

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 12th JULY 2016**

PRESENT: Cllr Bathmaker (Chairman), Cllr Baker, Cllr Williams, Cllr Pipe, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Jones, Cllr Pledger,
Cllr Wiltshire
District Cllr Cathcart, District Cllr McCraith
Members of the Public -1

7.15 pm PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McClelland and County Cllr Dent.

02. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Sharp declared a non-pecuniary interest under Item 4

03. OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance for this meeting.

04. AFFORDABLE HOUSING –SHEEN FARM-RESPONSE FROM COUNTY FARMS RE DEVELOPMENT SITE

Following the discussions made at the June meeting the Clerk had written to the County Farms Officer, Stephen Conrad, stating that the Parish Council wanted to stick with the original proposal for 12 affordable dwellings with four market houses. He had replied by advising that the County officers must seek to maximise from the County Farms estate and the most obvious way was through the generation of long term revenue streams from the letting of private open market rent dwellings. If County Farms were to proceed with a scheme of the same or similar size to that originally proposed it would at district affordable levels generate 7 or 8 affordable dwellings.

Cllr Pipe advised that he had since spoken with Mr Conrad who had now revised his offer to 18 houses with 8 affordable a 60/40 relationship. The District Councillors urged that the Parish Council hold out with their original requirement. Cllr Cathcart also added that as this would no longer be an exception site, but a speculative site with different rules, affordable housing for local people could not be insisted. The Chairman reminded Councillors that this was the only site in the village where the landowner was willing to release the land as an exception site. Now that the rules had changed this could open up opportunities for other landowners in the village.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would reply to Mr Conrad stating that as this was the only site in the village, which was agreed to be released for an exception site for affordable housing, the Parish Council wanted to revisit other sites to make sure that they obtained the best plot for any development.

05. HIGHFIELD FARM –SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

5.1 Top three suggestions from Parish Plan

5.2 Replacement play area fence

5.3 Installation of facilities at St Catherines Church

5.4 Refurbishment of Village Hall Kitchen

There had been no further communication with Mr Collins, Reg Bio.

06. OTHER

6.1 Planning Ref S/16436/16/FL

3 Ashwell Street –Proposed replacement outbuilding

(Mr Paul Lawrence)

-Recommendation Support

7.30 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McClelland and County Cllr Dent

02. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no interests declared.

03. OPEN FORUM

3.1 Recreation Centre/Village Hall Improvements

There was no update made.

3.2 Highway Issues

The Chairman reported that he had been carrying out some research on the Department of Transport website.

3.2.1 Speed of Traffic Through Village

The Chairman had extracted some data from the recent survey of Bassingbourn Road. There were concerns that most of the speeding seemed to occur when children were walking back and forward to school. A discussion took place on a possible speed reduction on Bassingbourn Road although it was recognised that it would be difficult to police. Cllr Pledger advised that the Government were looking into the speed of traffic on rural roads as 60% of accidents are on these roads. There was a recommendation that all speeds were reduced to 50mph but could go as low as 40mph under some circumstances. She reminded Councillors that there were access points along Bassingbourn Road and vulnerable pedestrians (children) using the footpath in the vicinity of the road. Councillors were advised that the best course of action was to apply through the MHI scheme which should be inviting applications in the Autumn. There must be evidence to accompany the bid. Cllr Jones stated that he had an issue with a speed reduction being the only measure because of the policing. He added that 40mph would feel very slow for an open road such as Bassingbourn Road. The Chairman added that the DFT stated that most people were conformist but there would always be those who break the speed limit no matter what.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would approach the businesses along Bassingbourn Road and ask for letters of support for a speed reduction, Cllr Pledger would organise a Petition from residents and the Clerk would obtain a letter of support from the Primary School and Village College. This would also be advertised in the Parish Post and residents would be asked for any supporting material.

3.2.2 Request for support for speed reduction on Bassingbourn Road from Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Council and schools

The Clerk advised that Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth had forwarded a letter of support for a speed reduction. As discussed under Item 3.2.1 the school and College were being asked.

3.2.3 Royston Road –Update on Traffic Survey

The Clerk had been in contact with the Chief Police Traffic Officer for Cambridgeshire who had offered to carry out a short snap covert survey which would show an indication of what was happening on Royston Road. He had been told the most problematical times and would carry out the survey in an unmarked police car so there will be no warning. If a problem was identified a full traffic survey could then be carried out through Cambridgeshire County Council at a cost of £350 plus VAT. Cllr Jones stated that he felt this was putting off the inevitable but, because a traffic survey would not now be carried out until the schools returned after the summer break, agreed that the survey could be progressed at the September meeting once the results of the covert survey were known.

3.3 The Mordens First Responder Initiative

The Chairman invited Wayne Cox to speak to Councillors.

Mr Cox advised that the team were hoping to go live the following day with five members. He explained how the initiative worked with a First Responder being able to get to the patient within 10 minutes and administer first aid until an ambulance arrives. The volunteers covered the areas of Steeple Morden, Guilden Morden, Litlington, Ashwell, Odsey, Shingay-cum-Wendy. The East of England Ambulance Service was funding the first kit but ideally more kits would be helpful as the team of members grew. The Chairman asked what the kit included which was a large rucksack with bandages, masks and defibrillators. Mr Cox added that consumables could be obtained from the Ambulance service free of charge. The group was loaning the defibrillator for six months until they could pay it off. Other expenses included uniform and a mobile phone for each additional kit. All

*-Cllr
Bathmaker,
Cllr Pledger &
Clerk*

the local councils had been approached for support. Cllr Sharp advised that this initiative was the charity of the Ladies Group this year. Mr Cox added that The Jester was also holding events to fund raise.

Cllr Pledger asked how many members were needed for the initiative to run. Mr Cox confirmed that four was the minimum number. There were currently in excess of 200 groups throughout the East Of England.

After further discussion Councillors agreed that they supported the initiative in principle and agreed that funding the initiative would be an agenda item for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting in September 2016.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cox for the presentation.

04. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 14th June 2016

Minutes of the meeting, copies previously circulated, were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

05. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Highway Issues

These were discussed under Item 3.

5.2 Speedwatch signs and Equipment

The Chairman advised that since the last meeting complaints had been made about the Speedwatch team in Steeple Morden resulting in their team suspending checks. The equipment purchase had therefore been put on hold until this problem was resolved. The Chairman added that if Steeple Morden dropped out the equipment costs would be split three ways instead of four. The Clerk advised that she was aware that the issue had been resolved and the Steeple Morden Speedwatch team were meeting to discuss the way forward. Once she had confirmation that the checks had resumed she would arrange for the equipment to be ordered.

-Clerk

5.3 Update on Parish Plan

Cllr Pledger suggested that the Plan be finalised and printed. A draft had been circulated to Councillors for their comments. After discussion it was agreed that any late responses needed to be Cllr Pledger by the 19th July 2016. Following that she would forward a PDF of the Plan to the Clerk who would arrange to get a small number printed. These would be made available throughout the village. It was agreed not to print a copy for every household as the plan would be available on the Parish Council website once it was up and running.

-Cllr Pledger & Clerk

5.4 Update on Clunch Pit Activity and Signage

Cllr Jones reported that two metal kissing gates were ready to be installed along with some short to medium term signage. A banner had been placed across the gate on Ashwell Stret but the County Rights Of Way Officer, Peter Gaskin, had received a lot of complaints and Cllr Jones had been asked to take the banner down. Mr Gaskin had suggested that the banner could be relocated on the gate to Byway 11. Mr Gaskin also wanted to see the smaller signs before they were put up. Cllr Jones was meeting with the landowner Mr Parker on site to discuss some of the other action points.

-Cllr Jones

5.5 Parking on Bassingbourn Road

The Clerk confirmed that communication with the District and County Councils was in hand regarding the opening up of the pedestrian access on Bassingbourn Road. Cllr Pledger suggested that the car park belonging to the offices at New Cambridge House could be used for residents parking. It was stated that there was parking at the back of New Close, which would help with the problem, but residents wanted to park as near to their homes as possible.

5.6 Parish Paths –Confirmation of Officer and Update on Deregulation Act

Mr Barlow had maps and was investigating the paths shown. The Clerk was still to obtain further information on the Deregulation Act from the Rights of Way officer.

5.7 Local Government Boundary Commission –Review of South Cambridgeshire

As discussed at the June meeting Cllr Sharp had looked at numbers of residents and grouped together Litlington, Steeple Morden, Guilden Morden, Tadlow, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Abington Piggotts, Whaddon and Bassingbourn and proposed that this combination of parishes, with two District Councillors, be submitted under the consultation. Councillors agreed that the Clerk make the representation stating that these villages have a geographical relationship and shared schools.

-Clerk

06. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 CAPALC Catch up Day 15th July 2016

Details had been copied to Councillors. The Clerk confirmed that she would attend.

6.2 SCDC Parish Planning Liaison Meeting 13th July 2016

Details had been copied to Councillors. A place had been booked for Cllr Pledger and the Clerk. Cllr Sharp also expressed an interest in attending. The Clerk to advise the organiser. -Clerk

6.3 SCDC Request for suggestions of hub sites

A letter had been received from the District Council's portfolio holder for the Greater Cambridge City Deal (GCCD), Francis Burkitt, asking for suggestions of suitable sites for a bus 'hub' that would be useful to residents. Councillors agreed that as there was a very limited bus service in the village and surrounding area this was not applicable to Litlington.

6.4 Tree Work –The Churchyard

An application had been made for the crown reduction of a Hornbeam by the neighbouring residents. The PCC had agreed to the work being carried out. There were no comments.

07. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS7.1 County Council

Cllr Dent had sent his apologies. A report had been circulated.

7.2 District Council

Cllr Cathcart reported that a special meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Council had been held to discuss Devolution. Councillors agreed in principle to go ahead with Cambridgeshire joining with Peterborough. There were some concerns about the elected Mayor. The proposal would be going out for consultation. The Chairman stated that the devolved parties would be dominated by two large cities, Cambridge City and Peterborough City which was less prosperous. There would be questions to ask over what this exactly meant.

Cllr McCraith then reported that he had been speaking to the Planning Officers who expected the situation with the lack of a Local Development Plan to continue for another 12-18 months as another 1000 plots needed to be found. It was recognised that with the amount of speculative applications being made these homes should be found quicker than this. A lot of planning permissions had already been granted.

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors for their reports.

08. PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE8.1 Play Area

Cllr Williams expressed concern over the overgrown hedge on the side of the play area running the length of the recreation ground. She stated that it badly needed to be cut back adding that this should be on a schedule for a twice yearly cut. It was agreed that Cllr Williams would find out how much the grasscutting contractors would charge for a one off cut and the contract would be awarded to the contractor with the lowest quote. -Cllr Williams

8.1.1 Play Area Weekly Inspection Update

Cllr Jones advised that there was a lot of bird mess on the small swings in the play area and suggested that bird deterring spikes be installed as they had been on the big swings. It was agreed that these be purchased. -Clerk

8.1.2 Play Area Fence

This was being considered as a project to submit for Bio Reg funding.

8.1.3 Proposal for a Skate Ramp

This would be an expensive proposal and it was agreed removed from the agenda.

8.2 Recreation Centre Issues

There were no issues raised.

8.2.1 Planning Application for proposed extension to Centre

There was no further update.

9. FINANCES9.1 Payment of Accounts

It was noted that invoices were still awaited for the village Christmas tree.

K BAKER

Recreation Centre cleaning June 2016	£100.00
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MRS G BILES

Litter picking April –June 16	£ 195.00
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MRS S WALMESLEY

Clerks Salary & Expenses 1/4/16 -30/6/16	£1032.76
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HMRC

PAYE 1/4/16-30/6/16	£139.20
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LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL		
Hire of hall January –June 2016		£154.00
THE LOCAL SIGN COMPANY		
Banner and signs for Clunch Pit		£ 160.00
MR N JONES		
Reimburse for website domain reg (inc. £2.60VAT)	£ 15.58	
Renewal of hosting (inc. £22.80VAT)	£136.78	£152.36
TOTAL		£1932.72
Agreed. PROPOSED Cllr Wiltshire SECONDED Cllr Pipe		

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION

10.1 Dog Fouling

Cllr Wiltshire reported that the dog fouling situation appeared to be a lot better recently. This would be monitored during the school summer holiday when there was likely to be some less willing youngsters walking their dogs.

10.2 Meeting Lane/Malting Lane path

Cllr Williams expressed her concern over the overgrowing hedges on each side of the path. It was noted that the hedges were from the adjacent gardens. The Clerk confirmed that the grass was included in the grasscutting contract and this was being cut. It was agreed that from 2017 the hedges would also be included in the schedule.

10.3 Overgrown Hedge

Cllr Williams had received a complaint about an overgrown hedge from a house on Bassingbourn Road. It was suggested that the person who had made the complaint speak to the resident concern and ask them politely to cut the hedge back.

10.4 Police Liaison Meeting

Cllr Sharp reported that he had attended the recent meeting. The Police were aware of the Clunch pit issues and supportive in the action being taken. They were also aware of the problems for the horse riders with the traffic and advised that the riders keep off the roads as best they could and wear suitable clothing so that they could be seen.

10.5 Horse and Groom site

Cllr Pipe asked if there had been any further development with the Horse and Groom site following the unsuccessful appeal. The Clerk had written to the applicant's agent supporting the development. As far as the District Councillors were aware nothing further had happened. It was up to the applicant to submit another planning application.

11. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 13th September 2016

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Chairman

Date