

HISTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held at Histon & Impington Recreation Ground Centre, New Road, Impington
Tuesday 24th May 2011 7 p.m.

Present: Max Parish (Chairman), Denis Payne (Impington Chairman)

Speaker: Steve Hampson, Executive Director SCDC

Clerk: Angela Young

Histon Residents: Chris Jones; John Emmines; Marian Cleaver; Neil Davies; Edd Stonham;
Rob Plumbly; David Thurman; Derek Marston; David Jenkins; Lynda Marsh

Impington Residents: Brian Ing; Geoff Payne; Alison Turnbull; Hooda Abdullah; Pene Nudds; Chelsea Presland; Jonathon Chatfield; David Legge; Andrew Grimmer and 1 Impington resident

Non-residents: Mike Mason; Sue Gymer

1 WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Parish meetings were held concurrently for the first time in 117 years. The Chairmen of each Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the evening's speaker

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Alan Eade, Cedric Foster, Ian Levitt, Janet Diplock, PCSO Martin, Rob Campbell

3 MINUTES OF THE 116th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2010, MATTERS ARISING

All agreed to sign as true record. Noted High Street Car Park now officially leased by Histon Parish Council from SCDC

4 SPEAKER: Steve Hampson, Executive Director SCDC – “Localism and The Big Society - How you can make change happen”

Steve Hampson outlined his position in a team of 3 Senior Managers at SCDC and areas of responsibility for Planning and New Communities, Housing and Environmental Services. He was also currently Monitoring Officer at District Council.

SH ran through some of the principles of legislation currently going through the House of Lords regarding the complex Localism Bill. He wanted to know how the District Council can work with Parish Councils to achieve devolving power to those closest to local people, feeling opportunities were going to be available but it was too early yet to identify impact

SH highlighted 4 areas:

a) New Freedoms and Flexibility for Local Government

- Promotion of good decision making important
- Standards of member behaviour and good governance key

b) New Rights and Powers for Communities

- Opportunity to bid for provision of services or take on ownership or arrangement of local assets
- Not yet clear how would work

c) Making the Planning Service more effective

- Regional targets to be abolished
- Neighbourhood planning opportunities
- Affordable Housing role for local councils
- Adoption of Neighbourhood Plans, to afford opportunities for communities to promote development models
- Infrastructure Development Levy, through section 106, extracting as much for local people as possible

d) Decision about housing to be taken locally

- Council house tendering – changes to stock and entitlements to Council Housing

SH championed the vibrant community network in South Cambridgeshire, with level of voluntary effort already high. The challenge was to promote sustainable economic growth and keep what is “special”. He outlined work carried out with projections on aging populations and ways the District Council could change its way of operating to get more as a resource to Parish Councils

Questions/Comments:

John Emmines, Kay Hitch Way, Histon raised concerns from residents over lack of communication on planning issues and particularly regarding SCDC owned trees. Would the bill improve matters of consultation?

SH: It has potential to explore engaging more closely, acknowledging prompt communication sometime currently lacking and outlined new IT system issues and redundancies made

Neil Davies, Dwyer Joyce, Histon

Concern over District Councils when no youth provision remit

SH: Believes SCDC has a significant role in both older and younger people, to ensure dialogue with all ages in a joined up way. Acknowledged that the Parish Council was confused over the District Councils work on Young Peoples Services

Sue Gymer, Cottenham confirmed Cambs County Council work in an integrated way with SCDC on youth provision

Brian Ing, Woodcock Close Impington Concern over lack of balance between housing and work in villages. Also concern over membership of Housing Partnership body and how Histon & Impington concerns can be heard

Denis Payne, Impington Lane, Impington Disappointment over decision on naming of road off Impington Lane , with Parish preference for Nathaniel Gardens in recognition of Unwins Family. Response from Parish Council Liaison Officer awaited

Denis Payne, Impington Lane, Impington Draft charter between Councils due to be published.

SH: asked what decision Parish Councils might be interested in looking at delegation of, highlighting that with 102 parishes many different issues would apply and it will be difficult to reconcile so many views

Max Parish, Church Street, Histon Stated if Neighbourhood Plans were to be introduced, Histon and Impington would want a “rounded” approach to reflect how development of communities best achieved. Comments over timing of Localism concept when funding cut. He felt Parish Council may consider taking on more responsibility over:

- Trees, within a decided framework
- Enforcement issues over planning
- Grassed area maintenance – economies of scale an issue

SH: underlined a willingness to try and make things work or engage constructively in a dialogue. Attendance at Neighbourhood Police Panels by SH was useful, giving an opportunity to see development of other areas

Neil Davies, Dwyer Joyce Close, Histon felt a radical approach needed. Working as groups and smaller parish reliance on District Council discussed.

SH to take away input from the meeting, particularly need for more communication and greater acknowledgement of effort put into supplying local knowledge and logic

5 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman read out an annual report for 2010-11 (**Appendix 1**)

6 PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCILS ACCOUNTS 2010-11

Max Parish provided Annual Finance report (**Appendix 2**) balance brought forward of £146,517, with specific reserves of £71,235. MP detailed loan repayments position and reasons for increase in Precept

Questions were raised over budget item for "Parish Plans". The Parish Councils had discussed establishing a rolling plan focussing on separate areas of a community plan on an annual basis. Use of demographics available to ensure decent representation

7 OPEN FORUM

Derek Marston, Dwyer Joyce Close, Histon Asked if SCDC had any plans to boost local democracy particularly in view of poor attendance at Annual Parish meeting. Possibly a compliancy issues. **Denis Payne, Impington Lane** considered it was an issue for Histon and Impington to address

Andrew Grimmer, Hereward Close, Impington Questioned the agenda for joining of Histon & Impington Parish Councils. Max Parish announced a press release was due to be released tonight to launch an upcoming consultation until September 2011

Max Parish, Church Street, Histon Was aware of responses outstanding with Chief Executive at SCDC on street lighting issues. SH was asked to follow up

Mike Mason, Cottenham Asked the meeting to comment on future of services if devolved from South Cambs District Council, and the likelihood of infrastructure change at Cambourne. He felt there would need to be a big culture change If localism were to mean anything. No response was given

Denis Payne, Impington Lane re-iterated the use of groups of parishes to get critical mass for service delivery. Also the possibility of pushing Standards issues upwards to County Council level

David Jenkins, Pease Way, Histon announced news from Impington Village College

- IVC set to becoming an academy over next few months
- Lease on Gatehouse in Park Drive signed
- Unfortunate incident involving foreign students attending IVC 6th Form was disturbing but was not connecting to the 6th form May Ball as indicated in local press

Written correspondence reported from resident of Station Road Impington, concerning Enterprise vans and cars parked over a period of time, objecting to parking as an extension to their business. A Parish Councillor has visited management to discuss and learnt of plans to open another centre in Cambridge which should help the problem. Any ideas for more local parking opportunities welcomed by Enterprise. Some residents expressed concern that the business was needed in the village and sensible solutions needed

Andrew Grimmer, Hereward Close Wished it on record thanks to Steve Campin, Groundsman at Histon & Impington Recreation Ground, for a wonderful job and to Pene Nudds for her work on environmental projects in the villages

There being no further matters raised, meeting was closed at 9:05 pm