

## IMPINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Community Room, Recreation Ground

**Present:** Yvonne Murray (Chair), Edd Stonham (AV equipment)  
Note taker: Chelsea O'Brien

**Impington Residents: 8**  
**Histon Residents: 15**  
**Non Electors: 0**

### 1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

The Parish meetings were held concurrently. Yvonne Murray, Chair of Histon & Impington Parish Council welcomed all to the 129<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting of Impington Parish. Yvonne highlighted the continued change and evolvement of processes within Histon & Impington Parish Council, emphasising the need to make everyone feel valued and encouraged participation from all.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Two Impington residents presented apologies for the meeting

### 3 MINUTES OF THE 128<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Omission in minutes noted, the word 'cost' to be added. Those present approved Chair to sign the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting

### 4 CHAIRS ANNUAL REPORT

A full copy of the Chairs report can be downloaded from [www.hisimp-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hisimp-pc.gov.uk) or available from the Parish Office.

### 5 PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2023-24

Paper provided to all showing interim end of year accounts. Full report is available to download from [www.hisimp-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hisimp-pc.gov.uk) or available from the Parish Office.

### 6 Guest Speakers:

**Cllr McKeown – Chair, Highways Drainage & Formal Spaces Committee.** Cllr McKeown shared a presentation covering the Committee projects and goals over the past 12 months and future aspirations:

- Implementation of 20mph in Histon & Impington, a collaboration project with Histon & Impington Parish Council and Cambridgeshire County Council
- Extract of survey results from the 20mph village survey showing support for implementation of 20mph adjacent to village schools, which was achieved using the data collected
- Cambridgeshire County Council Local Highways Initiative Scheme and successful raised table project at The Brook. Similar improvement has been submitted for Station Road by The Boot this year (24-25)
- Committee has produced a list of potential projects for the LHI Fund in future years
- In line with the Parish Council climate commitments and transport priorities in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Committee are working with County Council to remove, replace or improve pedestrian barriers to help pushchair users, cycles, wheelchairs and other mobility devices move safely around the villages
- Installation of Bell Hill Planter, flowers were donated and maintained by residents
- Burial Ground clearance work and installation of post to deter unauthorised vehicular access

- Explore potential location and need for electric vehicle chargers as potential funding opportunities have been identified
  - Collaboration with the Nature & Biodiversity Committee to create new banks (bunds) and the Village Green, adding new habitat and biodiversity opportunities
- Cllr McKeown welcomed questions:

Resident: Bell Hill planter has reduced visibility looking right, needs fixing. Cllr McKeown confirmed the installation has been checked and approved by County Council but will note the comments and investigate the matter

Resident: Creation of informal paths on the Village Green, consider making these formal footpaths. Cllr McKeown noted the Village Green is registered and footpaths would require permission but will note as item for the Committee to review

**Cllr Hobbs, Chair, Wellbeing Recreation & Leisure Committee.** Cllr Hobbs shared a presentation covering challenges at the Recreation Ground, potential solutions, Committee aspirations, Youth Working Group and HI Friends, detailing

- Increasing population and pressure on facilities
- Limited playing time for formal sports on grass facilities
- Formal sport club's high utilisation of the Recreation Ground facilities (80%)
- No capacity to increase the current sports or introduce new opportunities
- Recreation Development Group working in partnership with Nature & Biodiversity and sports clubs to review facilities at the Recreation Ground and discuss options to ensure the site is at its full potential
- Review of all year round play on artificial surfaces (3G)
- Goals and aspirations of the Youth Working Group
- Ambition of the Committee to develop smaller sites in the village, in line with the successful project at School Hill Gardens (Manorial Waste)
- Partnership working with HI Friends, Cllr Davies briefed all on the increase demand and expertise available to residents, covering: Older Peoples Worker, Mental Wellbeing Workers; End of Life Support Worker, walking football, walking rugby, community minibus and trishaw as well as large scale events open to all to attend
- Advised residents to check the 'Discovering HI Friends Spring 2024' book for upcoming events and Dementia Week

Cllr Hobbs welcomed questions:

Resident: 3G courts, the benefit of increased usage is apparent, but what about the biodiversity impact? Cllr Davies noted the collaborative working with Nature & Biodiversity Committee and need to include within the business plan

Resident: £800,000 rumoured cost has been mentioned for the tennis courts, is that true? Cllr Hobbs noted, the cost of the tennis courts is estimated at £300,000 the other associated costs are for drainage, car park improvements and boundary footpath

Resident: noting the surface has a life span is there plans for a sinking fund

Cllr Hobbs noted this is a requirement for funding opportunities

Resident: Manorial Waste (School Hill Gardens) works well and is a success and thanked all involved in the project

**Cllr Smith, Chair, Nature & Biodiversity Committee.** Cllr Smith shared a presentation of the projects and successes of the Committee

- Tree maintenance in a response to the tree surveys undertaken
- Collaborative working with HI Trees and the planting of 16 trees
- Replanting strategy following planned felling of trees identified in Tree Surveys
- Nature Recovery Strategy inline with Project P12 of the Neighbourhood Plan, consultant contracted to pull together biodiversity data across the villages
- Thanks to Histon and Impington Green Spaces (HIGS)
- Collaborative working to support Council and village sustainability and climate goals
- Public Art upcoming projects including the Pat Fleet Memorial Bench

Cllr Smith welcomed questions:

Resident: Manor Park is a popular dog walking area in need of a dog waste bin, can the Parish Council please consider installing a bin

Cllr Smith noted she was aware of the issue and the impact dog waste has on the field when trialled as meadow. Signage and bin to be added to the next Committee agenda

Resident: Will the biodiversity study include other areas in the villages such as the Community Orchard?

Cllr Smith noted any data received will be included within the study and welcomed community groups to get involved

Cllr Smith noted the request and will pass to the Clerk to follow up

Resident: How many trees must be felled and is that due to poor management?

Cllr Smith approximated 70 trees have been identified across all Parish Council owned sites for felling, the trees are either dead, dying or diseased. Parish Council Tree Officer present at the meeting noted there has been an epidemic of sooty bark disease triggered by the long hot summers.

- Resident – area of land north of Manor Field towards the Guided Busways track, is privately owned but the trees are in poor condition and require work. Would the Parish Council make enquiries and highlight the need for maintenance? Cllr Smith and Parish Council Tree Officer present noted this and would explore the matter further

**Cllr Jocelyn, Chair, Planning & Development Committee.** Cllr Jocelyn shared a

presentation and statistics from the Planning & Development Committee covering:

- 18 meetings held to date; Planning & Development Committee meets the most frequently of all Parish Council Committees
- Statistics from the recommendations made, 48 approvals, 1 refusal, 17 no recommendation
- Planning appeal process
- Neighbourhood plan policies and upcoming review/update required post publication of Local Plan
- Former Bishops Hardware store has been sold with planning permission for 38 apartments

Cllr Jocelyn welcomed questions:

Resident questioned the timing and review of Neighbourhood Plan, needs to coincide with Local Plan. Cllr Jocelyn noted the process is in early stages. Resident added details to the timing of the review of the Neighbourhood Plan. The current Histon & Impington Neighbourhood was published after the Local Plan and the policies override the Local Plan. Publication of a new Local Plan would mean the new policies override the Neighbourhood Plan. Review and updating of the NHP must be timed after the publication of the Local Plan

- District Councillor Cahn present outlined the timetable has not yet been defined for the Local Plan publication
- Resident questioned the reasoning for the Parish Council refusal recommendations not being reflected in final decisions at District Council level. Cllr Jocelyn noted high levels of praise from Planning Officers of the level of detail in responses from the Planning Committee
- Resident – What can the Committee do to Improve refusal rates? Cllr Jocelyn did not want to speculate but felt the level of detail applied to each application by the Parish Council was sufficient and of a high standard
- Resident – why doesn't the Parish Council publicise controversial applications? Cllr Jocelyn confirmed applications of interest are shared with local news outlets, but the most successful means of sharing is by word of mouth

**Cllr Stonham, Chair Finance, Governance and Legal Committee.** Cllr Stonham shared a presentation highlighting the Committees achievements in the year covering:

- Implementation of the new accounting system for the Parish Council
- Work on going on Asset Management, the Parish Council is one of the few trialling the BETA version
- Thanks recorded to the Office Team and particularly the Responsible Financial Officer

- Review and implementation of three-year budgets for Committees
  - Working with Committees to ensure all projects are costed to enable a smooth precept process
  - Village wide Finance Consultation and useful data collected from residents
  - Review and implementation of policies and procedures. Grants Policy, Third Party Services and adoption of the Reserves Policy
- Chair welcomed questions, no questions were asked

**Cllr Murray, Chair Employment & Transformation Committee.** Cllr Murray shared a presentation highlighting the challenges of the Committee, covering

- The retirement of former Head Parish Council Groundsman and the difficulties the Parish Council faced in fulfilling the role noting the large void left in the staff team
  - Success and seamless continuation of maintenance at The Recreation Ground by engaged contractor for this season
  - Challenges faced transforming the maintenance of the Recreation Ground to a more sustainable model going forward
  - Contractor encouraging change, including marking of the tennis courts by a robot
  - Importance of a network of contractors and relationships of the staff team
  - Work with Parish Council Ashtons HR Retainer to review Staff Handbook and Policies
  - Working relationships with the organised sports clubs
- Chair welcomed questions, no further questions

Chair summarised the key words of the meeting and partnerships formed throughout the year including, Histon & Impington Green Spaces, Histon Football Club, HI Trees, Connections Bus, Impington Village College, HI Friends just to name a few.

## 7 OPEN FORUM

Chair invited any further questions or matters of concern

Resident raised an on-going issue on behalf of residents of St Audreys Close, Histon. Roof maintenance undertaken by SCDC contractors to properties of vulnerable residents in St Audreys Close has led to broken guttering, damage to gardens, poor communication, debris left on site, replacement downpipes needed and an overall poor quality of workmanship. Resident noted direct contact with the District Council has been attempted but no support to the residents has been provided to date. District Councillor Cahn present at the meeting, requested the resident to email him directly with details and confirmed he would take the matter up. Parish Council would monitor and offer support where possible.

There being no further matters raised, meeting was closed at 8.37 pm