

**Minutes of the Meeting held of Histon & Impington Parish Council  
Community Room, Histon & Impington Recreation Ground, New Road, Impington  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 7.30 p.m.**

**2 Appendices attached**

# Full Council Minutes

<b>Agenda No:</b>		<b>Action/ Power</b>
	Present: <b>Cllrs:</b> David Jenkins (Chair), Hooda Abdullah, Aga Cahn, John Dunn, Neil Davies, Cedric Foster, Christine Hertoghe, Brian Ing, Shaun Lindsay, David Legge, Derek Marston, Ruth Moulder, Pene Nudds, Denis Payne, Josephine Teague Clerk: Angela Young Cllr Steve Count (Cambridgeshire County Council Leader), Stephen Conrad (Strategy Manager CCC), Robert Lewis (Education CCC) Also: 22 residents, Mrs L Marsh (in part)	
15/042	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Cllrs: Marian Cleaver (personal), Marcus Dann (personal), Edd Stonham (work), Nick Wood (work); Dist Cllr Cross	
15/043	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</b>  a) Declarations of pecuniary interest from Councillors on items on the agenda – <i>None</i> b) Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests – <i>None</i> c) Any new requests for dispensations – <i>None</i> Cllr Jenkins declared non-pecuniary interest as County Cllr for item 052.3. Monitoring Officer advice was Cllr Jenkins could remain in chair for item focussed on process	
15/044	<b>DATE(s) OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS</b>  Available on website <a href="http://www.hisimp.net">www.hisimp.net</a>	
15/045	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>  Chairman invited guests from County Council, Cllr Steve Count, Robert Lewis and Stephen Conrad to address the meeting on County land issues in Histon & Impington. <b>Steve Count</b> outlined position as elected County Councillor and Leader of Council, also Chair of General Purposes Committee. Under his previous portfolio, land at Bypass Farm had been formally offered to Histon & Impington Parish Council and negotiations for use of the land had been on-going. Following advice from the Education Department at County Council, it had now been appropriate to withdraw the offer of a lease pending the resolving of issues surrounding primary education provision in Histon & Impington. Cllr Count hoped that a long term solution for County Council, the needs of Histon & Impington and education provision in the area could be found. <b>Robert Lewis</b> explained pupil numbers were increased as a result of increased birth rate, housing development and inward migration. Over the last few years numbers had been close to admission number, exceeded in 2012 and again this year. Demographics only now available from the NHS show there will continue to be demand exceeding the 90 capacity for 3-4 years going forward. Of the 2 primary schools in village the infant school had limited capacity for expansion, the Junior School offering some potential. With the Local Plan process stalling the County feel it best to plan forward together in a way which future-proofs the village and avoids future tensions. Only two appropriate sites in Histon & Impington in County Council ownership, Buxhall Farm and Bypass Farm. County Council are looking to carry out a consultation to see what may be possible, after looking at a whole range of options. In the meantime the County is unable to give up one of these, which might be the only way to increase capacity. <b>Stephen Conrad</b> explained his position as a County Officer was partly consideration of appropriate use of County Council estates and what may be added value opportunities, specifically housing. The County Council's approach had changed radically in that it used to work with developers, they taking on options, promoting a parcel and, if successful, would have the right to buy the land. There is now a very different environment, for instance at Burwell an application for a significant amount of housing and also a new sports hub for the village was progressing. The County Council to take the rent from all the affordable stock and also a percentage of what would normally be built as market housing to create an income stream. He also advises Education Department on release of land and how to secure land to meet needs of school expansion programme. He has in the past worked with representations in	

relation to Buxhall Farm, in the last round of the Local Plan looking at the development of a proportion of the land fronting Cottenham Road. The County Council still anxious to look at opportunities from their estate where they can look at housing as an income stream, balanced with the needs of the community. He acknowledged the identified shortfall of open space in Histon & Impington and pointed out land at rear of Manor Park had been leased to the Parish Council, showing he felt a commitment to help address that shortfall

**Steve Count** outlined the £36 million savings identified at County Council this year, with a further £199 million to make over the next 5 years. County could make more money from development but prefer this new approach to work with a community for the benefit of all, to look at the shortfall of open land or provision of a community centre for instance.

The chair then invited members of the public to comment or ask questions

Derek Pipe, Alstead Road, Histon Question – Why did County Council not see increased school admission numbers coming?

Answer – Demographic forecast model generated by postcode data, the NHS had only just begun sharing data again after 3 years

Belinda Benton, West Road, Histon Commented that the current year 1 numbers were at 78 pupils only but were being displaced because of 105 applications for new intake at Histon & Impington. Girton Primary School apparently at 23 only with many choosing to attend Histon & Impington or the new University School - could not 2 years have been combined and County put pressure on this to avoid unnecessary expenditure this year?

Robert Lewis explained this was an Academy Trust decision

Sue Lee, Impington Lane, Impington associated with HIVAG (Histon & Impington Village Action Group) Question – noting County Council sought to have Buxhall Farm in Local Plan, rejected by SCDC and now on hold, are the County Council seeking to develop housing on Buxhall and Bypass Farm? Does that need to happen to fund school and other things we need in this community?

Answer – The way to fund a new school is usually housing. Buxhall Farm would be more central for schooling/community centre/housing. The County Council would prefer to develop such an area with the blessing of the community, working together. At the moment don't know if school could be built without housing, options still being explored but could be a way to get a new school earlier than otherwise likely

Richard Martin, The Coppice, Impington (associated with The Scouts) commented that the community was currently low on open land, and concerned if even more taken away. The development plan being made by Parish Council for Bypass Farm included a park and uniformed group facility. Question – can we not move forward with this?

Answer – The County Council are looking for ways to take forward what the Parish Council/community want and what the County Council need, for mutual agreement. Statement that had a building been built at this stage it would have been a different matter

Sam Brook, Homefield Close, Impington Question – How long will solution to education provision take? In 3 years' time space at the Junior School will present the same issue

Answer – Architects currently looking at options at the Junior School site. Reports awaited, then County Council will consult with community on options to bring forward, for a permanent solution. Use of County Council owned land would help process - no cost, easy to deliver. Once agreement reached, education provision could move forward in advance of housing, with costs recouped later on. The County Council had a school building programme in place currently of £436 million

Katie Rogerson, New Road, Impington (associated with Scouts) outlined accommodation problem for Scouts and Guides, and resultant waiting list sizes. Question – What community facilities do County Council see could be in place?

Answer – Were a working party to be formed, that would be the matter of detail for how the partnership moved forward

Colin Myles, Dwyer Joyce Close, Histon (co-chair of PTA Infant School) had concerns over current community funding projects for improvements of grounds at school, £20,000 first phase of playground, £11,000 raised to date.

Question – Should the PTA continue to plough investment into the infant school?

Answer - If the County Council can start the consultation process early in the new academic year, it could be possible to work out the solution. In the meantime advice was to wait and feed into that process

Chris Meadows, Cottenham Road, Histon Question – What is happening to proposals for plans for Bypass Farm?

Answer – Due to issues raised on education provision County have no option but to halt any agreement to lease it to the Parish Council. Steve Count re-iterated the best approach would be to work together on a way forward

Sharon Dalziel-Kennedy, Cottenham Road, Histon (associated with Scouts) commented on complete lack of provision of facilities for older children, especially north of the village. As such she had been pleased that plans were progressing to provide facilities on Bypass Farm. Disappointed now that no proper long term site set aside for this use, needed now before any more housing development. County Council representatives confirmed they had an obligation to provide education, but not any of the other facilities aspired to. Again, any working party formed would need to identify the most suitable place for each element

Kate Brierton, Clay Street, Histon Question – If the County Council has an obligation to provide education, why is school being so closely linked with new housing?  
Answer – Housing development is seen as a major way to fund schools. County Council needs to seed fund value for money for all its assets, for all areas. The need for a Master Plan drawn up together highlighted

#### **Councillors then invited to comment**

Cllr Marston asked if purchase of land for school provision would be an option. Advised County Council would look at option, but land value by owner likely to be a problem

Cllr Foster asked if health centre could be included in any Master Plan. County Council urged the formation of working party to address this and work together for the best outcome. Burwell again cited as example of lessons learned and successful approach  
Cllr Teague had concerns on building on open land, being seen as “the lungs” of our community. County Council pointed out the land was not recreational, but agricultural at present, and in Green Belt, and reminded the Parish Council that proposals put forward for Bypass Farm included buildings

Cllr Ing felt school numbers currently being seen were a “blip” unless more housing introduced to create more child numbers, feeling the basis of long term numbers flawed.

Cllr Davies asked if the £6 million cost of a one form entry primary school would have to be funded solely from housing income. County Council confirmed this likely assisted method.

Cllr Nudds asked for timeframes to allow for discussion/engagement. Also timeframe for looking at feasibility for development of existing school sites. Feasibility being looked at now, would form part of options. Wider consultation hopes for early in new academic year.

Cty Cllr Mason questioned the policy on supply and demand for school places and from children from other places. County Council advised they have to meet demand, irrespective of where it is from. The 1996 Education Act gave parents a right to express a preference but schools do not have to expand to take that demand and schools cannot hold back places on expectation that more children will come forward

Chair then closed Public Participation and with agreement of the Chair brought forward item 52.3 **MOTION “That Histon & Impington Parish Council works together with Cambridgeshire County Council to develop a master plan for the provision of public open space and infants school capacity and other facilities within and for the community. It is likely that these will be provided at the current County Farms sites of Buxhall and Bypass Farms’** Proposed Cllr Jenkins

Cllr Davies spoke of his 22 years’ experience of Parish Councillor, School Governor and now District Councillor and his understanding of the need to represent the view of the community. He expressed serious concerns over the delays in progressing leasing of Bypass Farm and the Motion put forward at the meeting. He outlined the benefits to young people and the wider community of the ideas and plans in place for Bypass Farm, providing he felt enormous benefits for decades to come. After outlining the meetings and correspondence leading to the offer of a lease on the land, he stated the County Council’s change of position 3 times:

- On site being suitable for community centre
- Length of potential lease of land from 75 down to 25 years
- Reversal of decision to offer lease on land of 30 years

and the matter of integrity over honouring agreements in most walks of life, and resulting loss of trust felt. He remained concerned over delays associated with a Working Party approach and called upon the County Council to show good faith in honouring its agreement to lease the land, echoing concerns within the community about any potential for location for a school site.

Cllr Ing expressed disappointment at County Council approach, which effectively puts back the solutions for young people’s facilities. The County Council seen to be considering only education when the need is to consider the entire health our community. Additionally he felt the possible provision of a primary school on the B1049 to be wrong, and the whole idea to be a smokescreen to attempt to get the community to agree to housing development

Cllr Payne reminded the Parish Council that they had objected to any development on Buxhall Farm due to variety of reasons, including flooding/drainage and wildlife concerns

	<p>and there would appear little reason to withdraw the decision  <u>Cllr Marston</u> questioned the validity of the second part of the motion, which he felt merely served to limit any vision. Additionally it was felt ‘infants’ should be replaced by “primary”.  Cllr Marston felt the first task would be to have a serious and rigorous analysis of data  <u>Cllr Payne</u> highlighted a difference between “houses” and “homes” were the Parish Council to move forward with a working party set up. Houses need enough facilities to make them homes, without taking away facilities of current homes  <u>Cllr Abdullah</u> confronted statement about different scenario if building already built on Bypass Farm 2 years ago. There had been a prolonged period of consultation and negotiations and requested that County let the Parish Council go ahead now with proposals presented. Additionally felt a primary school at the north end of the village was the wrong site, the only feasible option being looking at the 2 current school sites and perhaps including relocation for the Early Years Centre  <u>Cllr Davies</u> felt concern that motion would implicitly say the Parish Council would entertain the school at Bypass Farm. He was angry that the community appeared to be asked to give, with no olive branch on offer for the renegeing of the agreement on a lease for Bypass Farm, resulting in an atmosphere of mistrust not boding well for any future partnership  <u>Cllr Nudds</u> felt the motion to be premature, feasibility of existing sites should be explored first. Proposed Cllr Ing, sec Cllr Cahn 11 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention that the motion be not put and to ask Cllr Jenkins to withdraw motion. <b>Withdrawn, motion not put.</b>  County Council guests and 17 residents left meeting  With agreement of Council, Chair brought forward <b>item 50.5 To Consider Grant Application</b> and suspended Standing Orders to allow representatives of 1<sup>st</sup> Histon Scouts to address to meeting. Katie Rogerson advised the Council that fundraising for essential roof repairs was underway, with a SCDC Community Chest successful application for £1,500 received. Clerk outlined budget remaining for year. Proposed Cllr Abdullah, seconded Cllr Lindsay, all in favour, and <b>AGREED</b> that Histon &amp; Impington Parish Council in accordance with its powers under <b>sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972</b>, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:- “to donate £500 to Cambs County Council”. This sum <b>agreed</b> due to numbers of residents affected and enormous amount of help and support given by Scouts to discussion on provision of open space and community facilities at Bypass Farm. Chair returned to agenda order. £300 remains in budget for British Legion wreath and further consideration December/January Full Council. 1 resident remained</p>	<p><b>LGA 1972 S137</b></p>
<p>15/046</p>	<p><b>TO APPROVE minutes of the Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015</b>  Proposed Cllr Ing, seconded Cllr Cahn All in favour to <b>accept</b> as a true record of meeting</p>	
<p>15/047  047.1 047.2  047.3 047.4</p>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  <u>Actions List</u> copied to all and accepted. Further discussion on:  Item 14/120.3 <u>Barclays Bank</u> meeting yet to be arranged once named contact established  Item 15/025.2 <u>Ditch at South Road, ownership</u> Input received from Bellway Homes and D’Arbonville. Meeting to be arranged with representatives to agree action plan for future.  Also request to meet Planning Committee members to present revised planning application  Item 15/035.2 <u>Police Panel</u> 18 June 2015, Cllr Abdullah to report via email  Item 15/035.3 <u>Website</u> Cllr Abdullah requested linking of website to Hisimp Chat posts</p>	<p><b>Planning Committee</b>    <b>HSA</b></p>
<p>15/048  048.1</p>	<p><b>TO RECEIVE REPORTS</b>  <u>Monthly reports from County and District Councillors</u>  <b>County Cllrs and District Cllrs Reports: County Council</b> written report provided by Cllr Jenkins covering: Committee meetings attended; Consultations; Local Matters  <u>Cty Cllr Mason</u> presented his position on the discussion with County Council re <u>Bypass Farm and Buxhall Farm</u> in that as County Cllr he represented at the Local Plan inquiry with HIVAG, based upon the group’s position with regard to the Local Plan and to any development on Green Belt. He confirmed he has made the position clear to Steve Count and Stephen Conrad that he holds the objection to building on the Green Belt in and around the villages, and advised another site may well come up once the Local Plan resumes whereby objections will be put by HIVAG. He had however written to all at County Council to justify provision of Public Open Space at the Bypass Farm site, based on previous knowledge as a former Scout Leader and had made it clear the County Council should honour that agreement. He remains opposed to development to fund facilities</p>	

<p>048.2</p> <p>048.3</p> <p>048.4</p>	<p><u>Flooding</u> Cty Cllr Mason attended meeting at Oakington Parish Council, a catchment wide group was being pursued by him as a divisional Councillor  <u>Bypass Farm</u> Cllr Ing reminded all that the Local Plan currently had Bypass Farm down as Recreational Space, which must be retained in the final document  <u>Obligations</u> Cllr Payne advised that County Council not only have education obligations but also a public health obligation and urged the County Councillors to remind them  <u>Improvements To Brook</u> Cllr Nudds asked support from Cty Cllrs and Dist Cllrs to help bring the proposals forward  <u>IVC Bus from Milton</u> had been saved. Cty Cllr Jenkins <b>agreed</b> to share panel report when received  <b>District Council</b> written report provided by Cllrs Stonham and Davies covering: Local Plan; Scrutiny Task &amp; Finish Orchard Park; Shared Services; Northstowe  <u>Elizabeth Woodcock House</u> concerns over maintenance. Dist Cllr Davies <b>agreed</b> to investigate further  <u>Clerk's Report (Pg 1 &amp; 2) (Appx 1)</u> provided to all and accepted. Further discussion on:  <u>Copy date for Newsletter 4 September</u>  <u>County Council Reading Challenge</u> presentations due 17 September. Clerk to contact Cllr Cleaver to discuss representing the Council  <u>Lucy Frazer MP</u> meeting 4 August 4pm had been advertised on the website. Cllr Davies expressed disappointment Lucy had not attended Histon Feast as agreed  <u>Chairman's Report (Appx 2)</u> provided to all and accepted. Further discussion on:  <u>Station Site Project</u> general consumption paper to be provided to all on update  <u>Hyder Surface Water Project</u> Cllr Payne confirmed no power for Parish Council to assist in funding of drainage works  <u>Meeting with Karen Lunn</u> Data gathered would be reported to Highways Committee. Some concern that members not on Highways Committee had no easy access to information on various highways projects , put forward  <u>Any Working Party Group/Task and Finish Group reports</u> Bypass Farm (short term) Task &amp; Finish – meeting held 6 July</p>	<p>JDJ</p> <p>Dist Cllr Davies</p> <p>MC</p> <p>Highways Committee</p>
<p>15/049</p> <p>049.1</p> <p>049.2</p> <p>049.3</p> <p>049.4</p> <p>049.5</p> <p>049.6</p> <p>049.7</p>	<p><b>TO ACCEPT COMMITTEE REPORTS note actions and agree</b></p> <p><u>Planning Committee</u> - draft minutes provided 23 June, 14 July. Next meetings due 28 July, 18 August, 8 September. Cllr Ing highlighted planned closures to B1050 in August  <u>Highways Committee</u> - draft minutes provided 18 June. Next meeting due 6 August  <u>Employment Committee</u> - draft minutes provided 23 June. Next meeting due 4 September  <b>Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960</b>, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the review of scale for the Assistant Groundsman because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. A review had taken place, with a recommendation from Employment Committee to increase to Scale 11 from 1 October 2015. This increase to reflect the postholder's positive attitude to tasks undertaken and value to the Council. Proposed Cllr Ing, sec Cllr Cahn, all in favour and <b>AGREED</b>  <u>Youth Committee</u> draft minutes provided 16 July. Next meeting to be confirmed. Working Party meeting due 21 July. Confirmed no initial funding from Parish Council required for Youth Café. Noted Youth Worker had married during July with resultant change of name to Mrs Cowley  <u>King's Meadow</u> Committee - draft minutes provided 1 July.  Recommendation that King's Meadow Committee be dissolved and a <b>Working Party be set up with Terms of Reference</b>, to include at least 2 Councillors/Clerk as members. Proposed Cllr Jenkins, sec Cllr Teague, all in favour and <b>AGREED</b>  <u>Recreation Committee</u> - draft minutes provided 6 July. Next meeting due 7 September  <u>Environment Committee</u> - draft minutes provided 7 July. Next meeting due 1 September</p>	
<p>15/050</p> <p>050.1</p> <p>050.2</p> <p>050.3</p>	<p><b>TO RECEIVE FINANCE &amp; ADMINISTRATION REPORT (Appx 1 Pgs 3- 4)</b></p> <p><u>Finance Legal &amp; Administration Committee</u> –draft minutes provided 13 July. Noted Clerk and RFO had been instructed to identify most suitable source of funding for spend and capital spend agreed or due and report to Finance Committee by email  <u>Delegated payment of accounts</u> noted  <u>Approve payment of outstanding accounts</u> Cllr Hertoghe declared pecuniary interest and took no part. All agreed not to pay invoice from the Environment Agency for drainage charge for Bypass Farm. Environment Agency and Stephen Conrad at County Council to be advised. All <b>AGREED</b> to take 3 year long term agreement with Came &amp; Co for</p>	

050.4 050.5	insurance at reduced cost of £7,009.24. Proposed Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Ing all in favour and <b>AGREED</b> to approve with these amendments <u>Amounts paid in</u> noted <b><u>To consider Grant application.</u></b> Considered at start of meeting – see item 045	
15/051 051.1 051.2 051.3	<b>RECENT CORRESPONDENCE</b> <u>Circulation file</u> available for all <u>Street Lighting</u> - Part-night lighting details for changes of operation from 1.4.2016 – Highways Committee to consider when all details received. Anomaly with system installation of Impington lights compared to Histon lights noted. <u>Other correspondence:</u> Resident's email of appreciation for Parish Council help with traffic management for Hornets at recent tournament noted	Highways Committee
15/052 052.1 052.2 052.3	<b>OTHER MATTERS</b> <u>Feedback from Feast Market</u> Cllr Wood supplied report. 20mph issues to be referred now to Highways Committee. <b>Agreed</b> to write to Feast Committee to congratulate them on an excellent afternoon of entertainment for the villages <b><u>MOTION: That Histon &amp; Impington Parish Council agree to apply for continuation of the Foundation Quality Council level from February 2016 and commit to publish the appropriate information required, with an initial £50 application charge noting that a Registration fee of £50 will also apply</u></b> Proposed Cllr D W Payne – checklist of requirements provided for all. Chairman formally asked for meeting extension of 10 minutes under Standing Order 1 x). <b>All agreed</b> Cllr Payne outlined the previous Quality Council award criteria and the new Local Council Award Scheme structure. Histon & Impington Parish Council had automatically gained Foundation status to January 2016 under the scheme. Criteria for Foundation level supplied noting work required yet to qualify on CPD points for Clerk, publication of Annual Plan and Budget and Precept information. Proposed Cllr Payne, sec Cllr Hertoghe, all in favour and <b>AGREED</b> <b><u>MOTION: "That Histon &amp; Impington Parish Council works together with Cambridgeshire County Council to develop a master plan for the provision of public open space and infants school capacity and other facilities within and for the community. It is likely that these will be provided at the current County Farms sites of Buxhall and Bypass Farms"</u></b> Proposed Cllr J D Jenkins. See start of meeting item 45. Motion not put	Highways Committee
15/053	<b>HOW TO COMMUNICATE JULY FULL COUNCIL MEETING and to REQUEST MATTERS FOR NEXT AGENDA</b> Review of meeting decisions for communication to residents. Chairman to report on website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scout Group grant</li> <li>• Co-operation motion not put</li> <li>• Foundation level commitment</li> <li>• Market stall feedback</li> </ul> <b>Next agenda:</b> <b>Employment policies</b> – a comprehensive set of employment policies following 2 years development to replace references in employment contracts, according to latest standards <b>Emergency Response</b> – paper from Cllr Ing following previous agenda items/ discussions <b>Capital Spend Policy</b> – paper from Cllr Payne, policy for future capital project budget applications	
15/054	<b>Next Full Council: Histon &amp; Impington Parish Council</b> There would be no Full Council meeting in August. <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015</b> 7.30pm – Recreation Centre, Recreation Ground, New Road, Impington	
	Meeting closed 9.38 pm	