

FENSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

123rd ASSEMBLY of the PARISH

held on Thursday 3 May 2018 at 19.30 at
Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School, School Lane, Fenstanton

NOTES

Present: Cllrs: Kent, Caswell and CCC Bates, Mr S Barnett, Mr T Lee, Mrs T Caswell and Annette Eggett (Clerk and RFO)

Apologies: Cllrs: Buchanan, Dartford, Pask, Pryke and Saunderson

Chairman: Cllr Paul Kent

1 **Apologies for absence**

Whilst not required for the Annual Assembly, apologies had been received from Cllrs: Buchanan, Dartford, Pask, Pryke and Saunderson

2 **To review the notes of the 122nd Assembly of the Parish held on 27 April 2017**

The notes were reviewed by the meeting.

3 **Chairman's annual report**

This is appended for information. The Chairman also outlined future challenges and areas of activity for the Council.

4 **Responsible Financial Officer's report**

This was given by the Clerk & RFO and is appended for information

5 **General discussion**

The following matters were raised:

5.1 **Village meeting**

A parishioner asked if the village meeting as mentioned in Spectrum would go ahead. The Chairman explained this had been deferred until later in the year when CIL plans had been discussed and could form part of the discussions on the day. A more predominant note in Spectrum would be made when more details / a date were known. Parishioners were welcome to continue to send in ideas and concerns. The meeting would be facilitated by the Parish Council and opened up to other organisations within the village and concerned with the village (such as Morris Homes and Kier Living)

5.2 **HDC Planning**

A parishioner expressed concern over the seeming lack of planning control at HDC and felt the village was now over-developed. New developments were being approved before consideration was given to the effect of previous ones. Cllr Bates suggested putting together a meeting of other local village Parish Councils (Hemingford Grey, Abbots, Hilton) and a representative of HDC planning where an explanation of the criteria

the planning department use could be explained. It should be borne in mind however that planning policies change constantly through legislation and were very fast moving. Parishioners are to be invited along to this meeting.

5.3 Bus Service

A parishioner expressed concern over the bus service which had deteriorated over the last few years and which is temporary until March 2019. The guided bus had been praised for the number of passengers but other services had been cut back. Cllr Bates explained that CCC subsidises a small percentage of bus services and provided finance for community transport. There was no legislated responsibility for CCC to do this (only for services from home to school for children).

5.4 Potholes

A parishioner complained that although potholes have been outlined with paint several times they have not been filled. Cllr Bates agreed this was not idea but CCC were trialling a machine called the 'Dragon' which, when acquired by HDC, will cut down the time it takes to resolve the problem of filling potholes and so a solution was coming.

5.5 Village water pipe system

Concern was raised about Anglian Water pipes which are not to be renewed. The parishioner whose land these were one was asked to get all relevant details he had to the Clerk and the matter could be looked into. It was acknowledged that with various bodies involved (Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, HDC and CCC) the process could be complicated.

5.6 Grass cutting

Concern was raised about the standard of grass cutting in the village. The Chairman confirmed that particular contract was under review.

5.7 Splitting of Fenstanton into two wards

A parishioner asked why this decision was made and whether it would affect the Parish Council. Cllr Bates explained that the Boundary Commission regularly reviews the district and parish council to reduce the number of district councillors and to try and ensure (also at a national level with MPs) that the people a councillor represents is as even as it can be. A complex formula was used to do this.

THERE BEING NO OTHER MATTERS THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 20.39

