

## HAIL WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20th May 2025 HELD IN HAIL WESTON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 pm.

#### PRESENT:

|            |      |
|------------|------|
| O Oldfield | (OO) |
| N Burdett  | (NB) |
| V Bolton   | (VB) |

**IN ATTENDANCE:** HDC Councillor Stephen Cawley, Resident Barry Easom, Resident Keven Stobbs and Sarah Milonas (Clerk).

#### ACTION

#### **250520 – 1** ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2025/2026 AND RECEIVE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

OO opened the meeting, Chairman Councillor Nick Farden's resignation was received and accepted.

Oliver Oldfield was elected Chairman, Nigel Burdett nominated, and Veronica Bolton seconded.

#### **250520 – 2** ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2025/2026 AND RECEIVE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Nigel Burdett was elected Vice-Chairman, Veronica Bolton nominated, and Oliver Oldfield seconded.

#### **250520 - 3** OPEN FORUM AND TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Resident Barry Easom – deeply concerned about the Ford, and the lack of understanding given from Cambridgeshire County Council towards signage, the Ford gates, and the Ford waters. There is still a car body present in the waters. Several cars over the years have had to be winched out, including a police car; it is very easy to leave the village through the Ford and drop off into something that is deeper than the roof of a car.

The main chevron is totally covered by vegetation so it is impossible to see. Previously silt at the entrance of the Ford and at the bottom of the Ford would be cleared by Cambridgeshire County Council, this is no longer the case.

Previous deaths have occurred in the Ford. It should be acknowledged that vandalism has taken place but the whole situation is not helped by the changes at the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Clerk to contact CCC Councilor Ian Gardener about the Ford and consideration for a byway. **CLERK**

Resident Keven Stokes – Explained that Newtown residents have got together and are planning to repair the potholes on Newtown. They would like a contribution from the Parish Council towards the

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### ACTION

costs of the repairs. They have received 2 quotes, and the estimated cost is in the region of £2,500.

Clerk to add decision to June meeting.

### CLERK

HDC Councillor Stephen Cawley – report attached

#### **250520 - 4** RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from NF, RRS, SM & HM

#### **250520-5** RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations made

#### **250520 - 6** APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES (15 April 2025) Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 April 2025.

#### **250520 – 7** CLERKS REPORT

Noted

Clerk to put Village Sign on July agenda for decision

### CLERK

#### **250520 - 8** PLANNING a) Noted by Parish Council

#### **250415 - 9** FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE a) It was resolved to approve reconciliation, bank statements and expenditure for April 2025. b) Resolved to approve payments on finance report: May 2025

Business Money Manager: £48459.89

Community account: £4201.94

**TOTAL £52661.83**

| May 2025 expenditure                    |         |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| SM Wages SCP 29 £20.02/hr (HMRC 159.34) | £816.60 |
| T & S Grounds Maintenance               | £638.00 |
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| Strength & Balance                      | £123.00 |
| Total Energies (Electricity)            | £52.14  |
| Fresh Pay                               | £7.80   |
| Church Rent                             | £1.00   |

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### ACTION

|                                                         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Church Rent                                             | £1.00    |
| P Baker                                                 | £178.30  |
| GoR Flag Purchase                                       | £24.96   |
| Insurance                                               | £1214.15 |
| Cambridgeshire Acre<br>Community Action<br>Subscription | £72.00   |
|                                                         |          |
| Total                                                   | £3766.95 |

### CLERK

- c) Deferred to June Meeting
- d) Deferred to June Meeting
- e) Deferred to June Meeting
- f) Resolved to keep the hire costs the same
- g) Resolved for OO, NB & Clerk to be signatures, Clerk to email NB details of Primary User change from Jill Gooch to OO.
- h) Resolved to approve risk assessment including insurance
- i) Resolved to keep cemetery charges the same for 2025/26
- j) Deferred to June Meeting

### CLERK

### CLERK

#### 250520-10

SPRING PLACE LAND  
Deferred to the following meeting

#### 250520-11

RESOLVE BENCH PLACEMENT BMX TRACK  
Resolved to placing a bench next to the BMX track  
Clerk to inform Paul Baker

### CLERK

#### 250520-12

ROSPA UPDATE  
Resolved to defer playing sand purchase to June meeting  
Clerk to inform Paul Baker on questions raised

### CLERK

#### 250520-13

MEMEBERS UPDATES  
**VB** confirmed a new mat has been purchased and placed by the door in the village hall.  
**OO** None  
**NB** Confirmed the placement for the table tennis table is now complete and work is expected to start imminently.

#### 250520-14

CONSIDER ANY COMMUNICATION RECEIVED THAT REQUIRES FORMAL NOTING OR DECISION BY PC

- a) Clerk to contact Cllr Stephen Cawley for more information
- b) Date was noted
- c) Decision to be made at June meeting
- d) Clerk to contact sender and confirm terms of playfield hire
- e) Play sand deferred to June meeting, Clerk to contact Paul Baker regarding Phone Box

### CLERK

### CLERK

### CLERK

**250520-  
15**

### MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

- Spring Place Land
- Play Sand
- Newtown contribution
- AGAR Approval
- Member responsibilities
- Village Sign (July meeting)
- Phone Box Painting

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.

Annual Report from District Councillor - Great Staughton Ward (Hail Weston, Gt Staughton, Perry, Grafham, Ellington parishes)

As a reminder, the Great Staughton ward contains, from south to north: Hail Weston, Great Staughton (including Staughton Moor and Dillington), Perry, Grafham, Ellington (including Ellington Thorpe)

As last year, this year has been another one full of event.

The Council convened five times during the 2024/25 year. These meetings addressed key decisions, including budget approvals, strategic initiatives, and policy implementations.

In early 2024, the Council approved the 2024/25 budget, which included:

- A £5 annual increase in Band D Council Tax, raising it to £160.86.
- Commitment to protecting frontline services despite reduced government funding and rising costs.
- Introduction of a new Council Tax Support Scheme to assist low-income households.
- A review of the proposed council tax base for 2025/26, noting an increase of 542 Band D equivalent dwellings compared to 2024/25.

The Council also approved a new Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy, accompanied by a £750,000 Delivery Fund to be utilized over three years. This strategy focuses on enhancing financial security, health, and social connections within the community.

Throughout the year, the Council undertook several projects aimed at improving the district's environment and community well-being, including:

- Biodiversity enhancements in St Neots and St Ives.
- Redevelopment plans for The Old Falcon in St Neots.
- Upgrades to St Neots Riverside Skatepark.
- Public engagement on active travel initiatives.

The Council projected the construction of approximately 498 new homes in the district for the 2025/26 financial year. This estimate was based on data from property inspectors and developers, acknowledging potential uncertainties in the construction industry.

In addition to the activities summarized for the 2024/25 Council year, Huntingdonshire District Council initiated a "Call for Sites" as part of the development of a new Local Plan.

The "Call for Sites" process invited developers, landowners, agents, and local communities to propose land within Huntingdonshire that might be suitable for various types of development, including:

- Housing (including specialist housing for the elderly)
- Commercial uses (industry, retail, leisure, logistics)
- Infrastructure (education, health, transport, renewable energy)
- Open space (parks, biodiversity net gain, flood safeguarding)

The initial Call for Sites ran from 29 March to 7 June 2023. Recognizing that circumstances change, the Council continued to accept site submissions beyond this period, with the understanding that late submissions might not be assessed in time for inclusion in the "Further Issues and Options" consultation materials scheduled for spring/early summer 2024. Sites not included in this phase would be considered in the preparation of the "Preferred Options" consultation scheduled for summer/autumn 2025.

The Council provided opportunities for public engagement through consultations on the "Further Issues and Options" document, Land Availability Assessments, and Sustainability Appraisals. These consultations allowed residents to comment on the assessments and express preferences for future development strategies. The consultation period closed on 27 November 2024.

Further sites were able to be added beyond this date and that further call closed on December 31 2024. These sites are now undergoing the same assessment process and will be available for further consultation this summer.

Finally, the biggest change on the horizon, in December 2024, the UK government unveiled plans for a significant reorganisation of local government structures in England, aiming to streamline operations by transitioning from the existing two-tier system to larger unitary authorities.

Following the government's announcement, HDC, alongside other councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, received a formal invitation to develop proposals for local government reorganisation. In response, council leaders from the region, including Huntingdonshire, submitted an interim update by 21 March 2025, expressing a collective commitment to collaborate on shaping the future governance structure, but no outline plan. The councils are considering various unitary scenarios, taking into account community identities, resident interests, economic geographies, and demographic representation. Further work is planned post the county council and mayoral elections to refine these proposals.

### Timeline

- 28 November 2025: Deadline for submitting full Local Government Reorganisation proposals.
- April/May 2027: Proposed elections for shadow authorities.
- April 2028: Targeted vesting day for the establishment of new unitary councils.

Throughout this process, HDC is committed to engaging with residents, MPs, and local partners to ensure that the reorganisation reflects the needs and aspirations of the community.

Stephen Cawley

District Councillor, HDC