

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

PRESENT: Cllr Bathmaker (Chairman), Cllr Williams, Cllr Pipe, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Jones, Cllr Pledger, Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Barlow  
District Cllr Cathcart, District Cllr McCraith, Members of the Public -6

**7.15 pm PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING**

**01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr McClelland 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**

There were no issues raised.

**04. AFFORDABLE HOUSING –SHEEN FARM-RESPONSE FROM COUNTY FARMS RE DEVELOPMENT SITE**

Following the last meeting, and a conversation with Cllr Pipe, the County Farms officer Stephen Conrad had responded by stating that there was no prospect of the County Council being able to revert to the kind of scheme discussed previously. Mr Conrad added that the more logical option for the County was to develop their land in the village envelope which would not need to generate any affordable housing if less than 10 dwellings. Mr Conrad was aware that the Parish Council wanted to ensure that affordable housing would be available for local people in perpetuity and suggested that the Head of Housing for South Cambridgeshire District Council confirm the mechanisms.

The District Councillors both stated that the Parish Council should stick to the original view adding that the Parish Council needed to wait until there was absolute clarification on affordable housing for local people as the rules had changed.

It was agreed at the last meeting that other sites in the village would be investigated and Cllr Sharp agreed to speak with landowners. *-Cllr Sharp*

Cllr Pipe questioned whether there would be any affordable housing in the village at all if this opportunity with County Farms was missed. Councillors were reminded that developments of over 10 dwellings had to include provision for affordable housing.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would reiterate that the Parish Council wanted to hold out for the original proposal for 12 affordable units and 4 market houses. *-Clerk*

**05. HIGHFIELD FARM –SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

5.1 Top three suggestions from Parish Plan

5.2 Replacement play area fence

5.3 Installation of facilities at St Catherines Church

5.4 Refurbishment of Village Hall Kitchen

The Chairman advised that Mr Collins, Reg Bio, hoped to attend the October Parish Council meeting.

**06. TO CONSIDER PLANNING/TREE APPLICATIONS**

6.1 Planning Ref S/1934/16/LB

Mossbury Farm –Proposed Garage, new staircase for access to upper space of existing two storey barn

(Mr & Mrs Franks) –No representations were made.

6.2 Tree Work Application

The Garth, Royston Road –Crown reduction of Ash tree (for information)

6.3 Planning Ref S/2264/16/FL

Litlington Sewage Treatment Works, Chapel Close –Installation of 25m lightweight lattice communication tower, antennas, transmission dishes, ground based cabinets and ancillary development within fenced compound

(Wireless Infrastructure Group)

***-Recommendation No Recommendation***

## 7.30 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Following the July Parish Council meeting Mrs Baker had tendered her resignation. The process for co-option had been started with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Parish Council were now in a position to co-opt a Councillor. There had been three applications submitted in response to the advert. A vote was taken with Mr Geoff Barlow receiving the majority vote. Mr Barlow signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

### 01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr McClelland and County Cllr Dent

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There were no interests declared.

### 03. OPEN FORUM

#### 3.1 Recreation Centre/Village Hall Improvements

Heather Williams, the working group leader, advised that the FA had been out to look at the plans and wanted a few things tweaked which the Architect had done. Once the FA had confirmed that they were satisfied with the modifications a planning application could be submitted. Mrs Williams added that the response seemed positive adding that grant sources wanted 10% fund raised towards the project. Fundraising was ongoing and Mrs Williams stated that she wanted to start an ink cartridge recycling initiative. She had forwarded details to the Clerk. She had also been speaking to the South Cambridgeshire District Council Licencing Officer, Miles Bennington, about a Litlington lottery. The Parish Council would need to apply for the licence as they owned the Recreation Centre.

#### 3.2 Highway Issues

##### 3.2.1 Speed of Traffic Through Village

##### 3.2.2 CCC Local Highway Improvement Funding 2017/18

Details of the scheme had been received with a closing date for applications as the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

##### 3.2.3 Bassingbourn Road –Gathering of information for MHI Application

Now that the information on the LHI bid had been received, it was agreed to get the information together for an application by the end of October so that the view of the police could be sought in time to meet the deadline. Cllr Pledger would arrange a petition and the Clerk would follow up contact with Bassingbourn schools.

*-Cllr Pledger &  
Clerk*

##### 3.2.3 Royston Road Traffic Survey

The Clerk confirmed that she had not received any feedback from the Police over the short snap speed survey. She would urge a response by the next meeting so that a full traffic survey could be arranged if needed.

*-Clerk*

#### 3.3. Play Area and Recreation Ground

A parishioner, Mr Biles, had installed some bird deterrent spikes on the small swings in the play area which were vandalised within 48 hours. He still had half a box which would be kept as spares for the big swings. A discussion took place on vandal proof bird deterrents which would be investigated.

Mr Biles advised that the litter bin by the play area fence had been ripped out of the ground. He added that people tended also to use the oil drums for their litter, and suggested these had lids. Cllr Wiltshire advised that there as a Recreation Centre Management committee meeting the following evening and these points would be raised there.

### 04. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

#### 4.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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

### 05. MATTERS ARISING

#### 5.1 Highway Issues

These were discussed under Item 3.

#### 5.2 Speedwatch signs and Equipment

The Speedwatch equipment had been ordered and would be financed by Litlington, Steeple

Morden, Meldreth and Whaddon Parish Councils. The Chairman advised that a contract setting out the terms of use had been signed by all parties.

#### 5.3 Update on Parish Plan

20 copies of the Plan had been printed and it was agreed that some would go in the village shop and some in The Crown. It was noted that the Action Plan was included in the publication and Cllr Pledger agreed to extract this so that the Parish Council could go through the action points at a future meeting. She would copy to Councillors.

-Cllr Pledger

#### 5.4 Update on Clunch Pit Activity and Signage

Cllr Jones reported that it had been relatively quiet over the summer. The Landowner, Mr Parker, was starting to look to see if there was any funding available for hedge planting. Cllr Jones had met with a County Farms officer to discuss the County Farms land on the south of Ashwell Stret. The officer supported the action taken but until the County Farms land was encroached upon they were unwilling to take any pre-emptive action. Cllr Jones had installed some temporary signage. The letter to residents of the village was also still to be finalised. Cllr Jones suggested that a letter be sent to Royston Crow thanking motor cycle users, who had previously used the clunch pit, for not using the pit now. This would be a positive move which was agreed. Cllr Sharp added that as soon as the access to Mr Parker's land was blocked motor bikes would cut through the County Farms land.

#### 5.5 Parking on Bassingbourn Road

The Clerk confirmed that communication with the District and County Councils was in hand regarding the opening up of the pedestrian access on Bassingbourn Road. Cllr Sharp advised that there was still a big problem with parking especially double parking in the evening. The Clerk was asked to again point this out to the PCSO.

-Clerk

### **06. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### 6.1 Request for 'Horse' signage on Bassingbourn Road

Video footage had been received from a horse rider which showed unsocial behaviour of a passing motorist. The rider had suggested that 'Horse' warning signage be erected. County Highways had advised the Clerk in the past that a road safety audit may need to be carried out first. Cllr Sharp stated that there should be some responsibility taken by the landowner providing stables for the horses. Before the landowner was contacted Cllr Pledger agreed to follow up with County Highways to see what needed to be done to get some signage.

-Cllr Pledger

The Clerk had asked the horse rider to prepare an item for the Parish Post. She would liaise with Cllr McClelland over the publication.

-Clerk

#### 6.2 Wheelchair access –request for dropped kerbs

The Clerk had been approached by a resident requesting more dropped kerbs in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would find out which crossing was causing a problem. Cllr Cathcart stated that in the past if a council tenant needed help with access to their property South Cambridgeshire District Council would help. He would see if this was still possible.

-Clerk & Cllr Cathcart

#### 6.3 Request for information on A505 crossing from Sir Oliver Heald MP

The Chairman explained the background to a request from Sir Oliver Heald regarding a campaign to close all the cross over points on the A505. This was due to a recent accident. A discussion took place on the alternative route that would need to be taken to get to locations along the A505 which would mean a lot more traffic through the villages. All Councillors agreed that if the vegetation in the central reservation was kept cut back it would help. After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would advise Sir Oliver Heald that the closing of the cross over points would be the last resort. Roundabouts at Slip End, Odsey and Litlington would make the road a lot safer as would the regular cutting back of vegetation.

-Clerk

#### 6.4 Cambridge Ahead –Request for information on mobile coverage across Cambridgeshire

Residents were asked to help identify 'hotspots' where there were areas of no or low connectivity. This project would then show where mobile phone signals, Wi-Fi and broadband access was poor and encourage providers to take action to improve them.

The Clerk confirmed that there was a notice on the board but would also copy the poster to Councillors.

-Clerk

### **07. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

#### 7.1 County Council

Cllr Dent had sent his apologies. A report had been circulated.

#### 7.2 District Council

Cllr Cathcart reported that the Local Plan inspection was progressing slowly and it would now

probably be towards the end of 2017 before the Plan was adopted. South Cambridgeshire District Council Planners were still getting a lot of speculative planning applications.

Cllr McCraith advised that the Chief Executive was leaving the position and South Cambridgeshire District Council would need to decide on a plan to replace her which would probably be from outside the organisation.

The Devolution debate continued with a lot of sensitivity around the role of an elected Mayor. Cllr Cathcart added that he felt a lot of villages would be left out.

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors for their reports.

## 08. **PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE**

### 8.1 Play Area

Cllr Williams had obtained two quotations for the cutting back/trimming of the trees in the play area and the footpath from Meeting Lane to Malting Lane. One of the contractors had suggested that it would be better if the boughs of the trees were cut back and provided their quote based on that. The second quote was for trimming. It was agreed that further like for like quotes be sought for the next meeting.

-Cllr Williams

#### 8.1.1 Play Area Weekly Inspection Update

The play area was discussed under Item 3.3.

#### 8.1.2 Play Area Fence

This was being considered as a project to submit for Bio Reg funding.

### 8.2 Recreation Centre Issues

There were no issues raised.

#### 8.2.1 Planning Application for proposed extension to Centre

An update was given under Item 3.1.

## 09. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME**

The Chairman had received a request that the Scheme in the village be resurrected. The reason why it became inactive was because there was nobody willing to take over the role of co-ordinator although most of the people from the original team were still willing to be involved. It was agreed that an appeal for a co-ordinator would be put in the next Parish Post.

## 10. **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2016**

There were mixed views on whether the tree and lights from 2015 were a success. The Chairman advised that there had been a donation for additional lights this year if it was agreed to go ahead. Councillors were reminded that damage had been caused to the flag pole as a result of the Christmas tree being fastened to it. There was a discussion on how a tree could be put into the ground. After further discussion it was agreed that investigations would be made into how a tree could be erected. This would be discussed again at the October meeting.

## 11. **FINANCES**

### 11.1 Payment of Accounts

It was noted that invoices were still awaited for the village Christmas tree.

K BAKER

Recreation Centre cleaning July & August 2016	£200.00
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MRS G BILES

Litter sacks	£ 4.00
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GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bylaws and public nuisance training	£ 25.00
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HALES PRINTERS

Parish Plan printing (20 copies)	£ 201.00
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MR M BAKER

Grasscutting 2016	£2298.00
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MR A BILES

Reimbursement for play area swing spikes (inc. £3.56VAT)	£ 21.40
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2749.40</b>
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Cheques issues since last meeting –

TRADEMARK KITCHENS LTD

Earmarked donation towards village hall kitchen refurbishment	£2000.00
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E-ON

Recreation Centre electricity (inc. £7.41VAT)	£ 155.66
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Agreed. PROPOSED Cllr Wiltshire SECONDED Cllr Pipe

11.2 To Consider a donation to the First Responder Initiative

Cllr Sharp reported that he knew of an incident locally where the First Responders had been in action and helped to save a life. The Clerk advised that Steeple Morden Parish Council had suggested that all the villages covered by the initiative, Litlington, Steeple Morden, Guilden Morden, Ashwell and Shingay-cum-Wendy donate the same amount of money. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Pledger, that £300 be donated. This was agreed by all Councillors.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION**

12.1 Resignation of Cllr Baker

It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to Mrs Baker to thank her for her contribution to the Parish Council. She was also a Parish Council representative on the Recreation Centre Management Committee and a replacement would be found at the next Parish Council meeting.

12.2 Village Cage

Cllr Williams advised that if the good weather continued she would open to door to the cage to let some fresh air in.

*-Cllr Williams*

12.3 Village Website

The Chairman had been liaising with the website developer and advised that once more content was include on the site the new website could go live. Councillors were asked for further ideas.

**13 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Chairman

Date