

**Minutes of the Pidley-cum-Fenton Parish Council Meeting  
 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 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.

<b>538</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Received from Cllr Jill Taverner	Action to be taken by
<b>539</b>	<b>Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None</b>	
<b>540</b>	<b>Public Forum</b> - Meeting closed for the public forum at 19.35. Meeting reopened at 19.46 – 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.	
<b>541</b>	<p><b>County Council &amp; District Council reports</b> - Steve Criswell – Cllr Criswell confirmed that he will chase on the bollard invoice.</p> <p>Regarding the infrared counter survey completed by one of the residents this would need to be sent as part of an LHI Bid. Lockdown examples are not a good idea as business as usual or more normal times and asked us to consider doing another survey after lockdown.</p> <p>Covid hub- many people are shielding; letters of assistance have been sent including free school meals etc.</p> <p>Hunts is below average in the spread of the virus. It is believed to be community spread. Everyone please take care.</p> <p>Wheatsheaf crossroad talks are continuing at speed. There is a meeting this week.</p> <p>Flooding issues causing many issues. Drainage being the main one, which is linked to the pipes and ditches. The District council are looking at their role in this and working with CCC/Anglian Water/Riparian owners and the EA to try and resolve the issues.</p> <p>Lorry Group – They are looking into reducing the A1123 to a B road of which Steve is in support. Paul asked as a concern for Pidley and from the Pidley Lorry Group that if they reduce this road will it increase HCV's through Pidley? Impacts and concerns conversations are happening regarding this. Transporters for Wyton are coming through the village. Mick George coming through and going to the landfill.</p> <p>Cuckoo Bridge no plans in place. Planning enforcement are aware and watching this.</p> <p>The private road Somersham to Colne is currently not being used as a working road at the moment. It is just an access road to Colne/Fen Quarry. This is creating a lot of mud on the road.</p>	

	<p>Graham Bull – Reiterating Steve’s comments on Cuckoo Bridge. It seems it is being used more as a Haulage Depot rather than a garden nursery. There were similar issues with the Buffalo site @ Ellington.</p> <p>Flooding - Paul said about the Anglian Water system (the pots) in Pidley which are not coping. There is lots of surface water and some houses on the High Street are being repeatedly flooded by this. Paul personally has issues in his garden and is in talks with CCC on this matter.</p> <p>What is Pidley’s part in the flooding? Even though we are not really affected by this HDC are looking at this holistically and would appreciate any feedback. Graham asked Paul to send details of this over to him.</p> <p>David asked on the flooding – Several ditches have not been emptied out for a long while. Can we as a Parish contact the riparian owners or should this come from HDC/EA? Louise confirmed that last time there were issues with various ditches and Drag Lane the EA investigated this independently and contacted the relevant owners. Louise will follow up with the EA contact that we have.</p> <p>Robert has had several heated discussions over the last few weeks. He has personally been flooded four times and cannot get any compensation. He has a new contact at Anglian Water who confirmed that they are looking at them flowing for longer, bigger pumps are needed at the pumping station.</p> <p>Rollins Farm sign at the end of Pidley Sheep Lane is on highways land. Should this be there? Steve will investigate.</p>	
542	<p><b>Approval of minutes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Correction from David, SID is on loan to the Parish Council not donated. Paul proposed to approve the minutes with the change as David requested, David seconded. All councillors were in favour.</li> </ul> <p><b>Matters for information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fen Road – Louise has received some maps from Highways and she will share with all councillors to discuss next steps.</li> <li>- Pond Close footpath – is now with the Rights of Way Officer who is contacting the landowner to ask them to remove the dead and broken tree.</li> <li>- Councillor vacancy – we have had one application.</li> <li>- Correspondence – this needs to be entered as a specific item on the agenda as Any other business is no longer added. Please can these be raised in the Public forum going forward. Matters that need addressing will be added to the next month’s agenda.</li> </ul>	
543	<p><b>Current year financial report to the end of December 2020</b> – The clerk and chairman received some correspondence on this with a discrepancy on the mobile phone amount. This is due to the amount coming out by direct debit after the council meeting. Therefore, publishing the actuals for January (the current month) is out as that month has not ended. Actuals for previous month to be generated with forecasts for the next month included. January overview can be dropped as a working document as this is confusing to the public and an unnecessary document.</p> <p>Corrections are needed and the December accounts will be re-issued to the public once the corrections have been made. Chairman and Clerk to work on this.</p>	Chairman and Clerk
544	<p><b>Approval of payments for January</b> – details of all cheques signed can be found in December accounts sheet.</p> <p><i>(Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr Tim Ward)</i></p>	

545:	<b>Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Returns:</b> This is still with the internal auditor to approve and then the clerk will represent to the council for the chairman to sign in the next meeting.	Internal Auditor and Clerk
546:	<b>Financial Planning for 2021-22</b> <b>Budget</b> – For approval – The clerk has prepared and circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting, Footpaths will be the accrued CIL money so far. The chairman wanted to have a look at the reserves position and represent at next months meeting. <b>Clerk – Approval for purchase of a docking station</b> – This is required for lengthy stints at the computer when the clerk is doing coursework. It enables the clerk to connect the surface pro to her own keyboard and screens. This is much better for the clerk’s health and safety of which the chairman was in support of to maintain a good employer reputation. All other councillors were also in support of this, but Robert did express his concern at all the spending recently. <i>(Proposed Mr David Hopkins, Seconded Mr Tim Ward)</i>	Chairman and Clerk
547	<b>Planning for approval and comments to Huntingdonshire District Council</b> <b>Reference: 20/02187/HHFUL</b> <b>Proposal:</b> Erection of two storey extension the the side of the dwelling and single storey entrance hall. <b>Address:</b> 13 Pond Close, Pidley, Huntingdon. <b>Comments:</b> no comments on this, this type of extension is quite common in this road. <b>Note to HDC</b> – none <i>(Proposed Mr David Hopkins, Seconded Mr Mark Wadsworth)</i> All councillors were in support of this application.	
548	Committee/Village updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SID Data results – data has not been collected due to current restrictions in third lockdown. It was agreed to leave the camera on Oldhurst Road.</li> <li>- Handyman Tasks – Please let the clerk know if there is anything you would like added to the handyman tasks.</li> <li>- Salt Bin – Clerk sought clarification on next steps and we would need to submit a planning application for the salt bin should we want this to be installed. This is so that it gets added to the gritting route etc. The councillors asked if there is a charge for this planning application? The clerk will find out from the planning office.</li> <li>- Play Park – Martin did the inspection on his own at the weekend, given current restrictions we felt that this was the best way. It was asked by one of the councillors if we are ok to keep this open? The clerk confirmed that she hadn’t received any information to say otherwise, but would check and Paul asked that if it is necessary then the clerk should go ahead and close it. We have all COVID guidelines still in place on the entrance and the park does get minimal use.</li> </ul>	Clerk
549	<b>Power to contribute to the costs of cemetery maintenance</b> – This matter has been investigated by the chairman who has prepared and issued a paper to the councillors prior to his meeting. For the benefit of the members of the public a shortened version of this was read out. There are two pieces of legislation with differing information – 1894 powers to act and the Local Government Act 1972. NALC published a paper on this stating that the 1894 would override the 1972 act. Parliament could clarify the point with further legislation.	

	<p>NALC would not produce any legislation and sit on the fence.</p> <p>Residents/ parishoner's have a right to be buried in the graveyard yet they cannot charge for the burial plot, so cannot re-coup the costs. £250+VAT is the current charges.</p> <p>1972 gives us the ability to power to carry out this maintenance. Closed churchyards information is irrelevant to this discussion. No further vote/decision needs to be made.</p> <p>David and Robert confirmed that they have annually contributed to the maintenance of the churchyard with petrol payments etc and understood that most parishes pay for the churchyard.</p> <p>All are happy that the LGA 1972 gives us the power to do this.</p>	
550	<p>Census 2021 – The 2021 census is happening in March 2021. The clerk had concerns that those in the village that don't have access to a computer or don't know how to use a computer and therefore would not be able to complete this. Before this lockdown the clerk was happy to donate a morning of her time to sit at the community centre with the laptop and help anyone who needed this. There was also due to be teams of volunteers looking for venues to do this. We offered the community centre which would be charged to the Census team. Ideas on how we could help our residents who need it in our current restrictions are welcomed. Paul did ask if we could do this over the phone with the resident if they have the letter in front of them with their individual reference. The clerk is to find out if this is allowed and any other suggestions the Census team have.</p>	Clerk
551	<p><b>Website – New</b> – This is now up and running, Louise to distribute new details and display on the community website. New emails for the clerk and all councillors to also be circulated and updated on the website.</p> <p>It was agreed that all council related information should be removed from the community website and uploaded onto the council website. Clerk to look into the best way to do this.</p> <p><b>Community website</b> – The clerk has spoken to Annie who is happy to continue to update this website, but due to work commitments would only be able to do this once a week and suggested that maybe someone else would like to volunteer to update the community events on the page? If you are interested, please email the clerk.</p>	
552	<p><b>Lorry watch update</b> – Paul read out a report received from the tankers. In summary: SS motors oil tankers are coming through the village en route to Chatteris, they have written to them.</p> <p>A1123 concerns on the road being downgraded to a 'B' road. How will this affect Pidley?</p> <p>They reviewed Steve Criswell's diamond report. Over 200 lorries are going through Pidley.</p> <p>Re-iteration of £100 to be donated for the Roadwatch who are carrying out surveys for the group. Clerk to add as an agenda item for February.</p> <p>Pidley Lorry Group facebook page is going live this month.</p> <p>Cuckoo Bridge no planning submitted since 1991. Haulage yard application in submission at the moment. Somersham has objected to this being opened as a nursery. Not in our parish but we can comment on any live planning applications.</p> <p>There is general concerns on the detrimental affect the lorries have coming through the village.</p> <p>Agenda item for next month – Do we as a parish want to raise an objection to the works at Cuckoo Bridge?</p>	

	Thank you to the lorry group for all the work that they are doing for our village.	
<b>553</b>	<b>Mobile home at the Flower shop</b> – by way of an update following on from the point raised in the last meeting. The clerk has raised this with the planning department who will look into this and take any necessary action.	
<b>554</b>	<b>Cuckoo Bridge</b> – As discussed above, nothing more to add.	
<b>555</b>	<b>Stay well this winter campaign</b> – The clerk has received a letter and leaflets with helpful information for anyone who requires this. We usually display these in the community centre entrance, but as we cannot do this please contact the clerk if you would like one of these. The letter is on the noticeboard outside the community centre.	
<b>556</b>	<b>LHI Bid</b> – Works were due to commence in January with a two week notice period. The clerk has received no updates as yet and will notify all as soon as she does.	
<b>557</b>	<b>Footpaths – survey</b> – Mark has completed the letter and circulated to all. If everyone is happy he will have them printed and drop off to all to distribute. It was asked by a Member of the public on the chat if this was allowed in current restrictions. The chairman asked the clerk to check this before we proceed. If allowed then all letters will be hand delivered this weekend. Comments due back to the clerk by the 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb to discuss next steps in the February parish meeting. Robert has a tarmac company contact available should we need it. Mark confirmed that once the survey has been concluded and a plan agreed this would need to go out for public tender.	
<b>Notes from the Public Forum</b>	First resident - Regarding the footpaths, a resident has installed a small active infrared counter on the footpath going from Pidley to Somersham from 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 180 people were recorded. This resident is incredibly supportive of the need to have this footpath/cycle path installed on this stretch.	
	Second resident – Please could the minutes of the previous meeting be sent out earlier as they do not seem to be available until a few days before the next meeting. The clerk agreed on this. Secondly – The January interviews for the councillor vacancy, why is this not a public event? According to the new Co-option Policy this is how the interviews are supposed to be conducted. The chairman agreed to check the policy and ensured this will be adhered to. It was asked that if this is confirmed will the meeting be at 730pm? The Clerk confirmed she would check and notify everyone accordingly.	Clerk
	Third resident – They are thankful that agenda item 549 is finally being addressed after so long. 5 <sup>th</sup> time of raising the February meeting minutes which have still not been signed. The councillor vote has not been recorded. This needs to be signed as a matter of record. Clerk to look into this. In respect of 542 and the question of supporting the clerk it was asked that with regards to the Councillor vacancy timing and the way this was handled will the clerk apologise to the parish? And adding on to this will she apologise to the 9 Parishoners with respect to the Freedom of Information request and the breach of information.	

	Fourth resident – regarding the letter/email sent to the chairman can they see a copy of the order sent to CCC regarding the bollards? And why does it take a year to get an invoice? Cllr Steve Criswell said that he would look into this matter.	
--	---	--

Meeting closed                      21.24pm                      Next meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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

**Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2021**

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