised by professional judges that our Show is of a very high standard.We are very proud to be part of this show which is very special to the community and both remembers its past and looks to the future. When I first came to Horningsea here were no classes for children below the age of 5 and not many classes in the childrens section, this has changed and has been well supported by the children of Horningsea and we hope will continue, as they are the future. In regard to the past, we have re-named the The Wine Cup to 'The Dinah Asplin Cup' in memory of Dinah, who has been part of the show since its inauguration and was secretary for some years (her mother was Phyllis Bell - and donated the Memorial Trophy to the preserves) and continued to enter and support the show up until her last one in 2019 entering her Wine and some flowers.After a break of over 2 years the Horningsea Horticultural Show went ahead in July 2022 and delighted that there were a lot of new entries in a variety of classes, and was a success not only due to the entrants, but the hard work of all the Committee Members in promoting, setting-up running the Show and clearing away, the judges for giving up their time and also grateful for help given by non-committee members on the day. We are also grateful for the continued sponsorship from Scotsdales for the printing costs covering Show Schedule, cards, certificates, etc., without which the Show would make a loss. After this year I will be stepping down as Chairman and we could also use a few more Committee members, and the committee would welcome anyone who is as passionate about the Show to please step forward and help keep this amazing Community Event supported for future generations to enjoy. Carol AshmanChairman Horningsea Horticultural Show |  |
| Village Website/Herald |  |  |
| Save Honey Hill | Anglian Water submitted its application to National Infrastructure Planning on 31 January 2023 but withdrew it 22 February, indicating they will resubmit.SHH has been working towards this point for nearly three years. Primary objective has always been to oppose the relocation to Honey Hill; the secondary objective is for the best mitigation should the DCO be granted. As part of this preparation, we responded to Anglian Water’s Phases one and two Consultations. During the last year, we have continued fund raising for legal advice and for publicity such as posters and banners. A major piece of work was preparing the Phase 3 Statutory Consultation, making residents aware and offering Parish Councils the outcome of our research. We have also responded to the emerging Local Plan Issues & Options Consultations and attended forums and meetings on North East Cambridge Area Action Plan and the Community working group meetings with Anglian Water. The statutory consultation on the Local Plan has been put on hold until the outcome of the Development Consent Order is known; the same applies to NECAAP consultation. SHH AGM was held in January and was very well attended.The Strategy team continued to try to derail the proposed application by appeals to MP, DEFRA, Chancellor of Exchequer, press articles, alliance with environmental groups & to keep in people’s awareness.Our KC and her junior have advised us in preparing our Representations for the Examination. Several members of the Strategy Team have each taken specific areas on which to raise objections. These include the inappropriateness of building on Green Belt (it is contrary to local and national policies), the carbon expenditure associated with both construction and operation, access from the A14 junction at Fen Ditton, traffic management and odour management. We believe that both the adopted and emerging local plans are flawed in their support for the relocation which does not comply with the 2021 Minerals and Waste Local Plan . We also believe that Cambridge housing and employment needs can be met without the relocation. If Anglian Water’s resubmission is accepted by PINS, we will study the published documents to finalise our representations. We want to be recognised by PINS as a key interested party to have the opportunity to present at Hearings.We are very grateful to individual donors and to the Parish Councils of Teversham, Fen Ditton and Horningsea who have made it possible for us to instruct Counsel.I'm also very grateful to Pauline for booking the hall for our meetings.There is more information on the Save Honey Hill website and we are encouraging residents to register with the Planning Inspectorate for updates (more information on your chairs). |  |
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