

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2017**

PRESENT: Cllr Bathmaker (Chairman), Cllr Williams, Cllr Jones, Cllr Barlow, Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Sharp
District Cllr Cathcart
Members of the Public 4

7.30 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McClelland, Cllr Pledger, Cllr Pipe, District Cllr McCraith 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 –Comments and observations from Members of the Public

3.1 Recreation Centre/Village Hall improvements

There was no further update.

3.2 Other issues

3.2.1 Bassingbourn Road Parking –Proposal from Residents

Councillors were advised that letters had been distributed to ten of the properties and there were positive replies from nine. There was one resident without a vehicle the parking issue did not affect. The residents agreed that they would like to pursue the opening up of the front gardens for parking. A resident advised that assigning a piece of land on the opposite side of the road for parking was not popular as there was a fear of vandalism. Cllr Cathcart explained the past discussions adding that the using of the gardens for parking could be looked at constructively but there may be issues due to mixed ownership. Cllr Sharp stated that there was often two large vans parking on Bassingbourn Road making it impossible to negotiate the speed cushions properly. -Clerk

The Chairman stated that there was obviously a desire by residents to do something and suggested that a meeting be arranged with the District Council which would be a useful starting point. The Clerk would arrange and invite residents.

3.3 Other Issues

3.3.1 Recreation Ground Bins

Councillors were advised that the base and top of the bin by the cycle track was missing. A fire extinguisher had been discharged in the bin by the Youth Shelter and there was another laying empty. Cllr Williams agreed to check and make sure that the extinguishers were not from the Recreation Centre. She would also look for the missing litter bin. -Cllr Williams

3.3.1 Parish Post

Councillors were asked when the next edition of the Post would be. The Chairman confirmed that it was being prepared and would be distributed at the end of February with the Prospect.

3.3.2 Bus Service

It was noted that there had been some issues with changes to the bus stops in the village but these had now resolved.

04. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 10th January 2017

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

05. LIVE INITIATIVES/UPDATE ON RESOLUTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

5.1 Speedwatch signs and Equipment

The County Council officer had advised that the signs would be with the Parish Council in the near future. The Chairman added that the Speedwatch checks should start again soon.

5.2 Update on Parish Plan

Cllr Pledger had circulated an Action Plan with an update on the progress until October 2016. The Clerk would bring the document up to date and highlight recommendations not already being dealt with for the Parish Council to consider. -Clerk

5.3 Update on Clunch Pit Activity and Signage

Cllr Jones reported that he had attended a good meeting with the landowner, Ralph Parker, and Rights of Way Officer Peter Gaskin. Mr Parker was going to install a kissing gate on Byway 11, fill holes in the hedges and move some concrete posts to become a physical barrier. He had also offered to make a bridle stile.

An action point picked up by Cllr Jones was to investigate replacing the existing information board and install others in places which the bikers used. He added that an A1 sized board would cost in the region of £700 -£1000. He had approached Natural England and the Wildlife Trust to see if there was any funding available but there was not. He suggested that an application be made to the National Lottery Awards For All fund which Councillors agreed should be pursued. Cllr Jones and Clerk to make the application. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the District Council Community Chest might re-open in the new financial year. In previous years grant applications had been invited for projects up to £1500.

-Cllr Jones & Clerk

5.3.1 Byway 11 TRO

Cllr Jones advised that another action point he had picked up was relating to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). The existing Order extended along Byway 11 as far as the permissive bridle path. The other side of that, which was still Byway 11, up to the pit was not covered. He had agreed to pursue extending the Order to cover the whole of the Byway. This would then give the Parish Council and the Police the chance to prosecute. There was a cost attached to the process which was between £1,000 and £1,250. This would cover the informal local consultation followed by an County Council formal consultation which involved advertising in the local press. The Policy and Regulations Manager had confirmed that she would try and include these notices with other County Council notices to keep the costs as low as possible. Cllr Jones proposed that the Parish Council proceed with the TRO which was seconded by Cllr Wiltshire with all Councillors in agreement. Councillors were still aware that there were riders using the Clunch Pit. There was also legitimate riders using Ashwell Stret.

-Cllr Jones

5.4 Horse Signage on Bassingbourn Road

Cllr Pledger had offered to speak to the County Council officer about the suggestion of a safety audit. The Clerk advised that she had been made aware that the County Council was not in favour of installing horse and deer warning signage unless it could be proven that the road was a heavy horse traffic area. The onus should be on the drivers driving to the conditions of the roads.

5.6 CCC Minor Highway Improvement Bid 2017/18 Submission –update on Panel Meeting

Cllr Pipe had attended the meeting at the end of January 2017. The results had not yet been advised.

5.6.1 30 mph Speed Stickers

Cllr Barlow had assisted the Clerk with the specification for the stickers. He proposed that the printer be asked to print 300 stickers for £100. This was seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed by all Councillors. The Clerk to pursue with the printer.

-Clerk

5.7 Update on the Future of The Crown

The Chairman confirmed that he was in communication with the Hawthorn Leisure Area Manager and been advised that there had recently been three viewings of the premises. Cllr Wiltshire advised that she had been made aware that the Wagon and Horses in Steeple Morden, owned by the same company as The Crown, was closing as the tenant was unable to extend the lease. Cllr Cathcart had spoken with the District Council officer about the closure and she had offered to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the process of a ‘buyout’. He confirmed that there were some funds available which tended to be used for launch money. Councillors agreed that a tenancy would be the preferred option but guidance on alternative options would be useful. Cllr Cathcart to advise the Clerk of his contact.

-Cllr Cathcart & Clerk

5.8 Update on Village Website

The Chairman reported that he was still trying to get the new website cut over and was disappointed that it had not yet happened. The contractor had now promised to do this during the next few days and would be chased regularly.

-Cllr Bathmaker

5.7 Litlington Townlands Charity Contribution

Cllr Sharp advised that both Guilden Morden and Steeple Morden had contributed a lot more funds to the scheme than Litlington for this current year. He added that the Trustees were now looking at how that could help more people in their home. The Chairman stated that if more residents need to use the service then the Parish Council would consider an increase in the donation.

06. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 SCDC Parish Council Election Order

The order to change the schedule of Parish Council elections to every four years had now been passed. A copy had been forwarded to the Council. All Parish Councils in South Cambridgeshire

would be up for election in 2018.

07. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 District Council

Cllr Cathcart reminded the meeting that the Mayoral elections would be taking place in May 2017. He stated that he was concerned that if South Cambridgeshire was not careful they would lose control of strategic planning. He explained how that could happen.

The Local Development Plan inspection was moving slowly with the next issue being the inspection of objection sites. His understanding was that the Inspection should be complete by mid to late Spring.

08. PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE

8.1 Play Area update

Cllr Williams confirmed that all was well in the play area. Work had started on the new play area fence.

8.1.1 Update on additional Play Equipment Order

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting Cllr Pipe had negotiated a reduced price of £4,000 plus VAT for the play equipment. The Clerk had placed the order.

8.2 Recreation Centre Operational Issues

Cllr Wiltshire advised that she had spoken to a couple of Footballers who advised that some changing facilities did not have showers just changing rooms. If showers were not a compulsory requirement then the Recreation Centre showers could be taken out of action until refurbishment. She would ask the Booking Secretary to find out the situation with the Football Association. The Clerk advised that the next meeting of the Recreation Centre Management Committee would be held on the 2nd March 2017.

-Cllr Wiltshire

8.3 Recreation Centre Roof

The Cleaner had reported a leak which was then investigated by a contractor. They advised that any work, such as over roofing, would be really expensive as scaffolding would need to be erected. Because of the age and condition of the roof even the replacement of a panel would be hard. The Clerk suggested that the over roofing might be able to be included in the refurbishment costs. Cllr Williams agreed to monitor the leak.

-Cllr Williams

09. REQUEST FOR VISIBILITY MIRROR –MALTING LANE

Cllr Jones had investigated options for a mirror which would help with visibility for pedestrians. There was a suitable post which could be used to attach the mirror to. A discussion took place on the options. It was then agreed to try the cheapest options at £29.99 to see if it worked. This could then be upgraded in due course. Clerk and Cllr Jones to deal.

-Cllr Jones & Clerk

10. GRASSCUTTING CONTRACTS 2017/19

Quotations had been sought from three contractors and their prices had been compiled and circulated. The quotations were discussed and compared. All Councillors agreed that that the current contractors carried out a good job and at best value. After discussion all Councillors agreed to award the contracts to the contractors as they were at present;-

Mr Baker

- The Cemetery -16 cuts @£52.00
- Village Hall Play Area -16 cuts @ £17.00
- Recreation Ground Play Area -16 cuts @ £27.00
- Grass by Village Hall -16 cuts @ £17.00
- Other village greens -14 cuts @ £35.00

Mr Bullard

- Churchyard -14 cuts @ £28.00
- Grass Verges -12 cuts @ £89.00
- Meeting Lane/Malting Lane Footpath -6 cuts @ £25.00

This would be for a three year contract. It was also agreed to advise the contractor that the contract was subject to them carrying out the work to a satisfactory standard and the Parish Council reserved the right to terminate the contract if this was not the case. Clerk to advise the contractors.

-Clerk

11. PLANNING

11.1 New Cambridge House –Proposal for development

The Chairman, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Pipe, District Cllr Cathcart and the Clerk had been invited to New Cambridge House for a presentation by the owners on a proposed planning application for an additional building on the site. It was suggested that once the planning application was received for consideration an extra planning meeting would be arranged specifically for that application. The applicants would be invited. Residents would then be given adequate time to ask questions.

11.2 Other

The Clerk had received notification of a planning application for Newcroft House, Royston Road. She would speak to Cllr Pipe and if necessary arrange a planning meeting on the 28th February 2017 so that any comments could be returned to South Cambridgeshire District Council before the consultation deadline.

-Clerk

12. FINANCES

12.1 Payment of Accounts

K BAKER

Recreation Centre cleaning January 2017 £125.00

LITLINGTON & THE MORDENS MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME

Donation 2016/17 £300.00

INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Renewal of data protection registration £ 35.00

E-ON

Recreation Centre electricity (inc £14.76VAT) £ 310.03

ABLE PLUMBING

Supply of new water mains tap £ 75.00

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Street light energy Oct 15-Sept 16 £1365.87

JEWSON LTD

Wood for play area fencing (inc. £161.76VAT) £ 970.58

TOTAL £3181.48

AGREED. PROPOSED Cllr Jones SECONDED Cllr Wiltshire

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION

13.1 Meeting Lane Sign

Cllr Williams reported that the One Way sign opposite Chapel Close was missing. Visiting vehicles leaving the village hall were turning right instead of left. She had reported it to the County Council but to date the sign had not been replaced. The Clerk to follow up on the County Council Website.

-Clerk

13.2 Chapel Close Verge

Concern was raised over the condition of the grass verge. South Cambridgeshire District Council had installed a sign asking for vehicles to be kept off the grass. Cllr Sharp advised that residents of Chapel Close parking their cars opposite the verge was a problem as the large lorries were having difficulty accessing the road to the sewage works. He regularly asked residents to move their vehicles. Cllr Williams advised that the mud on the verge was preventing people from using the dog waste bin there. The Clerk advised that there was a dog fouling issue as well with a lot of dog mess not being picked up. Cllr Wiltshire suggested that this be sprayed with the fluorescent paint.

-Clerk

12. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 14th March 2017

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

Chairman

Date