

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: Cllr Bathmaker (Chairman), Cllr Pipe, Cllr Williams, Cllr Barlow, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Pledger, Cllr Jones
District Cllr McCraith, District Cllr Cathcart
Members of the Public 9

7.15 pm PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McClelland, County Cllr Kindersley

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

Cllr Pledger declared a non disclosable interest under Item 4.1 as an employee of Cambridgeshire County Council.

03. OPEN FORUM

3.1 Planning Ref S/2927/17/FL

The Chairman advised that at the Planning Meeting held on the 29th November 2017 Councillors agreed to defer their decision on the amended planning application as there were too many unanswered questions directed at Mr Conrad, the County Officer heading the application, from residents. Mr Conrad had been asked by the Parish Council to liaise with neighbouring residents regarding the future of the increased site boundaries.

Mr Conrad had advised the Parish Council that any garden extensions for adjoining occupiers would be an independent issue if planning permission was granted.

Residents expressed their concern over the uncertainty of the future of the 4 metre strip behind properties. They were under the impression that the land was going to be offered to affected residents. Mr Conrad had given his assurance to residents that he would stay involved with the project as far as possible, and would look favourably on the future of the land, but he could not commit. Cllr Barlow expressed his concern that the verbal conversations between Mr Conrad and residents were not confirmed in writing. Cllr Pipe suggested that residents make a record and send a copy to Mr Conrad.

A discussion took place on the affordable housing element of the application. Councillors were asked to confirm exactly what this meant and whether the properties would remain affordable in perpetuity. Cllr Cathcart stated that Government policies change and reminded the meeting how the policy had changed for this particular former exception site where it was originally only for affordable housing. Cllr Jones added that it was unlikely in the current climate that there would be 100% affordable housing and recognised that there would be an element of market housing also.

It was suggested that adjoining land could also be built on in the near future. It was advised that a further planning application would need to be submitted if this was the intention.

It was acknowledged that the lack of an adopted Local Development Plan was an opportunity to capitalise on the sale of land. Once the Plan was adopted this would stop.

04. TO CONSIDER PLANNING/TREE APPLICATIONS

4.1 Planning Ref S/2927/17/FL

Sheen Farm, Royston Road –Demolition of existing farmhouse and associated outbuildings and development of a total of 22 dwellings including 11 affordable dwellings, associated green space and external works

(Greater Cambridgeshire Housing Project)

Cllr Pipe reminded Councillors that there was a need expressed in the village for Affordable Housing and Sheen Farm was the preferred site. Councillors needed to bear in mind that the issues raised in the original planning consultation had been addressed in this amendment and he felt that the County Council had been pushed as far as possible. He added that it would be more beneficial for the village to recommend Approval rather than not. This would enable the Parish Council to work alongside the County Council.

Councillors agreed that if Approval was recommended then it should be done with the understanding that a successful conclusion was reached with the neighbouring residents. Confirmation of the

Affordable Housing, being available for local people in perpetuity, would also need to be confirmed. Cllr Pipe proposed that a recommendation of Approval be made which was seconded by Cllr Jones. A vote was taken with 5 Councillors in agreement, 2 against and one abstention.

-Recommendation Approval

-The Parish Council's approval is based on the trust that the three houses in Royston Road, that back onto the development, will be treated sympathetically with the regard to the transfer of the four metre strip of land.

-It is also the understanding of the Parish Council that the 11 houses will remain 'affordable' in perpetuity unless the Parish Council agrees to change, and that nine of them are for people with established village connections

The District Council Section 106 Officer, James Fisher, had asked a series of questions relating to the list of projects submitted by the Parish Council. The Clerk suggested that Mr Fisher be asked to come out to the village, to discuss the projects, and Councillors agreed that a meeting should be arranged.

-Clerk

05. OTHER PLANNING ISSUES

There were no other issues raised.

7.30 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McClelland, County Cllr Kindersley

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 update available. Cllr Wiltshire advised that Heather Williams was still working with Cambridgeshire FA and the Architect on the plans.

3.2 Royston Road Traffic Issues

The residents had asked for an update on the Police speed checks which the Clerk was pursuing. The Chairman agreed to also follow up with the Police Traffic Officer, Derek Crosby.

-Cllr
Bathmaker

3.3 Bassingbourn Road Parking Update

The Clerk had urged a response from South Cambridgeshire District Council and had received an update from Liam Flatters, the Land and Contracts Surveyor. Mr Flatters advised that they were waiting on plans to be delivered from their architect and once these had been received the District Council would be able to go to consultation with the affected local residents and Parish Council prior to submitting the planning application.

Bassingbourn Road resident Andrew Kelsey was in attendance. Mr Kelsey advised that he had been trying to obtain an update from the District Council since the site meeting at the beginning of 2017. He added that with the introduction of electric cars councils across the country would need to address how their tenants could access power supplies.

Cllr Cathcart, who was in attendance at the site meeting, stated that he was still concerned over the proposal as some residents may abuse the idea of parking in their front gardens. It was noted that if permission was given there would have to be some enforceable signage.

-Cllrs
Cathcart &
McCraith

The Chairman stated that this problem had been around for a long time and the proposed solution was the best yet. He asked the District Councillors to pursue with Mr Flatters.

3.4 Village Hall Play Area Update

The Clerk had received a quotation for a bench, table and small play structure from Pre-School. Cllr Pipe advised that he had made the presumption that the Parish Council would agree that this be included on the Section 106 Project list which Councillors ratified.

3.5 Neighbourhood Watch –Appeal for Co-ordinator

At this stage of the meeting there were no members of the public in attendance. The Chairman advised that there were people in the village willing to be the contact for their area but did not

-Cllr
Bathmaker

want the responsibility of Co-ordinator. The Chairman agreed that he would take on the role. He would contact the existing members in due course.

3.6 Royston Road –Break In

There had been reports of break-ins around the village. The PCSO Lindsay Gardner had been asked how many had been reported to the Police. Her reply was that there were two from the same property. The Chairman stated that he was aware of a third which had not been reported. Cllr Sharp advised that there had been an incident in Guilden Morden where the Police had managed to catch the three people involved. They were already known to the Police. Cllr Sharp added that he hoped some action would be taken against them and urged any future incidents to be reported to the Police.

3.7 Other issues

There were no other issues raised.

04. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

4.1 District Council

The only comments made by the District Councillors was that they hoped the adoption of the Local Development Plan would take place soon.

4.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

05. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 14th November 2017

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

5.2 Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting dated 29th November 2017

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

06. LIVE INITIATIVES/UPDATE ON RESOLUTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

6.1 Action Point Review of Parish Plan

The Action Points would be revisited by the Chairman, Cllr Pledger and Cllr Jones for an update.

6.2 Update on Clunch Pit Activity and TRO

Cambridgeshire County Council had notified the Parish Council that Order would take effect from the 15th December 2017. Cllr Jones advised that motorbikes would no longer be allowed on the extended stretch towards the clunch pit.

6.2.1 Community Chest Grant and Approval Of Funds for Information Board

Cllr Jones reported that the Parish Council had been successful with their application. A grant of £879.00 had been awarded which would cover the cost of one board. The design and installation would be an additional cost for the Parish Council. Cllr Jones stated that ideally there should be more than one board. He asked Councillors to think about the best location for the siting. Cllr Pipe suggested that the Parish Council fund a second board. This proposal was discussed. On a proposal by Cllr Barlow, seconded by Cllr Pipe, it was agreed that a second board be funded with a contribution from the Parish Council of up to £1500 to cover the additional board and design and installation of both.

6.3 Feedback from Christmas Celebration 9th December 2017

There had been positive feedback from parishioners on the successful celebration where there was over 100 people in attendance. It was agreed that Royston Round Table be thanked for their presence, the choir for singing, Richard Brown for designing the advertising poster, the residents of Ashton Gate for supplying the electricity link and Manor Farm for allowing access to their land. The Clerk to write to each. There had been donations totalling £147.54 made towards the refreshment and the committee asked for this to be put towards the purchase of the defibrillator. The donations would be acknowledged through the Litlington Live Facebook page.

-Clerk

6.4 Update on Defibrillator Purchase

Payment of the cheque was to be approved later in the meeting. Delivery of the equipment would then take approximately two weeks. An electrician would then need to be found to install the cabinet on the wall of the Recreation Centre.

6.5 Traffic Issues –Meeting with County Highway Officer

The Clerk had urged a meeting with the officer and was awaiting some dates.

6.6 Village Projects/Planning Questionnaire

Cllr Jones had prepared a draft which had been circulated to Councillors for comment. Once all the comments had been considered a final draft would be approved by the Parish Council to use in future consultations with the village.

07. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received was discussed under agenda items.

08. PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE

8.1 Play Area update

8.1.1 Play Area Weekly Inspection Report

Mrs Williams confirmed the equipment was satisfactory.

8.2 Recreation Centre Operational Issues

There were no issues raised.

8.3 Recreation Ground

8.3.1 Proposal to cut back Recreation Ground/South Street hedge

It had been suggested that the hedge be reduced or cut back as a safety measure for users of the Recreation Ground and play area. Cllr Williams expressed her concern over the suggestion feeling that it was safer for users with a hedge. It was acknowledged that if this did go ahead a substantial fence would need to be installed.

As advised by the Clerk at the last meeting under the previous Local Development Plan the hedge was classed as important countryside frontage so permission would probably be needed to change the hedge in any way. The Clerk would contact the District Council Tree Officer to find out the position and how far the hedge could be cut back/removed.

-Clerk

8.3.2 Reinstatement of car park bollards

A quotation of £346.22 had been received for the purchase of two new concrete bollards and installation. The VAT on the post purchase could be reclaimed by the Parish Council as they would be ordered through the Parish Council account. Cllr Sharp suggested that a second quotation be sought but Councillors agreed that, as these posts prevented unauthorised access to the recreation ground, it was important to get them reinstated as soon as possible. It was then agreed that the contractor Mr Baker be asked to proceed.

-Clerk

09. REQUESTS FOR STREET FURNITURE

9.1 Visibility Mirror –Malting Lane/South Street

As reported at the last meeting a request for a mirror to be positioned at the top of Malting Lane to show traffic travelling along South Street had been received. This was a dangerous junction for vehicles leaving Malting Lane. It was agreed that a mirror, the same as that on Malting Lane, be purchased. Clerk to arrange. The exact positioning of the mirror to be decided

-Clerk

9.2 Direction Sign for Village Hall and Recreation Centre

The Clerk advised that the signs were provided by County Highways at a cost of around £400 per sign. It was agreed that the need for the signs would be incorporated in the discussion with the Highway Officer at the site meeting when arranged.

10. FINANCES

10.1 Payment of Accounts

K BAKER

Recreation Centre cleaning November 2017 £100.00

MR M BAKER

Play Area hedge cut (as agreed at the November PC meeting) £160.00

THE COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT TRUST

Defibrillator purchase (inc £429.20VAT) £2575.20

S WALMESLEY

Re-imb for purchase of paper cups (Christmas Celebration) £ 5.31

G BARLOW

Re-imb for Christmas Celebration purchases (inc. £2.10VAT) £ 60.57

MRS C BRIGHT

Re-imb for Christmas Celebration purchases £ 30.46

THE CROWN

Re-imb for Christmas Celebration purchases £ 72.00

MRS L WILTSHIRE

-Cllrs

Re-imb for daffodil purchase	£ 11.05
TOTAL	£3014.59

PROPOSED Cllr Pipe SECONDED Cllr Williams

10.2 Precept/Budget 2018/19

Income/Expenditure against the current year budget had been distributed to Councillors. The Chairman asked to Councillors to look at the figures for the Budget and precept requirement to be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION

11.1 Daffodil Planting

Cllr Wiltshire reported that she had planted daffodils around the village as part of her action under the Parish Plan.

11.2 Church Street Pavement

Cllr Wiltshire expressed concern over the condition of the pavement from Anvil Avenue to the shop. Since the bad weather the surface had become a trip hazard. She agreed to report the problem on the County Council website.

*-Cllr
Wiltshire*

11.2 Townlands Charity

Cllr Sharp reported that the Trustees had met and agreed a donation of £15.00 to 54 households with residents over 70 years of age. The Church Charity was also contributing to this donation. The Trustees had also agreed a donation of £300 be made to the Mobile Warden Scheme.

12. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING– Tuesday 9th January 2018

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm

Chairman

Date