

**Minutes of the Pidley-cum-Fenton Parish Council Meeting
 Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

Present: Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde (Chairman), Mr Tim Ward, Mr Robert Johnson, Mr David Hopkins, Mr Mark Wadsworth, Mrs Louise Clowery (Clerk), Cllr Graham Bull, Cllr Steve Criswell
Also, present: 9 x members of the public
 Meeting opened - 19.30pm.

520	Apologies for absence Received from Cllr Jill Taverner	Action to be taken by
521	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – David for the planning application reference: 20/02183/FUL	
522	Public Forum – Meeting closed for the public forum at 19.39. Meeting reopened at 19.49 – Proposer – Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded – Tim Ward Paul explained how members of the public can ask a question in the chat and Louise will co-ordinate.	
523	County Council & District Council reports: Steve Criswell – Coronavirus – Cases have risen during the November lockdown and are now coming down. They are waiting to see the effects of the Christmas relax 5 days to see how the figures will be affected. The county hub is available for people in hardship for free school meals and other support if needed. Footpath funding – The original plan for this was to do a combined LHI application with Somersham and then to have additional funding added by each parish. The old scheme from Pidley to Somersham was going to cost 40,000 with volunteer labour included. Pidley was going to apply for a public works loan and Somersham we due to add funds from their precept, but the project was dropped at the last hurdle. It was confirmed that government funding was to add cycle paths on current roads with paths and not add in additional paths. Graham Bull – Nothing specific to report. There are still grants available for local businesses to apply for until the 31 st December 2020. St Ives stalls and shops are open and have created a lovely atmosphere whilst still being able to social distance. One leisure is open and available to all. Planning applications are generally going slowly. David mentioned that some of the current planners are not living in the area that do not know the area and this is causing delays. Graham confirmed that recruitment has been causing issues within the planning team.	
524	Approval of minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matters for information. - Community Gritting scheme – This is available to any resident who would like to participate. There is a form to complete and training, 	

	<p>equipment and PPE are all provided by CCC to the individuals. A new form must be completed each year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salt bin – David has installed this, but we are still waiting to hear from HDC planning dept. We need to get Highways to add this to their round for it to be filled. 	
525	<p>Current year financial report to end of October 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - November income – - November expenditure – - <i>(Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr David Hopkins.)</i> 	Clerk
526	<p>Approval of payments for November – details of all cheques signed can be found in November accounts sheet. <i>(Proposed Mr David Hopkins, Seconded Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde.)</i></p>	
527	<p>Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Returns: This is with the internal auditor to approve and then the clerk will represent to the council for the chairman to sign in the next meeting. Chairman has asked to be given the auditors details to understand what the delay is.</p>	Internal auditor & clerk
528	<p>Financial Planning 2021-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precept – The clerk received an additional email from a MOP with a good case as to why we should not increase the precept this year. This included the following reasons: The pandemic has caused job losses, loss of earnings for many families and this does not look to improve for the next few months. The clerk is preparing the budget based on a 12,000 precept and is proposing this amount to the councillors. This was approved by all of the councillors. <i>(Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr Tim Ward)</i> - Budget – The clerk is still working on this following the approval of the precept. This will be circulated to the councillors before the next meeting. 	
529	<p>Planning for approval and comments to Huntingdonshire District Council Reference: 20/01866/HHFUL Proposal: Retrospective application for garage Address: Richmond Lodge, Fen Road, Pidley Comments: Note to HDC – <i>(Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr Tim Ward)</i></p> <p>Reference: 20/02183/FUL Proposal: Amendments to approvals 18/01221/FUL and 20/00073/S73 to include construction of a detached garage, new access, and footpath. Address: Southview, Somersham Road, Pidley Comments: Note to HDC – <i>(Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr Tim Ward)</i></p>	
530	<p>Committee/Village Updates – SID Data – The camera has now been flipped and is facing Oldhurst on Oldhurst Road. Tim read out the figures, all of which can be found on the website. The 4th December was a particularly busy day in the village, we think this was due to the disruption caused in St Ives following the lorry that caught light. Handyman Tasks – There are a few tasks that need to be carried out in the spring. The clerk has a list of these noted and has discussed with the handyman. Salt Bin – Insurance company said it would be an excess of £250 to ensure the salt bin but would not cover individual use of the bin itself.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Handyman</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>A MOP did confirm that they had to undergo training with HDC to receive a scoop and be able to use the salt bin for the footpaths on Oldhurst Road. It was agreed that the clerk would contact CCC to see if this is still required for individual use.</p> <p>It was also agreed that it is appropriate to have an additional salt bin by the entrance to the village and we will put signs on the salt bin, we are still waiting for HDC planning to confirm on this. Clerk to also check with CAPALC for guidance.</p> <p>Play Park – No updates</p>	
531	<p>Footpath/Cycle Path grants – Mark has no more to add as this was all covered by Cllr Steve Criswell earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>It was suggested that we do a survey for parishioners as to which footpath would be preferred. Where would people walk/Cycle? Where would people like to walk? Mark will draft a survey and bring to the next meeting for approval.</p>	
532	<p>Highways meeting –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clerk met with the highways representative and walked round the village to discuss the items that were raised in the last meeting. • Unfortunately, the highways dept do not have lots of budget. They have noted to have the junction at the top of Fen Road repainted. They did say that this is the wrong time of year to do so, but they are so far behind now that he would get this added. • Double yellow lines on this corner and by the duck pond would be a LHI bid request. • Fen Road itself is quite narrow, less than 5.5m and if they were to add a footpath it would reduce it further taking away road from the cars which are the priority, so this would need to have a safety audit carried out. The question of the edge lines is to be reviewed as can only go where a hazard is. • The laybys that are on Warboys Road and Oldhurst Road are used for parking for the cottages in front of them and it was felt that if these were to be blocked off that we would be defeating the object in the village as this would push the owners to park further down the road. • Tree on footpath of Pond close was logged as was the sign by the bus stop by Pond close. • There is an alternative to a LHI Bid called a PFI (Privately funded Initiative) which we could consider applying for. • The speed humps once installed as with all LHI Bids then become the Highways responsibility for maintenance. • The piecemeal requests that we receive from Development control will not be considered as they are under 5 properties and the material comments that we add on the planning applications will not be reviewed. 	Clerk
533	<p>Councillor vacancy - Co-option policy was approved and adopted by all councillors., no comments or changes required on the policy. (Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr Mark Wadsworth)</p> <p>It was agreed that as there was not a closing date added to the original vacancy that this would be advertised until the day before our January meeting which is on the 13th. There would then be a confidential meeting after to discuss the applicants and arrange interviews. Interviews will be held on the 20th January.</p>	Clerk
534	<p>LHI Update – Scheme is approved and we are now awaiting an update from the projects team for installation dates. The clerk will update all as soon as she has this information.</p>	Clerk

535	Website – new - update – Website is nearly ready, Clerk to generate new emails and circulate to councillors.	Clerk
536	Lorry watch update – working group is now an independent working group, Paul will report back to the council each month. All correspondence will be sent on behalf of the lorry group with no connection to the council. Surveys are invaluable and create records to support our case as a village for the volume of lorries going through. These will be carried out by Roadwatch. They are a charity run and the lorry group are asking for a £100 donation for 12 surveys which will be carried. This was approved by all of our councillors and all support the group. On the practical side it was asked if need to approve them doing this? They can run as an independent group and will report to Paul ahead of each council meeting. They continue to look for new volunteers to join the group.	
537	Mobile home at the Flower shop – Pidley Sheep Lane – There is a caravan on the site that was installed for when the barn conversion was being worked on. All works are now complete, but the caravan remains. Can this be checked with HDC to see if they can contact them about this and have this removed? The clerk will follow up.	Clerk
	Agenda items for next meeting –	
Notes from the Public Forum	Alan Nobles planning application which was approved had a condition to include a footpath, Can the clerk check to see if the planning dept formalised this condition. If not, then we can talk with Cllr Bull on how we can follow up on this.	Clerk to review and report back
	Councillor vacancy – the notice was undated, was put out on the notice board and added later to the website. It was asked given the way this was handled are the councillors fully supportive of the clerk.	
	Roads, drains and ditches are full of debris and resulting in lots of standing water. It was asked what we can do about this? Paul confirmed that it is the riparian ownership of the landowner to maintain these.	
	It was commented that the budget seems to have capacity to not increase the precept if a few items were scaled down in their budget as they were not being fully used. It was also commented on the report in the new structure that it seems to be over complicated and confusing for some to read. Could this be looked and simplified.	Clerk and Chairman to review
	It was asked why we have a small number of speed alert cameras that we move around the village? Could we not have a couple of these that stay in the same place. Tim confirmed that this was a cost issue. The permanent SID was £3000 and the portable one was £2000. The portable one was donated to the village by David Hopkins.	
	Rollins sign at the end of Pidley Sheep lane has been installed, its quite off putting at the junction. Should this be there? Do they require planning permission to install this? The clerk will follow up.	
	Correspondence – why has this been removed from the agenda.	
	Closed the public forum at 19.49 – Proposed by Paul Robbs de la Hoyde and seconded by Tim Ward to re-open the meeting.	

Meeting closed

Next meeting: 13th January 2021

A full copy of the recorded meeting can be found online at Zoom.

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2021

Wednesday	10 th February	2021	Wednesday	11 th August	2021
Wednesday	10 th March	2021	Wednesday	8 th September	2021
Wednesday	14 th April	2021	Wednesday	13 th October	2021
Wednesday	12 th May	2021	Wednesday	10 th November	2021
Wednesday	9 th June	2021	Wednesday	8 th December	2021
Wednesday	14 th July	2021	Wednesday		