

Cold Ashby Parish Council

**A meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st September 2021 at 7.30 p.m.
at Cold Ashby Sports Pavilion, Stanford Road**

**Councillors are summoned to attend this meeting of the Parish Council.
Members of the public and press are invited to attend**

Agenda

Present: to record the presence of Cold Parish Councillors, Officers, members of external authorities and others in official attendance at the meeting.

Interests: Members' attention is drawn to the need to disclose pecuniary interests not already registered before any relevant agenda item.

- 1. Apologies:** to **receive and consider** apologies for absence
- 2. Minutes:** to **approve** minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 4 August 2021
- 3. Matters arising:** to **note for information only** any relevant matter arising from the approved minutes.
- 4. Open forum:** to receive and discuss matters raised by members of the public present at the meeting.
- 5. Accounts:** Members are asked to **approve** the attached accounts and **authorize** the payments contained in them. The balance reported at the August meeting was **£17,737.62** (£10,455.40 current and £7,282.22 investment). Details of payments and receipts and the new balance are reported in **Annex 1**, a copy of which will be e-mailed to members in advance of the meeting and available at the meeting in hard copy.
- 6. Environment:**
 - a. White Lines on Thornby Road:** in response to a request from residents at the last meeting the clerk has forwarded application details to the residents concerned, who can apply independently of the Council. Members are asked to indicate whether or not they support such a move in principle (i.e., without specific designs).
 - b. Additional Dog Litter Bins:** residents have asked the Council to consider paying for the installation of, and regular collection from, a dog bin near the entrance to the Jurassic Way at Honey Hill. A formal resolution will be needed to approve the expenditure.
 - c. Travellers:** Following recent events at the Golf Centre, Members are asked to consider what precautionary measures (e.g. by identifying potential sites and alerting owners) might be taken to forestall further uninvited traveller encampments.
 - d. Meeting with MP and other parties.** The chairman has arranged to meet Chris Heaton-Harris MP and other parties on the afternoon of Friday 8th October in Cold Ashby. The venue and other matters are for the Parish Council to determine. Members are asked to resolve this matter at this meeting to allow time for preparations.
- 7. Verbal Reports:** from council representatives on other bodies.
- 8. Post:** to note and/or discuss items of correspondence with the Council not considered elsewhere on the agenda:

G Jones, Clerk 26 August 2021



M

Cold Ashby Parish Council

A meeting was held on Wednesday 4th August 2021 at 7.30 p.m. Sports Pavilion,
Cold Ashby

Minutes

Present: Councillors Bailey (chair), Harpham, Peel, Taylor, Williams Rd, Williams RI; the Clerk; Cllr J Harris. Two residents KS, RH.

Interests: none

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Roper – annual leave: apologies accepted
2. **Minutes: approved as accurate:** a) minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd June 2021; b) minutes of the extra meeting on June 16th; c) minutes of the extra meeting on July 1st.
3. **Matters arising:** the chairman had circulated a note from the applicant of the planning application re the minutes of the above July meeting. Members agreed unanimously that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the points made by those present at the meeting.
4. **Open forum:** the chairman welcomed Councillor Harris to the meeting. Councillor Harris is one of the three representatives on the West Northants Council. The other two had sent apologies and were attending a planning meeting. The two residents raised an issue about inconsiderate parking across the exit to their driveway between the bus shelter and the Church Lane houses. The clerk undertook to consult the Highways Liaison team to establish the best way forward, including white line signage if possible. **(Action)**. As a second issue the residents raised the possibility of a dog bin to be situated at the exit of the Jurassic Way path at Honey Hill. The clerk undertook to include this on the September agenda. **(Action)**
5. **Accounts:** Members **approved** the attached accounts for July and August and **authorized** the payments contained in them. The balance reported at the meeting was **£17,737.62** (£10,455.40 current and £7,282.22 investment). The clerk explained a new method of paying for the Adobe account which would lead to a £125.02 refund and monthly payments recorded from September. The clerk also explained the significance of the 'via' payments as a necessary expedient in an online world. It was accepted that there were adequate and appropriate checks in place to ensure confidence in the system. The internal auditor was aware of the arrangements and the safeguards.
6. **Village Hall:** the council considered a strategy document to be used only in the not improbable event that the VH committee were unable to replace the current resigning officers and **It was resolved: that the strategy outlined in the document attached as an annex has the support of the Parish Council which hereby gives its permission to circulate the explanatory leaflet should the VH committee be unable to find new volunteers for the roles of Chairman, secretary and treasurer in the coming weeks.**
7. **Insurance: Year two of three-year cover.** Capfa representatives were asked to confirm any changes to cover needed as soon as possible and to report that the PC intended to continue the same charging arrangements agreed in 2020-21. **(Action)**
8. **Queen's Jubilee June 2022.** The chairman received his support for the active involvement of the PC in developing the arrangements for celebrations next June, to be held on the playing fields. The chairman's suggestion for a time capsule was received with great interest.

9. Environment: a regular agenda item dealing with matters relating to improving the village environment.

- a. village hall bench: repair to be investigated before purchase of a new bench **(action)**.
- b. Litter pick feedback. Following successful pick, the council would follow with interest the transfer of responsibility to a team of residents.

10. Verbal reports: the chairman reported the outcome of the meeting with WNC's new highway community liaison team. The meeting was largely introductory in nature and covered a wide range of topics without significant conclusion. There was disappointment over the decision not to support 20 mph signs in Church Lane and the clerk was asked to reinforce the importance of inclusion in the 20mph trial for the whole village **(action)**. **Councillor Harris** reported on the possibility of presenting petitions to the new council and this was received with interest. **(action?)** The liaison team were also asked to check whether Cold Ashby was a route protected for emergency vehicles, which would prevent some traffic calming measures. **(Action)**

11. Post: the council did not wish the clerk to pursue alternative energy suppliers following EON's decision to increase electricity consumption charges by 15% (probably £75 p.a. for CA).



Graham Jones 6th August 2021

From Richard/Rachel

Good news & well Rod for getting it this far and a couple of excellent points from Alex.
From Rachel and I we would suggest the following:

Firstly we would suggest that, whilst the pavilion is clearly the easiest place to have the meeting, the village hall would be a better venue and especially on Friday afternoon (doors and windows open you would struggle to hear anyone speak).

Secondly as regards what we want (the village) its clear that a structured approach is needed from better traffic calming now and culminating in a long term solution of either a bypass or better links of the A14.

Whilst our preference (Rachel and mine) is a bypass as its solves all traffic issues for Cold Ashby, including local ones that wouldn't be solved by changes to the A14 i.e. agricultural traffic movements, Alex is right that there will be those that don't share the same opinion.

With this firmly in mind, ahead of the meeting, we should follow the advice given by Jonathan Harris at the last PC meeting and take this to the village as part of a petition. This should seek to gauge support for action and then ask that if they are in support of action what action they think would be most appropriate based around the two main and obvious options available.

Finally once we have a confirmed list of participants (especially those from outside the village) we should ask that all of them have a review our website so that they are properly up to speed (excuse the pun) with the problems we face before the meeting as this will save us a lot of time during it i.e. they will arrive already convinced that something needs to be done and ready to talk solutions rather than to leave the meeting only to agree to do further research and get back to us at some point in the future!!

In meantime we can all have a concerted effort to get more evidence to add to the website to ensure its fully up to date and representative of where we are now.

This is potentially the best opportunity that we will have to really get some action so we need to be properly prepared for it.

We are happy to both be involved with the petition and making updates to the website.

Emails from Alex Taylor:

Thank you, Richard and Rachel. I agree with and support your proposed approach. One observation. While I agree with your points about VH vs Pav for meeting, should we wish to present anything, the Pavilion has a projector and screen. Having said that if they've reviewed the website this wouldn't be necessary.

Should we also form a clear idea of what we want. Recent conversations have hi-lighted to me that some people specifically don't want a bypass and see a link between A14 and M1 South as the solution, while others argue that the link wouldn't address the issue and want a bypass.

Hi all

Should we consider a handout &/or a brief presentation with a few (5?) slides including photos from the website to emphasise the issue?

From Rod Bailey

Following on from a contact Ruth made with Chris Heaton-Harris, his Parliamentary Secretary, Sarah Peck emailed me and asked for a list of names of people I would like to be present at a Junction 18 style meeting, but aimed specifically at the traffic issues around Cold Ashby.

After several emails backwards and forwards I gave her a list as below,

Jim Newton - West Northants Council Jim chaired the last J18 meeting

Cecile Irving-Swift - West Northants Council Cecile has always championed Cold Ashby's traffic problems

Jonathan Harris - West Northants Council Jonathan is recently elected and has shown real interest in the plight of Cold Ashby

Sally Duggleby - Prologis Sally attended the last J18 meeting and seemed surprised at the traffic problems faced by Cold Ashby residents

Helen Howard - West Northants Highways Helen has attended a traffic meeting here in Cold Ashby

Martin Seldon - Highways England. Seems out of touch and dismissive of the problems

Someone at a senior level from Highways England

and

All Parish Councillors plus Clerk plus Ruth Sleigh

We are currently agreed on the date for a meeting: Friday 8th October (Chris seemed to want a Friday meeting, maybe so he can get closer to home for the weekend) in the afternoon, time to be agreed.

I have suggested the venue as the Pavilion and Sarah has asked me to prepare an agenda. A team effort I think.

I have forwarded to her the draft minutes from the last Junction 18 forum meeting to give a little more background for Chris.

This will, of course, be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting but in the meantime I would appreciate any suggestions for the agenda / presentation and any additional attendees.

Many thanks to Ruth for initiating this contact.

Kind regards.

Rod

From Ruth Sleigh

Hi All

I just want to add my brief thoughts.

I've appraised Chris H-H of the traffic issues and stressed that the problem has evolved from simply LGVs using the village, or additional traffic when the A14/M1 are closed, which he seemed to think were the crux of our concerns.

We had quite detailed discussion and he clearly sees the opportunity for a southbound spur A14 West to M1 South as the initial work was done on that land when Catthorpe was reconfigured (not sure how they were able to pre-empt planning permission but maybe because it was part of original permissions?). I can also see how this might include an annexed junction to Catthorpe as a possibility for NE bound traffic too (a possibility in principle but maybe not so easy in civil engineering terms)!

Chris is open to any suggestions we might have but of course the reality is that if any re-routing is to happen it will not be soon!

My key points are:

Key point 1 is that we (DfT/ Highways England et al) need to understand where traffic is going to/from. The volume of cars and vans going through CA is hugely greater than that going through W Haddon to the A5 at Watford. I also believe CA has far more traffic than goes through Welford, which as you know is on an A classified road. If these were similar there would be constant, long queues at the WH chicane or by the parked cars in Welford, which there are not. Most of it seems to be going between the M1/DIRFT/SW Rugby area and A14.

I thought we could set up a very simple survey monkey type online survey and give people queuing in CA a leaflet with the link or a QR code and a request to take the survey. Making it simple and linking it to helping them avoid CA jams might encourage uptake. I also thought we could work with DIRFT businesses via Prologis to get the workers there to complete it plus the Hulton contractors.

But I really think this should be done by Highways England, the planning department, the Council highways dept and the DIRFT/Hulton developers.

My second point is that we should continue to think in terms of a two tier solution:

- i) immediate traffic calming measures/action in ALL of CA including Cemetery Corner and Church Lane;
- ii) Long term solutions to long distance and regional traffic loads that are part of the DIRFT/Hulton/M1 development corridor. This should take account of the Net Zero agenda and emerging technologies that will be needed such as new power generation and storage facilities and that will no doubt spring up in these areas.....

Finally, I'm cautious about approaching the Parish at this stage with the 'what would you like?' question. I don't believe it's necessarily a straightforward choice between CA bypass or re-routed A14/M1 links. There are unintended consequences for both options as well as for the myriad options that might exist in between.

That was a bit long but I hope it made sense.

Thanks

Ruth

From Robin Maddison Hall Farm

Hello,

I hope you are both well.

I would like to report some more wall damage on Thornby Road to the Parish Council, as it is perhaps part of the wider context with concerns about traffic and HGVs in Cold Ashby. The damage occurred in the night or early morning of the 18th August to my wall (Hall Farm) where it meets the corner of Thornby Road by the Church. I have attached pictures. The damage was not there on the evening of the 17th August.

I believe the damage was caused by a HGV using Thornby road as a cut through, as this has become a more common situation. Often container lorries have difficulty passing round the corner and not only scrape the wall but damage the grass bank at the front of the Church wall. I do not believe it is caused by Farm traffic (as the farm vehicles are always careful and cautious on this corner), and the timings do not support this.

Please can the use of lorries cutting through on Thornby Road be raised at the next CAPC meeting and strategy to discourage/report such HGVs. The occasions seem to be becoming more common in recent weeks, and whilst I appreciate farm and deliveries to the local business and farms is necessary, these HGVs are not making such deliveries and are containerized freight, presumably coming from Northampton or DIFRT to other destinations. I will endeavor to get pictures when more pass through and would like to support the lorry watch initiative which I think is already in place.

Best Regards,