

HISTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held at Recreation Centre, New Road, Impington, Monday 13th May 2019

Present: Andy Butcher (Chairman)

Note takers: Angela Young and Chelsea O'Brien

Histon Residents: 16

Impington Residents: 12

Non-residents: 0

Speaker: David Bray, Highways England

1 **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN**

The Parish meetings were held concurrently. Andy Butcher, Chairman of Histon & Impington Parish Council welcomed all to the 125th Annual Parish Meeting of Histon Parish

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Geoff Moore, Neil Davies, Steve Carrington

3 **MINUTES OF THE 124th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th May 2018**

No matters raised, Chair signed the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting

4 **CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT**

Chairman's written report was available after the meeting. He highlighted aspects from full report, covering:

- Long term projects and activities
- Planned developments in the parishes
- Neighbourhood Plan – policies being developed by the residents, which will need to be signed off to help control development coming forward in the future
- Change, which can be seen as a threat, or as an opportunity. The more we see develop, the more we need to see change
- Efficiency, the Parish Council clerk of 25 years was retiring during 2019 and the Council were happy that after 9 years working on the Council team, the deputy clerk was stepping up to the role. Showing the importance of thinking and planning ahead of time
- The Chairman was also standing down in May 2019 and he hoped the new Chairman would look to the future, not the past

Full version of the Chairs report will be available on the Council website and hard copies in the Library. A version would appear in the next Hisimp News June 2019.

5 **PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2018-19**

Paper provided to all showing interim end of year accounts. Full report will be available on the Council website and hard copies in the Library. A supporting item will also be published in the June edition of the Hisimp News.

No questions

6 **SPEAKER – DAVID BRAY, PROJECT DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS ENGLAND – A14 Improvements Programme Timetable**

Mr Bray presented, full presentation will be available on the Council website.
Issues of particular interest:

- Acknowledgement of sensitivity in Histon & Impington and Section 5 surrounding noise, vibration, ecology and trees. Night work is unavoidable as they work with the local authority to deliver commitments to keep roads open and to work safely. The team are fully aware and mindful of the Exam season approaching. They abide by legislation and Codes of Conduct
- 6 Ecologists work full time on the project. Part of the legacy of the improvement scheme is to preserve ecology and create an enriched environment where it can thrive
- Girton to Histon section needs to be realigned to gain a lane at junction 32. No changes to bridges although changes involved nearer to Milton
- 190 accidents currently each year. The design aim is to reduce those killed or injured by 50%
- Cost to the country of delays on A14 prior to improvements – estimated at £780m. In response to this Highways England hoped to deliver an improvement programme which would also make a real difference to the communities. Reconnecting of communities is needed where possible
- A local access road will mean travel from Huntingdon to Cambridge will be possible without use of the new A14. It will be key to dissuade HGVs from using the access road
- The region is growing quickly, jobs, houses, number of residents. Infrastructure is needed to support that over the next 10 – 15 years. 73 bridges are involved, 34 of which are new bridges
- Highways England are keen to leave a positive legacy. They are mindful of the need to communicate, to build trust and to deliver commitments. The cost, supported by local authorities is £1.5billion
- Green credentials: the project recycles planings from old roads which are being dug up to re-use; Flood compensation areas dug provide materials for elsewhere
- There is an application to make the road into a motorway (A14(M))
- Of the 5 sections, Section 1 is complete and back to normal speed limits. Sections 2 and 3 as far as Swavesey will be complete and open during 2019. Sections 4 and 5 2020.
- Residents can sign up to email alerts by visiting HE website

Questions followed:

Q How long will the 4m high absorptive sound barrier on the west side be? Will it be 250m as advised in correspondence in 2014?

A No, if this has been so it was for a previous scheme. HE has a long term obligation to mitigate the noise. The barrier will be monitored for some 20 years. They are putting in a very expensive ultra-low black top to help with this which reduces noise by 5-10%. Modelling shows what length of barrier is required. David Bray to provide exact details of length

Residents felt it would not be enough. The advice was to make representation to the Dept for Transport

Q Noise level recordings. Residents have actual levels that exceed those reported.

A That is a question for South Cambs District Council. HE is working in accordance with the Code of Practice, monitored by SCDC. David Bray agreed to continue sharing details of noise levels with the Action Group

Q What are the legal requirements to monitor air quality?

A 2 air quality monitors had been installed, data being validated and verified. It was initially a problem so no data was available; there is baseline data included in the DCO application

Residents were still concerned that no initial data was available to compare

Q What level of stolen equipment has been recorded?

A Not known, but it will be insured

Q Will HE commit to proper communication over tree removal? – “Verge clearance” was not felt to be a clear message and concerns over bird nesting

A Permits to work are required and are signed off by Ecologists. The plans clearly show widening and it should be obvious that removal is needed to order to do that. The sequence of works is a great challenge to HE, and end-date issues. David Bray completely understood the important of good communication and the plea for honesty and integrity when doing so

Q How will the replanting scheme be managed?

A For 5 years managed by contractors, thereafter HE or local authority depending on whose land it is. Regular management and replacement work, tree guard removal etc.

Q Vibration issues are of concern. How can the Action Group see the recordings?

A David Bray will share with the group

Q Is the banked soil being analysed to ensure non-toxic?

A Ground investigations carried out before the scheme started. Embankments need to achieve a grade to perform, and are tested to ensure the right quality reached

Q Why only 2 lanes under the bridge?

A Most likely a matter of cost of rebuilding the bridge.

Residents concerned that HGVs might access through the villages to avoid pinchpoint traffic hold ups

Mr Bray was thanked for his time, and would remain after the meeting to discuss further with any resident. Residents were invited to copy in Parish Council with any correspondence with HE

7 OPEN FORUM

There being no further matters raised, meeting was closed at 8.22 pm