

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD IN LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON
TUESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT:

Cllr Pledger (Chairman), Cllr Sharp, Cllr Williams, Cllr Bathmaker, Cllr Barlow, Cllr Gray, Cllr Jones, Cllr Parker
Members of the public 4

In the absence of Cllr Wiltshire the meeting was chaired by Cllr Pledger.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Wiltshire, District Cllr Cathcart, County Cllr Kindersley

2 To Receive Declarations and Personal and Prejudicial Interests Relation to Items on the Agenda

Cllr Bathmaker declared a non pecuniary interest under item 13.1.2 as a friend of the applicant,

3 OPEN FORUM-Comments and observations from Members of the Public**3.1 South Street/Meeting Lane/ Bassingbourn Road junction**

The Parish Council was thanked for the measures that had been installed at the junction as a result of Parish Council funding and a successful LHI bid. Unfortunately there had been a further accident and Councillors were asked if additional traffic calming could be added.

Cllr Bathmaker advised that the Local Highway Projects Officer had been made aware of the recent accident and had suggested further measures be applied for through the LHI scheme 2022/23. It was thought that they were likely to be in Meeting Lane. Councillors would seek the advice of the professional County Officers. The MVAS was currently collecting data on traffic speed on Meeting Lane near the junction. The Chairman reminded the meeting of the four options provided by the Projects Team when their advice was sought in 2019. Cllr Bathmaker added that there were other priorities including the give way feature on Royston Road which was also a contender for LHI funding.

The LHI bid was discussed under agenda item 10.3 later in the meeting.

4 County and District Councillor Reports

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report. Apologies had been received from both County and District Councillors.

5 Approve minutes from previous Parish Council meetings**5.1 Parish Council Meeting Minutes from meeting 13th July 2021**

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

5.2 Parish Council Planning Meeting Minutes 10th August 2021

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

6 Live initiatives/ Update on Resolutions from last meeting**6.1 Update on replacement website**

Some work had been carried out on the preparation of the replacement site. Cllr Bathmaker had a meeting arranged with the developer the following week which the Clerk asked to attend.

Some residents had reported issues with accessing information from the existing site which Councillors were aware of.

-Cllr Bathmaker & Clerk

6.2 Update on Repair to Church Wall

The Clerk reported that she had contacted five contractors following the last meeting with one advising that he would look at the work required and report back. She had heard nothing further. Cllr Williams suggested another contact who had said that he would look but would be unable to carry out any work until 2022. Councillors acknowledged that builders were currently in high demand with a long waiting time for any works.

The Clerk would continue to source quotations. Cllr Gray offered his help.

-Cllr Gray & Clerk

6.3 Update on Repairs to Village Cage

As above. The Clerk had requested contractors about the Church Wall and Village Cage.

7 **Correspondence**

7.1 Resignation of Litter Picker

There had been a breakdown in communication regarding the litter picker contract. The Clerk was under the impression that the litter picker, Gwen Biles, was finding the litter pick too much and wanted to resign. Mr Alan Biles, who was in attendance, advised that this was not the case and it was he that was finding it increasingly difficult emptying the litter bins on the recreation ground as they were so heavy. He had taken this job on voluntarily when he was a Parish Councillor and had continued after his term of office. It was not part of the litter picking specification.

Councillors were very pleased to hear that Mrs Biles would be continuing as she carried out such a good job with keeping the village tidy. It was suggested that the Recreation Centre cleaning contractor might take on the task for an additional payment. The Clerk would check. She would keep Mr Biles updated on his replacement.

-Clerk

7.2 Accident at South Street/Bassingbourn Road Junction

This was discussed with residents under Item 3.1.

7.3 Cambridgeshire ACRE –Introduction to the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership

Details had been circulated to Councillors who were asked to review and respond to a short survey at the end of the month.

7.4 SCDC Oxford –Cambridge ARC consultation

The Parish Council had been urged to respond to the consultation which closed on the 12th October 2021. Cllr Bathmaker agreed to prepare a response. **-Cllr Bathmaker**

8 **Play Area/Recreation Ground/Centre**

8.1 Play Area

8.1.1 Proposal for additional play equipment

The Chairman reported that she had been helped by a resident who had been to three play equipment companies for quotations. What was available within the budget of £12,000 was varied but the best value piece of equipment was made by Playdale. This was a slide/climbing frame suitable for pre-school children and those a little older. An image of the equipment was shown to Councillors. The cost was £7600 which excluded delivery and safety surfacing. The equipment had a 25 year guarantee. The remaining budget would allow for the cost of safety surfacing. On a proposal by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Bathmaker, it was agreed that an order be placed with Playdale. Clerk to arrange.

It was noted that Section 106 funding would be due from the Sheen Farm development so a second phase upgrade to the play area could be followed up then. **-Clerk**

8.2 Recreation Centre

8.2.1 Football Club proposal for Floodlights

There was no further information.

The Chairman asked the position regarding the use of the Centre. The Clerk reminded Councillors that any refurbishment/repairs had been put on hold while the feasibility of the village hall site was investigated. The Chairman was aware of the delay with land registry due to the pandemic.

8.3 Recreation Ground

8.3.1 SCDC Six Free Trees Offer

Cllr Barlow reported that this was a follow up on the initiative from 2020 and the Parish Council had made the application. Cllr Jones had offered his help with choosing the trees which would depend on what was available. There were two dead trees in the village, in Abbots Close and on the corner of South Street, which needed to be removed. Quotations had been sought for the removal of the trees and the grinding of the stumps, with the cheapest being £250 from Philip Allen. On a proposal by Cllr Bathmaker, seconded by Cllr Williams, it was agreed that Mr Allen be asked to carry out the work. Once removed two of the free trees could be planted in the space. Cllr Barlow advised that a slow release water aid and strimming guards would also be needed to give the trees maximum chance of survival. Councillors agreed this expenditure.

-Clerk

8.3.2 Football Pitch

Concern was expressed over the new football pitch which had been marked out near the road. The width of the pitch meant that the previously planted trees were virtually on the touch line. The Clerk was asked to see if the pitch markings could be made narrower.

--Clerk

8.3.3 BMX Track

Cllr Gray advised that the youngsters had lost interest in maintaining the track now that they were older and had other interests. He had trimmed back the area and offered to keep the mound tidy for the time being.

9 **Proposed feasibility tender for the Village Hall and Recreation Centre**

9.1 Update on land registry

As advised under Item 8.2 there was a backlog of applications due to Covid. The Solicitor would be asked to urge this registration so that the next steps could be taken.

-Cllr Pledger

10 **Update on Traffic/ Street Furniture**

10.1 Visibility Mirror installation update

The Clerk had forwarded details from two manufactures of poles suitable for the installation of the mirror. They agreed either would be acceptable. Clerk to arrange order. Once received she had a contactor lined up to install the pole.

-Clerk

10.2 Update on dates for Traffic Flow Survey

The Clerk had not received the details of the contractor. The Chairman was asked to forward again so that the traffic flow survey could be progressed as soon as possible.

-Cllr Pledger & Clerk

10.3 Proposals for LHI Bid 2022/23

Following the concerns raised earlier in the meeting under Item 3.1 data from the MVAS was discussed. This would be used as evidence in the application. It was agreed by all Councillors to apply for further traffic calming at the South Street/Meeting Lane/Bassingbourn junction following the guidance of the highway Project Officer. Cllr Bathmaker agreed to make the application by the deadline of the 30th September 2021.

-Clerk

11 **Finance**

11.1 Payment of Accounts

OPUS ENERGY	
Street lighting energy charge June 2021 (inc £6.60VAT)	£138.74
Street lighting energy charge July 2021 (inc £6.73VAT)	£141.41
K BAKER	
Rec Centre cleaning July/August 2021	£ 243.00
MRS S WALMESLEY	
Re-imb for football equipment (inc £11.72VAT)	£65.37
MRS L WILLIAMS	
Reimb for Rec Centre cleaning equipment	£ 11.59
PJ ROBINSON	
Recreation Centre electrical work (inc £22.40VAT)	£134.40

TOTAL	£842.51
AGREED. PROPOSED CLLR Sharp, SECONDED CLLR Bathmaker	
The following payment had been made between meetings –	
PETER DANN	
Churchyard wall survey (inc £75.00VAT)	£450.00

12 Streetlighting from November 2021

The Clerk explained that the Broker, Utility Aid, had arranged a two year contract instead of the agreed three year with Opus Energy and this would expire at the end of October 2021. Cllr Barlow, who had been monitoring the invoices over the past two years, stated that he had little confidence in the Broker. He had investigated alternative power companies and believed that a better deal could be reached directly than through the broker.

It was agreed that the Clerk would forward further information on the unmetered supplies to Cllr Barlow, with the latest quotations from Utility Aid, for a recommendation on the next contract to be made at the next Parish Council meeting. **-Cllr Barlow & Clerk**

13 Planning

13.1 Planning Applications

13.1.1 Planning Ref 21/03675/HFUL

Emerald House, Royston Road –New outbuilding for storage purposes to be used entirely for incidental purposes of the enjoyment of the dwelling
(Mr & Mrs Saunders)

Recommendation –No Recommendation

13.1.2 Planning Ref 21/03635/HFUL

Cockhall Close –Single storey side extension

Recommendation -Support

13.2 Greater Cambridge Local Plan –First Proposals for New Plan

Details had been circulated to Councillors. There were no sites allocated in any of the parishes of the Gamlingay Division. There were only 284 homes allocated in rural sites and most of these were already committed.

Cllr Sharp agreed with the proposals. He added that Royston Road would be ideal for industrial development and referred to the Townlands allotment site. The sale of this land would raise a lot of money.

The public consultation on the proposals was to take place in November 2021 where the Parish Council would be able to submit their feedback to the proposals.

14 Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration June 2022

14.1 Planting of a Tree

This was partly discussed under item 8.3.1. The tree would be a well established tree for this purpose.

14.2 Village Celebration

It was suggested that the Village Fayre committee might want to join forces with the Parish Council to arrange a celebration on the recreation ground. A member of the committee was in attendance and agreed to put a message out to the rest of the committee. On previous Jubilees children of the village had been given a memento of a mug. The Chairman suggested that this time it might be more appropriate to give a sustainable memento. She also suggested that a consideration be given to an outdoor cinema on the recreation ground, which would attract families, as part of the celebration.

This would be discussed again at the next meeting once feedback from the Village Fayre Committee was known.

15 Village Christmas Celebration 2021

The Chairman offered to arrange the advent window display in the village again. This was a big success in 2020. A discussion took place on a village switching on of Christmas lights. A suggested date of the 4th December was made. The Clerk would contact the Royston Round Table to see if their Christmas Float would be available. Cllr Barlow offered to help with the lights.

-Clerk

16 Any Other Business for information or urgent Clerk action**16.1 Airfield Activity**

Cllr Sharp reported that as a landowner he had allowed a group of people with metal detectors to search his fields near the airfield. He was donating the proceeds to the Parish Church and a chosen charity. A young girl had found 40 items including parts of axe heads which were believed to be unique. Archaeologists would be carrying out further investigations over the coming days.

16.2 Suggestion of an additional MVAS

Cllr Williams made the suggestion believing that it could help with the speeding around the village. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council did have funds but the purchase would take the funding away from other projects. Cllr Bathmaker pointed out that the idea of the MVAS was to move it around to act as a shock factor for maximum effect. If people became used to the signs they could be ignored.

16.3 Horse and Groom Planning Application

The Clerk was asked if there was any further news on the planning application. She confirmed that nothing had been heard since the scaled down application for a storage facility. She would check on the SCDC website. **-Clerk**

16.4 Planning Application 21/03/122/FUL Middlefield, Bassingbourn Road

The Clerk reported that the applicant had withdrawn his planning application, for the conversion of the existing single storey outbuilding to custom built disabled persons residential unit, to address some points raised by the planners. The application would be resubmitted at some time in the future.

17 Date of Next Meeting –12th October 2021

There was no other business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm