

## HISTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held at St Andrew's Centre, School Hill, Histon, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 7 p.m.

**Present:** David Jenkins (Chairman)

Clerk: Angela Young

**Histon Residents:** Kevin Andrews, Marian Cleaver, Marcus Dann, Neil Davies, Inger Eade, Cedric Foster, Marilyn Harvey, Mark Lazell, Chrissie Marston, Derek Marston, Lynda Marsh, Siobhan Mellon, Janet O'Boyle, Max Parish, Jo Roach, Edd Stonham

**Impington Residents:** Hooda Abdullah, Christine Aertoghe, Brian Ing, David Legge, Pene Nudds, Denis Payne, Josephine Teague, Chelsea Presland, Jonathon Chatfield, Nick Wood

**Non-residents:** Mike Mason, Cottenham; Rob Campbell (IVC); PCSO Tony Martin

### 1 **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN**

The Parish meetings were held concurrently. David Jenkins, Chairman of Histon & Impington Parish Council welcomed all to the 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting of Histon Parish

### 2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

John Dunn, Ruth Moulder

### 3 **MINUTES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2013, MATTERS ARISING**

All agreed to sign as true record. No matters arising

### 4 **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Chairman read out an annual report for 2013-14 (**Appendix 1**)

### 5 **PRESENTATION OF PARISH COUNCILS ACCOUNTS 2013-14**

(**Appendix 2**) Agreed to provide budget detail and year on year comparison from 2015

### 6 **MR MARK LLOYD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mark Lloyd gave a presentation to the Parish Meeting on issues of interest within the County Council, covering:

- Economy development – pressures on public services resulting from desire to live in Cambridgeshire and longer life expectancy
- Improving public perception of Local Government over period of last 4 years, the reality being austerity will remain for at least another 5 years, with further cuts required
- As of this May, County Council has turned to a Committee system rather than Cabinet governance, with 5 Committees: Children and Young People; Adult Services; Health; Economy & Environment and Highways & Infrastructure. 17 Councillors on each: 8 Conservatives, 3 Lib Dems, 3 UKIP, 2 Labour and 1 Independent, with the potential to meet every 30 days if required. Led by people elected by the community
- Recently webcasts have been introduced for the first time, for a transparent/open/permanent public record of Council Meetings
- A14 scheme – local organisation had to make a significant contribution to get the improvements back on the agenda – Local Enterprise Partnership £50 million, Cambs County Council £25 million, with the balance from District Councils and neighbouring County Councils. The scheme still on course for a 2017 start. County colleagues working closely with Highways Agency to ensure local concerns re noise are addressed

- Chesterton Station – good scheme to lessen journeys across town to the Station, giving improved connectivity to London. Delivery timetable now the responsibility of the railways
- Digital Connectivity – SuperFast Broadband now across the whole of Cambridgeshire with the “Connecting Cambridgeshire” project roll-out on schedule. Free Wi-Fi for the centre of Cambridge planned by 7 July to coincide with the Tour de France. Other areas would be encouraged to provide the same elsewhere by piggy-backing on businesses’ and public services’ Wi-Fi networks
- Street Lights – County Council working closely with Balfour Beatty on communication issues and discharge of the upgrading project
- Guided Busway – operationally a big success, but acknowledging more disputes yet to be settled with Bam Nuttal
- Children’s Services – Mark praised the work of Social Workers working with children and outlined the hard decisions faced almost daily, with 500 young people in the care of a Local Authority at any one time
- Adult Support Services – especially for people wishing to stay in their own homes for as long as possible
- Public Health – 12 months ago County Council took back responsibility for public health – health checks, smoking cessation campaigns, issues surrounding outbreak of TB. County strive to ensure the adult population stays healthy, intervening only when necessary

Mark ended by emphasising that despite tough times and prevailing circumstances, the ambition has not been lost, and exciting things are coming forward

Chairman opened the meeting up for questions:

Denis Payne, Impington Lane Q. What view do Senior officers have on the role of Parish Councils in working with Cambs County Council to make things happen? Are Parish Councils viewed as partners? A. The 5 year financial plan is currently weak beyond the first 2 years, with a re-think required. Publication called “Re-wiring Public Services” was interesting read. A possible piloting of a scheme in Cambridgeshire planned aimed at finding solutions at a local level

Max Parish, Church Street Q. What was the process for complaints about new street lighting issues? Baffle fitted to a light in Church Street had not improved matters for residents. A. Mark happy to take issue back, but Balfour Beatty meeting with Parish Chair 20 May, who would raise issue

Jonathan Chatfield, Parr Close Q. Asked for a view on Unitary Authorities in the context of cost pressures. A. Mark agreed there was a compelling argument for unification, the debate is about the scale – Cambridgeshire or bigger versus Sub County and close to the people? There was no suggestion, he felt, that Parish Councils do not have a role, all about finding a way for them to make the best impact

Brian Ing, Woodcock Close How did the County plan to make sense of change and inject new vision? A. In experience, at election approximately one third do not stand again, leading to one third of new Councillors into the organisation each time. County aimed to be outward looking as a Council

Derek Marston, Dwyer Joyce Close expressed some bemusement at optimism that further disputes would be settled financially. Mark remained confident, with a parent company guarantee in place

## 7 OPEN FORUM

Rob Campbell, Principal IVC underlined the hope for a forward looking relationship of residents with IVC. All groups encouraged to become involved in the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend 13/14 September, with the hope that a further 75 years association can be celebrated in years to come

Chrissie Marston, Dwyer Joyce Close applauded Rob Campbell for his work to improve relationships with the village, and hoped that Junior and Infant Schools in Histon & Impington could be encouraged to be represented at local meetings

There being no further matters raised, meeting was closed at 8.04pm and was followed by a short tour of the new facilities at St Andrews Centre