

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
LITLINGTON CHAPEL SCHOOLROOM ON TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2015**

PRESENT: Cllr Bathmaker (Chairman), Cllr Baker, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Pledger, Cllr Williams, Cllr Pipe
County Cllr Dent, Mr Collins (Reg-Bio)
Members of the Public -3

7.15 pm PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jones, Cllr McClelland, District Cllr McCraith and District Cllr Cathcart.

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

There were no declarations made.

03. OPEN FORUM

There were no issues raised.

04. HIGHFIELD FARM –UPDATE ON PROJECT

Mr Collins was invited to update the meeting.

He advised that things were starting to move forward with the contract. Early in 2016 the derelict buildings on the site would be cleared and land surveys would be carried out. In the Spring the site access would be improved to enable the delivery of equipment. Mr Collins added that the site entrance would not be completed until the end of the project. It had been built into the contract that vehicles using the site must not go through the village. There would also be signage at the exit from the site. Mr Collins concluded that once everything started to happen people would be invited to take a look.

The Chairman thanked Mr Collins for his update.

05. AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

As discussed at the last meeting the Clerk had written to Mr Conrad, County Farms, and received a response. Mr Conrad confirmed that the Sheen Farm site was on a list of sites to be taken forward by the new City Deal Housing Development Agency (HAD). That appointment was currently being finalised and it was hoped that work could be started on the scheme urgently as it was unusual to have a situation where a Parish Council was so supportive. Mr Conrad concluded that he anticipated that the County would be building out the scheme and had been advised that there was the borrowing ability to fund it.

Cllr Pledger stated that this confirmed what was said in her conversation with Mr Conrad. It was noted that there were still concerns from the residents at Sheen Farm.

06. PLANNING APPLICATION S/2761/14/FL

An Appeal had been made to the Secretary of State against the decision made by South Cambridgeshire District Council to refuse two detached dwellings on the Horse and Groom Site. The Parish Council had recommended Approval at the planning consultation stage and was disappointed when the application was refused.

It was agreed that a letter of support, for the building of the dwellings, be sent to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline date of 16th December 2015.

-Clerk

07. SCDC –LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

A consultation on the modifications was underway and would close on Monday 25 January 2016. Details had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Pipe advised that he had read the conclusion and there was little change. The Clerk added that the District Councillors had advised that there was nothing different to the original proposals for Litlington. The Chairman asked Councillors to read the documents so that a response could be prepared at the next Parish Council meeting.

08. OTHER

There were no other issues raised.

7.30 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jones, Cllr McClelland, District Cllr McCraith and District Cllr Cathcart.

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

Mrs Heather Williams reported that she had been speaking to people who had raised money in other villages and recycling had played a big part. It was advised that Litlington Pre School used various recycling methods to help with their funding. Mrs Williams then asked if it would be possible for the Parish Council to hold a separate bank account for fund raising. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council held two separate savings accounts and one of these could be made available.

The Chairman referred to the suggestion for a public works loan and whether the working group would be able to demonstrate why Bassingbourn Sports Centre could not be used. Mrs Williams referred to the sports teams who used the facilities at the Centre. They would be unable to transfer their matches to Bassingbourn. She added that the purpose of the project was to bring the existing sports facilities offered at the Centre up to standard. It might help with the purpose if the Centre was renamed to Litlington Pavilion.

Cllr Sharp asked who the working group members were. Mrs Williams confirmed that Cllr McClelland represented the Parish Council and there were also representatives from the football club, village hall committee and bowls club.

The Clerk advised that the new infra red heaters had arrived. Arrangements would now be put in place for the electrician to install them.

3.2 Motorbikes

Concerns were raised by residents of Royston Road over the motorbikes speeding on Royston Road, Ashwell Stret and the Clunch Pit.

The Chairman advised that this had been an issue for a number of years. The Parish Council had been working with the Landowners and South Cambridgeshire District Council ASB officer to try and find a solution. The incidents over the past few months appeared to have reduced and therefore the planned noise monitoring had been put on hold. This could now be resurrected.

The residents advised that they had spoken to the police who suggested that a log of activity be kept so that a pattern of usage could be formed. The Chairman suggested the residents speak to the Ashwell Stret residents who were already active in monitoring the activity. Once some details on the pattern were available the Clerk would follow up with the PCSO. In the meantime she would advise the PCSO that the motorbike issue had not gone away. Cllr Jones would be asked to contact the District ASB officer again. This would be an agenda item for an update at the next meeting.

3.3 Speeding on Royston Road

Residents were also concerned over the speed of some drivers. The Chairman acknowledged that there was a problem which the police had been made aware of. The Community Speedwatch checks would continue to target the area.

-Cllr Jones
& Clerk

04. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 10th November 2015

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

05. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Highway Issues

5.1.1 South Street/Meeting Lane Junction/Local Highway Improvements Initiative 2014/15

The traffic calming speed bumps and signage had now been installed. Cllr Sharp suggested that the distance between the bumps was too small and they did not appear to be high enough. Cllr Pipe advised that they were a standard component and served their purpose being close together.

The Clerk then advised that the County Council meetings to discuss the MHI Bids for 2016/17 were to be held in January. Councillors were invited to attend these meetings to support the Parish Council bid. Cllr Pipe would check the dates to see if he would be able to attend.

-Cllr Pipe

5.1.2 Speedwatch signs

The Chairman advised that the Community Speedwatch team were again carrying out regular checks. Once three to four months of data had been forwarded to the Police the signs could be pursued.

5.2 Installation of wooden posts by contractor

Cllr Williams had been unable to speak to the contractor. The Clerk would now make contact with Stewart Bullard, and request a quote for the work, and if within budget give the go ahead for the installation.

Clerk

5.3 Update on Parish Plan

This was carried forward to the next meeting.

5.4 Proposed Village Christmas Tree

The Chairman confirmed that he would be picking up the tree on the 12th December. Cllr McClelland had purchased some lights. Councillors agreed a working party would meet on the morning of the 12th to erect the tree on the village green.

-Cllrs

5.5 Future newsletter format/New website –update

The Chairman and Clerk had both spoken to a resident about creating a new website and he had details of the specification. Cllr McClelland had volunteered to take over the Parish Post from Nick Goldman and it was hoped that the next edition would be out in January 2016. Cllr Sharp stated that he was disappointed with the lack of information in the last edition. He also stated that the distribution should be at the same time as the Prospect which would make it easier to get out to residents.

5.6 Celebration of 90th Birthday of HM the Queen

The village Fayre committee were next going to meet in January and this would be on the agenda then.

5.7 Vacant District Council Homes

The District Council had been forwarded a copy of the letter sent to the Housing Director. Cllr Cathcart had followed this up with him and been advised that the suggestions in the letter were not housing policy.

5.8 South Street Uneven Footpath

The Clerk had reported the footpath and been advised that the area would be inspected and any action to repair the path would be carried out.

06. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Local Government Boundary Commission –Review of South Cambs District Council

Details had been circulated to Councillors. A consultation on the reduction of District Councillors to 45 from 57 was underway and views were requested by the 1st February 2016 when the consultation closed.

6.2 SCDC Assets of Community Value Listing

The application for the listing of The Crown had been acknowledged by South Cambridgeshire District Council. To enable the application to proceed further information on the role of the pub in the community was required. Supplementary information was needed by the end of December 2015. The Chairman agreed to ask the Landlady to put together some details for the Clerk to submit.

*-Cllr
Bathmaker*

07. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

7.1 County Council

Cllr Dent had circulated his monthly report. He added that he was glad to see that the speed bumps were now in position. The Chairman asked Cllr Dent how he decided what should be put into his report. He advised that the report usually included local information and a general report on Cambridgeshire County Council. He did try to tailor the report to each village but received complaints that people wanted to know how their money was being spent county wide.

Cllr Dent then advised on the proposed future of mineral and waste planning applications whereby the County Council were in danger of losing control. It was suggested that the applications would go directly to the Secretary of State. There was also the possibility of cuts to school crossing patrols throughout the division. These could though be funded through the schools at a cost of £5,000.

A discussion then took place on the further cuts required within the County Council for the next financial year.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Dent for his report.

7.2 District Council

There were no District Councillors in attendance.

08. RECREATION CENTRE/VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENTS

An update on the progress of the Recreation Centre was given at the beginning of the meeting.

09. PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE9.1 Play Area9.1.1 Play Area Weekly Inspection Update

This was satisfactory.

9.1.2 Play Area Fence

A third contractor had been unable to quote as the job was too small. Three quotes, one for metal fencing and two for wood, had been received. A discussion took place on possible community funding from the Reg-Bio project which might cover the cost. It was noted that St Catherines Church had also forwarded details of a project they would like to progress. Councillors were aware that there were other groups in the village who would like to make an application.

-Cllr
Bathmaker

After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would speak with Mr Collins to get an idea of how much Reg-Bio were likely to contribute. The suggestions for funding would then be put together for an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.

9.1.3 Litter Bins

The Football Club had not installed the bins. The Clerk was asked to request a quotation from the contractor Stewart Bullard.

-Clerk

9.2 Recreation Centre9.2.1 Infra Red Heating –Update on Progress of order/installation

As advised under Item 3.1 the heaters had arrived and the electrician would be asked to install them as soon as possible.

9.2.2 Purchase of Tables and Chairs

The Clerk advised that the tables had arrived. The Chairs were still to be delivered.

10. FINANCES10.1 Payment of Accounts

K BAKER

Recreation Centre cleaning November 2015 £100.00

NICK GOLDMAN

Parish Post printing £ 14.00

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Poppy wreath £ 18.50

G D BRADSHAW

Rec Centre electrical work (inc.£13.05VAT) £ 78.30

TOTAL £ 210.80

PROPOSED Cllr Wiltshire SECONDED Cllr Williams

10.2 Budget/Precept 2016/17

A draft budget, showing income and expenditure to date against the current financial year, had been circulated to Councillors. It was noted that the contributions for the traffic calming measures for the current year, and planned for 2016/17, should be included. A review of the Clerks and Litter Picker's salary also needed to take place and this would happen before the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillors were asked to look at the figures so that a decision on the budget and precept could be made at the next meeting.

-Cllrs

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION11.1 Bus Stop Signs

Cllr Baker asked for clarification on the position of the bus stops located on Church Street and Bassingbourn Road. It was advised that there was a bus stop sign opposite the shop. The bus also stopped the opposite side of the road by The Crown on the return journey. The bus shelter on Bassingbourn road was the official stop with the bus stopping opposite, by the lay-by, when travelling in the other direction.

11.2 Village Hall Representative

Cllr Sharp advised that he had attended the recent Village Hall meeting and was concerned that the Parish Council did not have a representative on the committee. The Clerk advised that Cllr Baker was elected to represent the Parish Council at the AGM. Cllr Baker was also Secretary to the Village Hall Committee.

11.3 Overgrown Shrubbery –South Street

Cllr Pipe advised that he had asked his neighbour to cut back some shrubbery overhanging the roadway and this had taken place.

11.4 Royston Road Fly Tipping

It was reported that a mattress had been dumped on the grass verge. The Clerk would report to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

-Clerk

12. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 12th January 2016 in Litlington Village Hall

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

Chairman

Date