

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 28th May 2014 at 7:00pm at the Hemingford Abbots Village Hall

14 Villagers/Parishioners were present

1 Welcome and introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2 Apologies Received

Apologies were received from Les Spowart

3 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 29th May 2013

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 29th May 2013 were approved.

**4 Presentation on The Hidden Wonders of Godmanchester Nature Reserve – Speaker
Amy Robinson**

Amy Robinson from the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust gave a presentation on The Hidden Wonders of Godmanchester Nature Reserve. BCN Wildlife Trust have 126 nature reserves and we are lucky to live within 5 miles of a nature reserve in this area. Amy is based at the Paxton Pits Education Centre and predominately works at Godmanchester Nature Reserve.

Godmanchester Nature Reserve is currently not well signed with notices, but the BCN Wildlife Trust do intend to improve its signage and access. There are four lakes, which you can stroll around two of them and they are going to create viewing areas to a third. You can cycle to the reserve, or drive and park in Cow Lane. You can follow the Ouse Valley way from Godmanchester to Houghton Mill. The reserve would like to re-establish a Sand Martin bank to encourage the birds to return to the reserve (at some point in the future), but will concentrate on improving existing habitats first. There are amazing reed beds, which are home to Bearded Tits, Britterns. In part of the reserve there is the Peter Prince Memorial for Wildlife and Scientific Research area. The BCN Wildlife Trust would like to open this area to the public on special occasions when bridge repairs have been done.

The project has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, but the project has suffered with several incidents of theft (6 gates and £16,000 worth of tools) which has effected progress. The team are busying putting in new fences and plan to make a screen made of Willow which would be like an open plan bird hide. The Trust would like to manage hedgerows and willows in the traditional way, especially as it is good for small breeding birds and invertebrates. Other inhabitants of the reserve include longhorn musk beetles, scarce chasers, otters, mink, great crested newts, nightingales, cuckoos, sedge warblers etc. The Trust also wants to encourage rare flowers such as orchids. Bee orchid was found this week!

The Heritage lottery fund is funding activities for local groups to either visit the site or for Amy to visit them. This is open to any community group in the Hemingford's, St. Ives, Godmanchester and Huntingdon and caters for all ages. Contact Amy for further information on 01480 473161 or email: amy.robinson@wildlifebcn.org. The Trust hope to run lots of family events to encourage more visitors. The area is under threat as there is a proposal for a road to be run through the reserve, for further information and to sign the petition go to www.wildlifebcn.org/godmanchester-petition. You can join their Facebook group for the latest information 'the Reserve at Godmanchester Cow Lane'

A parishioner mentioned that there had been sightings of two seals in the River Ouse and they might also visit the reserve.

The Chairman thanks Amy Robinson for presenting such an interest talk.

5 Report from the Parish Council for the year May 2013 to May 2014

The Chairman of Hemingford Abbots Parish Council presented and read his report.

6 Reports by Parish/Village Representatives:

a Neighbourhood Watch

Pat Hurley presented and read his report.

b Archaeological Warden

Pam Dearlove presented and read her report.

c Footpath/River Warden

Ian Muspratt presented and read his report. He asked the Parish Council to consider reprinting the village footpath leaflets as supplies had run out.

d Hemingford Abbots Village Hall

Denis Rait presented and read his report. A parishioner asked whether there was still a piano available in the Village Hall and whether it was used and maintained. The WI use it occasionally, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee is to investigate whether it needs tuning.

f Hemingford Peace Memorial Field

Ted Burleigh presented and read his report.

f Tree Warden

Sally Spowart presented and read Les Spowart's report. Les was concerned that some of the newly planted holly bushes could be damaged by children taking a shortcut to the Playing Fields through the hedge. The possibility of using chicken wire to protect the bushes was discussed.

7 County Councillor's and District Councillors' Update

Alan Williams, the outgoing District Councillor thanks the Parish Council for all their hard work and stated they were a delight to work with.

District Councillor Doug Drew, thanked Alan Williams for his assistance during the handover period following the recent election. District Councillor Doug Drew looked forward to working with the Parish and the Parish Council. He stated that his speciality was in planning.

County Councillor Ian Bates commented on the A14 consultation, and that the basic principle is universally supported across the area. Common Lane is to be resurfaced but no date for commencement of work is available yet. There are funds available to spend on cycle routes, possibly better signage. Councillor Bridget Flanagan asked whether these funds could be used to resurface the bridleway between Houghton and Hemingford Abbots as it is a national cycle route. Possible funding is to be investigated.

8 Open Forum

No comments made.

The Meeting closed at 08:11 pm