

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
LITLINGTON RECREATION CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: Cllr Bathmaker (Chairman), Cllr Williams, Cllr Barlow, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Pledger, Cllr Pipe, Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Jones, Cllr McClelland
County Cllr Kindersley, District Cllr McCraith, District Cllr Cathcart
Members of the Public 34

7.15 pm PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were in attendance.

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

There were no declarations made.

03. OPEN FORUM

3.1 Planning Ref S/2927/17/FL

In the past the Parish Council had agreed to pursue some affordable housing on this site. As the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Plan had not yet been adopted speculative developers, in this case Cambridgeshire County Council, were taking advantage of the situation and submitting planning applications for sites they would not if a plan was in place have a chance if developing. Litlington was classed as an infill only village.

The Chairman asked for comments from residents.

Concerns were raised over –

- Loss of light for a property in Royston Road
- Additional pressure in infrastructure
- Additional vehicle movements and traffic through village
- Only one roadway into development
- Future expansion of the proposed site
- Badly researched planning documents
- Inaccurate Transport Statement
- Lack of sustainability in village

*-Cllr
Bathmaker
& Clerk*

Residents were also concerned that Cambridgeshire County Council was taking advantage of the situation. Discussions took place on all the points raised.

The Chairman was asked about the air raid shelter which was on the Sheen Farm site. He advised that the plans showed that it would be demolished but the Planning Officer could request that an architectural survey be carried out if needed.

Cllr Kindersley advised that he was a member of the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee and he reiterated the problems regarding the lack of an adopted Local Development Plan and speculative developments. The committee were currently being asked to consider huge quantities of applications which were very difficult to refuse. Committee members tried their best to understand what the parishes want and consider the applications with an open mind. Cllr Cathcart stated that progress was being made with the Plan. The Inspector had concluded her inspection and the District Council was awaiting judgement. Once adopted the position would revert to infill only in the village with exception sites being considered only for affordable housing.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands of those in favour of the application and those against. There were four residents in favour with eighteen against. Residents urged Councillors to take this indication of feeling into account when considering the application.

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 9 affordable dwellings, associated green space and external works

(Greater Cambridgeshire Housing Project)

Leaflets advertising the planning application had been distributed through the village and there had been 39 returned out of a total of 400. 24 indicated that they supported the application with 15

against.

Cllr Pipe advised that he had read the documentation and a huge amount of work had gone into every aspect of it. The applicant had gone to great lengths to show the scheme was acceptable as things stood at the present time. Pre-application advice had been sought from the Planners on the application.

Councillors each gave their view on the application with the conclusion that they all wanted to see the maximum amount of affordable housing on the site. It was advised that there had been no substantial housing built in the village for over 40 years and there was a need identified through the Parish Plan. Sheen Farm was also the preferred site identified although this proposal was too big. A vote was then taken with all Councillors in agreement that a better proposal, with more affordable housing on the site, should be pursued. A recommendation of Objection was agreed.

A request for the application to be referred to the District Council Planning Committee would be made if the officer's view was different to the Parish Council.

-Recommendation Objection

- loss of light to Roycot and Longley (grade 2 listed cottages)

- Visual impact- loss of rural feel given by farmyard and barns and there being a charge for the thin corridor proposed

- The design of the development doesn't fit with the ribbon nature of the development on Royston Road

- Sheen Farm is an exception site originally identified for development of 16 houses- 4 market and 12 affordable housing units. This proposal has fewer affordable units (9), too many market houses . The proposed 40/60 house ration is 34.5%/65.5% by floor area and should be improved to help to outweigh some of the adverse aspects of the proposal.

James Fisher, the District Council Section 106 Officer, had advised that if the planning application was successful projects in the village needed to be identified to secure financial contributions towards them. Councillors were asked to identify improvement projects and return the document. This had been circulated to Councillors. A response would be compiled and returned through the Clerk.

05. OTHER PLANNING ISSUES

5.1 Highfield Farm

The Chairman reported that he had been in discussion with Ian Collins, the Reg Bio representative, who advised that at the present time the Government were revisiting their energy strategy. Reg Bio did not have a contract for the electricity it would generate from the site and therefore the project was on hold until March 2018.

8.40 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were in attendance.

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

Mrs Heather Williams, the Project Leader, apologised for not being proactive on this project for a while. This was due to her having a premature baby. She advised that the FA had approved the plans and the Architect was now going to speak to South Cambridgeshire District Council Planners prior to submitting the planning application. Once permission was agreed tenders for the work would be sought. Mrs Williams asked the Parish Council for support with fundraising. The Chairman agreed that this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Mrs Williams then advised that there was a problem with the coin meters for the changing room showers. The meters only took the old style £1 coins and as these were soon to go out of circulation would not be available. There was a Recreation Centre Management Committee meeting the following day this would be discussed then. Steeple Morden Magpies had spent a lot of time and effort refurbishing the front football pitch at their own costs. It was noted that Litlington Football Club used the back pitch. Mrs Williams asked for this to be acknowledged. She would discuss with the Centre Management Committee.

3.2 Royston Road Traffic Issues

Cllr Pledger advised that residents of Royston Road were investigating moveable flashing signs with parishes that had them. The Chairman advised that these signs cost around £5,000.

3.2.1 Speed Signage

The speed signage had been erected and the Clerk had advised Police Traffic Officer, Derek Crosby, of this and asked for the village to be included in regular speed checks.

3.2.2 CCC Minor Highway Improvement Scheme 2018/19

Information had now been received on the new system for the applications for funding. Groups and organisations were invited to submit a proposal for funding to the County Council with the deadline of the 15th October 2017. This would then be assessed by the local highway project team who would consider the options available and the best scheme that met the objectives of the application. A full road survey and policy review would also be included and an estimate of the cost established. Once these checks had taken place the applicant would be contacted to discuss the outcome with a view to refining the application throughout November and December. The final updated application would be assessed by the local LHI Member Advisory Panel during January and February.

As advised under Item 3.2 flashing signs cost around £5000 each. The Chairman suggested that, even though there was a budget for the signage, an application be made under the MHI scheme for a sign. It was noted that other parishes were successful with their applications for these signs in the 2017/18 bid.

Cllr Pledger expressed concern over the speed of traffic on Bassingbourn Road and asked Cllr Kindersley for direction on how to progress a speed reduction. She had a petition signed by around 300 residents who were concerned about vehicle speeds alongside the footpath from Litlington to Bassingbourn. Cllr Kindersley suggested the Democratic Services Manager, Michelle Rowe, be asked the way forward. He also suggested that a meeting be arranged with the Bassingbourn ward County Councillor, Susan van de Ven, as part of Bassingbourn Road was within Bassingbourn parish. He offered to arrange this.

-Cllr Kindersley

After further discussion it was agreed that for the 2018/19 bid an application would be made for the flashing sign. The concerns over Bassingbourn Road would be progressed with a view to a future application under this scheme once evidence was gathered. The Chairman agreed to oversee the application.

*-Cllr
Bathmaker*

3.3 Bassingbourn Road Parking Update

There was no further update on the opening up of Bassingbourn Road gardens for parking. Cllr Cathcart agreed to follow up with the Geoff Clarke, the South Cambridgeshire District Council Housing Manager. Cllr Sharp expressed his concern over the commercial vehicles parked in the lay-by and also cars parked on the double yellow lines. It was stated that any unsocial parking must

-Cllr Cathcart

be reported to the police through their website.

3.3 Other issues

3.3.1 Bassingbourn Road Barrier

The metal barrier on the side of the footpath between Litlington and Bassingbourn had been hit by a vehicle. The Chairman agreed to report the damage on the County Council website.

-Cllr
Bathmaker

There were no other issues raised.

04. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

4.1 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report. He advised that he attended a County Council Finance Meeting with one report discussed being a recommendation for a 2% increase in council tax for 2018/19 for adult social care, and a 0% general increase. Cllr Kindersley stated that the lack of a general increase in council tax, which could be £1 million a year, had implications and the situation within the County Council would be a lot easier if a general increase in 2017/18 had been allowed.

He then advised that the District Council were in a position to give a grant towards business rates. This had been initiated by the Government.

Cllr Pledger asked Cllr Kindersley if he could put some political pressure on the reopening of the Ski Slope. She was aware that planning permission had been granted for access through Guise Lane. This facility would be something for the young people of the village to do. Cllr Cathcart gave an update on the negotiations relating to the Section 106 contribution and the planning consent. It was stated that this access route was a cause for concern of Bassingbourn residents as Guise Lane was a narrow road. Cllr McCraith stated that the solution would be for the Ministry of Defence to allow access through the gate on the A1198 but at the present time this was not permissible. Cllr Kindersley referred to the path between Litlington and Bassingbourn stating that if this link could be made safe there was a lot going on in Bassingbourn which Litlington youngsters could take part in. As suggested earlier he would arrange a meeting with Cllr van de Ven to look at what could be done.

4.2 District Council

Cllr McCraith advised that Cabinet had agreed that paper no longer needed to be kept separate in the refuse bins. This would mean that the collection process would be easier and cheaper.

Cllr Cathcart referred to the planning application for New Cambridge House and the recommendation for Refusal made by the Parish Council. The Chairman advised that he had reiterated the comments made on the consultation form to the applicant who had asked for a meeting. He would forward the details to the Cllr Cathcart.

-Cllr
Bathmaker

The Chairman thanked the County and District Councillors for their reports.

05. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 11th July 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 26th July 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 working group had discussed the way forward and now had a four page document which needed to be put into an action list. This would be circulated to Councillors who were asked to put their names against any action points that they were interested in.

-Cllrs

6.2 Update on Clunch Pit Activity and TRO

The application had been acknowledged.

6.3 Bassingbourn Road Bus Shelter Repair

The repair had been carried out and an invoice would follow for the next Parish Council meeting.

07. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 CCC Highway Depot Open Days 2017

Details had been circulated to Councillors. Anyone interested in attending the Whittlesford Open Day on the 16th October 2017 was asked to let the Clerk know so that she could book a place.

7.2 Clerks and Councillors Catch Up Day

Details of the CAPALC Catch Up day, to be held on Friday 22nd September 2017, had been

circulated. The Clerk would be attending.

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. Cllr Pipe had carried out a repair to the zip wire for which he was thanked. He advised that if the repair had been carried out by the manufacturer it would have cost a lot more money.

There was a problem with the padlocks on the car park barrier which would be discussed at the Recreation Ground Management Committee meeting.

8.1.2 Overgrown Trees in Play Area

Mrs Williams to seek quotations for cutting the trees back.

-Cllr Williams

8.2 Recreation Centre Operational Issues

As advised previously there was to be a Management Committee meeting on the 21st September 2017.

8.3 Recreation Ground Overgrown hedge

The hedge had been highlighted in the recent RoSPA report. The issue was that the hedge had not been cut back width ways around the 'mound' as the contractor could not get his machine in. The work needed to be carried out manually. Cllr Sharp agreed to contact the contractor and arrange for this to be done.

-Cllr Sharp

09. REQUEST FOR VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

The Chairman advised that the Village Fayre committee had not agreed to make a donation towards the cost of a defibrillator. They had split their profit of £1,000, for the 2017 Fayre, between the Church and the Recreation Centre Refurbishment Project.

A discussion took place on whether a defibrillator was needed. A vote was taken with 8 Councillors in agreement that the equipment should be purchased with one Councillor against. It was agreed that details of equipment, and costings, would be sought so that a decision on which make to purchase could be made at the next meeting.

-Clerk

10. VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION DECEMBER 2017

Cllrs Wiltshire, Barlow, Pledger, McClelland and the Clerk agreed to form a working group to plan the Christmas celebration in the village. An update would be made at the next meeting.

11. FINANCES

11.1 Payment of Accounts

K BAKER

Recreation Centre cleaning July & August 2017 £225.00

ALAN MEAD-BLANDFORD

Maintenance of village cage roof £375.00

G D BRADSHAW

Recreation Centre electrical maintenance (inc. £12.00 VAT) £ 72.00

ABLE PLUMBING

Replacement internal hose tap for Recreation Centre £ 35.00

RED SPLASH CONSULTANCY LTD

Speed camera signage for Royston Road (inc. £51.49 VAT) £308.92

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Audit 2016/17 (inc. £40.00 VAT) £240.00

CAPALC

Clerk & Councillor catch up day 22/9/17 £ 25.00

E-ON

Recreation Centre electricity (inc. £8.18 VAT) £171.78

Cheque paid 7/8/17

TOTAL £1452.70

PROPOSED Cllr Wiltshire SECONDED Cllr Sharp

11.2 External Audit 2016/17

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been completed with no issues raised. A copy of the Annual return would now be displayed on the notice board and also on the village website.

-Clerk

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION12.1 Gap in Parish Council Meetings

Cllr Sharp expressed his concern over the nine week gap since the last meeting. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council did not usually meet during August as people were away for their Summer break. The September meeting was put back a week due to her holiday. The Chairman suggested that a meeting could be held in August 2018 if Councillors felt it necessary. This would be discussed nearer the time.

12.2 Sewerage Works Mast

Cllr Sharp advised that the mast was nearing completion and would soon be operational.

12.3 Grove House Site

Concern was again expressed over the building activities on the site where the houses were four feet below the road surface. There were concerns over flooding of the properties. It was noted that planning consent for the amendments to the plans had not yet been granted. The Chairman advised that the District Council Planning and Enforcement Officers had been out to the site but they could not stop the building as this could result in the District Council being sued by the developer.

Cllr Barlow advised that the ditch on the opposite side of the road was collapsing due to the heavy lorries. This would be reported on the County Council website and Cllr Barlow would also bring this to the attention of the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planners.

*-Clerk & Cllr
Barlow*

12.4 Replacement Dog Waste Bin

Cllr Pipe advised that he had replaced the broken bin located at the junction of Ashwell Stret and Royston Road. He was thanked.

15. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING— Tuesday 10th October 2017

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm

Chairman

Date