

GLATTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER 2023

Present: Carl Stretton (CS)

Ross Weatherburn (RW)

Andrew Peck (AP)

4 residents of Glatton (one joined at 7.18pm)

1. Apologies

There are apologies from Miles Stephenson, Callum Atkinson, Simon Bywater and Tim Alban.

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests to declare.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 15th September 2023

There is one typo now corrected, the date of the next meeting is 24th November and not 20th November. Following the correction, the minutes of the meeting were signed by the chairman as a true record of proceedings.

4. Matters Arising

There are no matters arising that are not already on the agenda.

5. Correspondence

Notice from Huntingdon District Council that funding is available for use of community space and ideas for activities to keep residents healthier and stronger for longer. Will pass to the village hall trustees.

Parish Meeting

The meeting was opened in order for those in attendance to raise matters of concern.

i) Speeding continues to be an issue both on Sawtry Rd and High Haden Rd and especially in the early hours of the morning. The MVAS camera records the speed of traffic in both directions. There also seems to be an increase in the volume of lorries heading into Sawtry.

ii) Thanks to Tim Alban and to Clara Kerr, the chief planning officer for HDC for a very informative joint parish meeting.

Parish Council Meeting reconvened.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

CS will arrange a meeting with the work-streams leads on the Neighbourhood Plan to have a first review of the drafts. It will then be taken to a community review in early January and then regulation 14 and finally by Regulation 16.

There is a large section of brambles consisting of mainly briars and pyracantha, The Councillors had a site meeting to potentially remove this but decided that it is in fact a natural wildlife habitat and if it was removed wholesale would leave a potentially unsightly fence. CS having followed the advice of CAPALC has contacted Highways via both the online reporting tool and our Highways officer to reduce the size of the bramble patch and cut the overhanging pieces away from the footpath. CS has received a response stating that it will be looked at. If it is decided that Highways do not wish to cut the brambles back then the Parish Council will take on the responsibility and ring fence funds in the budget to enable some work to be completed. One section of the brambles running alongside the pumping station belongs to Anglia Water and they too have been contacted.

7. Speed Watch/MVAS update

CS is currently moving the camera around the different posts in the village, charging the batteries and downloading the data which is then uploaded to the web site. The most effective speed reduction measure is still an active speed watch group. It would be beneficial to have a new Speed Watch group coordinator and volunteers to be up and running for next Spring. Paul Cole who previously coordinated the Speed Watch group has indicated that he may be prepared to take this on again and AP will speak to him. Advertise via the website and a leaflet drop for speed watch volunteers.

8. Drainage – High Haden Road

There is an ongoing problem with drainage on High Haden Road. The history is that a root cutter was hired to clear the drain which runs on the right-hand side of the Road from the crossroads. The root cutter was only able to go so far when it was discovered that the drainage pipe beneath one residence was broken. The owners of the property under riparian rights and responsibilities are responsible for the repair of the drain. The owners made an insurance claim to cover the cost but it was discovered that the culvert was not covered by the insurance company. Clearly this will not be the end of the problem, it is the responsibility of all the owners of properties in the affected area on High Haden road to clear the drains running beneath their properties and to keep them clear. Gary Ackers has offered to liaise on behalf of one of the residents to try and help.

9. Planning Enforcement – Land east of 27 Infield Rd

The planning appeal application to build a dwelling on this land has now been dismissed and the application refused. The owner of the property on or around the 7th October completed unauthorized work on the land by building a road and bridge over a water course and installing a container and caravan on the land. This was reported to HDC planning enforcement on 9th October. Sally Granshaw, the planning enforcement officer, had a site visit with the owner of the property on 16th November and reported the outcome as follows:

1. The caravan is to be removed by Jan 1st 2024.
2. The container is to be removed from the land or a planning application to attempt to retain it to be received by Jan 1st 2024.

3. Any recently laid hard standing and bridge over the water course to be removed or a planning application to attempt to retain it received by Jan 1st 2024.

Sally is also currently waiting for any evidence from the land owner for any hard standing they have indicated they may wish to claim as existing ie over 4 years old. She will schedule an inspection shortly after Jan 1st.

10. LHI Bid

The window for Local Highway Improvement applications has now opened and will remain open until 12th January at 5pm. Speed calming measures are the main priority with the possibility of an application for a second MVAS camera and speed calming build outs. There is also interest in obtaining folding flood signs. RW to follow this up and make an application on behalf of Glatton Parish Council. There is a further Q&A on 5th January 10.30am-12.00pm. Clerk will also provide RW with the contact details for our local highways officer. Other funding may be available for rainwater gardens or drain water chicanes from Anglian Water.

11. Allison Homes (formally Larkfleet)

RW has written to Allison Homes with a copy to HDC (letter attached). Wish to open a dialogue with the developers particularly concerning the traffic management plan for the development on Glatton Road, Sawtry. There has not yet been a response.

12. Finance Report/Budget

The balance in the current account is £584.39 and the balance in the Business Reserve account is £11,017.65. The charitable donations have been paid and the grass cutting for this year has been paid. The council have received a quote from Owen Williams for the pollarding of the trees on the green on High Haden Rd of circa £800 and have asked that he proceed with that work. He has applied for the relevant planning permission. The three-year grass cutting contract has ended this season and the clerk has asked RJC Countryside to quote for another three-year contract. The contract will also be available for tenders and advertised on the web site in January 2024.

In light of the proposed LHI application it would be prudent to budget for an amount as the Parish Council contribution towards any successful bid.

13. Precept

In view of the proposed application for an LHI grant the Council will request a precept of £6,000. Proposed by AP and seconded by RW, agreement unanimous. Clerk will submit the necessary precept request documentation.

14. AOB

i) Planning Consultation – “Always”, 2 Glatton Ways

There are two applications (Listed building consent and a full application) to demolish the existing garage and replace with a timber frame garage. The council recommend approval. The new garage is a massive improvement on the existing structure and the design is sensitive to its location next to “Always” cottage.

ii) Gritting

Three people have volunteered to grit the pavements during the winter season. They have a WhatsApp group and will co ordinate gritting on frosty days. Clerk to request that the grit bin is filled.

iii) Planning Application on land adjacent to High Haden livery

The planning application was presented to the DMC and CS attended to speak on behalf of Glatton Parish Council. A series of conditions addressing the concerns raised by the Parish Council were put in place and the application was passed unanimously. CS emphasized that all the conditions need to be enforced.

iv) Callum Atkinson has tendered his resignation from the Parish Council. CS thanked him for his work on the Parish Council. Clerk to notify HDC.

v) The planning application for the Village Hall has been passed. Once work commences it has been agreed with St. Nicholas Church that any election voting will take place in the church.

vi) Village Clean Up

15 people worked hard to litter pick and clear the weeds from the gutters. CS thanked the volunteers for their hard work and to Felicity and Tom for the bacon rolls and cups of tea.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Friday February 16th 2024.

Meeting Closed at 20.25.

