

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON TUESDAY 9th
FEBRUARY 2021 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT:

Cllr Wiltshire (Chairman), Cllr Sharp, Cllr Williams, Cllr Gray, Cllr Parker, Cllr Bathmaker, Cllr Barlow, Cllr Jones, Cllr Pledger
District Cllr Cathcart (part) County Cllr Kindersley (part)
Members of the public 2

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were in attendance.

2 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

The Chairman declared a non pecuniary interest under Item 12.1.1 as an associate of the applicant. Cllr Sharp declared a non pecuniary interest under Item 6.2 as a Trustee of the Mobile Warden Scheme.

3 OPEN FORUM –Comments and observations from Members of the Public**3.1 Play Area**

A resident reiterated her offer to help with choosing the replacement play area equipment. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had earmarked some funding in the budget for the next Financial Year 2021/22 and when Councillors were in a position to look at what equipment was affordable they would be reminded of her offer.

4 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**4.1 District Council**

Cllr Cathcart referred to the Call For Sites survey, sent out for Parish Council comments, stating that it would be useful if the Parish Council responded. There were a lot of sites put forward in Litlington. A full consultation would take place later in the year once the Planners had compiled a short list. He added that Councillors should bear in mind that this was for a joint plan with Cambridge City and any voice South Cambridgeshire District Council had could be diluted.

There was to be a 3.4% increase in the South Cambs council tax element for 2021/22. Cllr Cathcart felt that this was a reasonable approach and services should be protected. He had noted that the relisting of The Crown as an Asset of Community Value was to be discussed. He stated that it was important at this time to list as many Public Houses as possible.

There was a new policy -Doubling Natures Strategy which put more emphasis on protecting the natural environment. Cllr Cathcart added that this was well worth reading.

4.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

He advised that the County Council had agreed a council tax increase of 1 % for adult social care with an additional 1.99% for general provision for 2021/22.

Drain works on Royston Road and outside Glebe House on South Street had been ordered. Cllr Kindersley reported that he had spent a day sitting on the LHI Panel and it was interesting to see what the applications had been submitted for. A lot of the requests were for services that the County Council were responsible for anyway.

With regards to the Thakeham proposed development Cllr Kindersley advised that, as a result of a Freedom of Information request, Homes England were more involved that everyone was led to believe and the two parties were in advanced discussions which was worrying.

Cllr Kindersley concluded his report by urging anyone over the age of 70 who had not received an invitation for a Covid vaccination to contact the NHS on 119.

5 APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

5.1 Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2021

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

6 LIVE INITIATIVES/UPDATE ON RESOLUTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

6.1 New Website Investigations

Cllr Bathmaker confirmed that he was chasing up quotations. **-Cllr Bathmaker**

6.2 Future of Mobile Warden Scheme

The Clerk had asked the Scheme Treasurer if there were any plans to rejuvenate the scheme and he advised that he was going to discuss the suggestion with the Chairman. Cllr Sharp, who was also a Trustee, advised that there were currently only 18 members, with none from Litlington, and to run a viable scheme there should be at least 22.

Circumstances had changed in the village with more volunteers looking after those in need. The Clerk advised that she was aware that a new scheme was being introduced through Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Age UK, in a patch towards Cambridge, and their range of support functions was slightly broader. She would forward details to the Councillors for information. **-Clerk**

Cllr Sharp stated that he would request that the Trustees hold a meeting to discuss the situation.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Use of Ashwell Stret by Agricultural Vehicles

Concern was raised by a walker, over the use of Ashwell Stret, stating that the vehicles had covered almost every part of the track way leaving no part that was not churned and hard to walk on.

Cllr Parker, who farmed the land, stated that he had tried to repair the area as best he could and would try again once the ground had dried out. The very wet weather this winter did not help. The area would look a lot better in the Spring.

7.2 SCDC Asset of Community Value-Relisting of The Crown

The original listing had expired. As stated by Cllr Cathcart it was important that as many Public Houses as possible were listed as the future after Covid was uncertain. The Clerk to complete the application. **-Clerk**

7.3 Bassingbourn Road/Brook Road –Upgrade of Footpath

The work was believed to be part of the LHI successful bid for 2020/21 which included the speed reduction to 50mph.

7.4 Church Wall

A resident from adjoining St Catherine's Court had expressed concern over the party wall with the Church which was showing signs of dilapidation. A discussion took place on the ownership of the wall which if it was part of the Churchyard would be the Parish Councils responsibility. Cllr Gray offered to inspect the wall to see what work needed to be carried out, and report back to Councillors at the next meeting. **-Cllr Gray**

8 PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE

8.1 Play Area

8.1.1 Area under big swings on Recreation Ground

Cllr Williams suggested that some pea grit be put under the swings as the area was wearing away. It was advised that bark had been put down in the past with little effect and the swings were then raised. It was agreed that the area would be looked at in the Spring.

8.2 Recreation Centre

Due to the current lockdown the Recreation Centre remained closed

8.3 Recreation Ground

There had been a lot of vehicles using the car park during the current restrictions where unnecessary travel was prohibited. Councillors had taken the decision to lock the gate to the car park while the restrictions were in place. It was observed that visitors were still

parking in the lay-by. It was agreed that a temporary barrier would be placed in the lay-by to deter parking. Cllr Parker offered to arrange.

-Cllr Parker

A lot of people were also walking dogs on the ground even though there were signs stating No Dogs Allowed. It was agreed that further laminated signs would be put up around the field. Cllr Gray to arrange.

-Cllr Gray

8.3.1 Hedge Cut

The recreation ground hedge had been cut.

The Clerk had received a complaint about the overgrown hedge on Malting Lane which was causing problems for vehicles. Part of the hedge was owned privately and the other by Cambridgeshire County Council. Cllr Barlow agreed to investigate the complaint and report back at the next meeting.

-Cllr Barlow

9 PROPOSED FEASIBILITY TENDER FOR THE VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION CENTRE

9.1 Update on Land Registry

Cllr Pledger advised that the application was still being processed. There was a backlog due to Covid.

10 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC/STREET FURNITURE

10.1 Visibility Mirror post installation update

The Clerk had been told by another contractor that if she sourced the post then he would arrange the installation.

10.2 LHI Planning Meeting 17th February 2021

Cllr Bathmaker was to attend the remote meeting to support the Parish Council application.

10.3 Hertfordshire County Council- Casualty Reduction scheme, A505 Baldock Road/Royston Road junction improvements –request for feedback on proposal

Details had been circulated to Councillors. There were no comments made.

11 Payment of Accounts

OPUS ENERGY Street lighting energy charge December 2020 (inc £39.79VAT)	£250.08
LITLINGTON & THE MORDENS MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME Donation 2020/21	£600.00
E-ON Recreation Centre electricity (inc £11.54VAT)	£282.37
TOTAL	£1132.45

Agreed. PROPOSED Cllr Williams SECONDED Cllr Pledger

12 PLANNING/TREE WORK APPLICATIONS

12.1 Planning Applications

12.1.1 Planning Ref 20/05370/HFUL

3 Cockhall Close –Single storey rear extension

-Recommendation Support

12.2 Tree Work

12.2.1 Quotation for outstanding tree work

Cllr Barlow confirmed that this was in hand. It was intended to carry out the work in the Autumn of 2021.

12.3 Flooding and Drainage

Cllr Sharp expressed concern over the amount of water on the area in front of the new building at New Cambridge House. Since built there appeared nowhere for the drainage from the building and car park to go.

A discussion took place on the requirements of any planning application for the applicant to demonstrate that there would be sustainable drainage. Cllr Gray offered to look at the plans for the new building.

-Cllr Gray

It was noted that the area in question had flooded before a few years previously. There had been very heavy rainfall this year which had resulted in so much flooding everywhere in the County.

12.4 SCDC Call for Sites Survey

Details of an online survey had been forwarded to Parish Councils asking for any additional information on the sites put forward. The survey closed on the 1st March 2020 and could only be completed by the Parish Council. A full consultation would take place once the Planners had a short list of sites from the all the suggestions that had been put forward by landowners.

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the questions and if there were any points to relay to the planners the survey would be completed by the Clerk. **-Clerk**

13 VILLAGE EASTER EVENT

Councillors agreed that the Christmas Advent window event was a great success but did not see how a similar event for Easter could work. They were reminded of the Scarecrow display during the Summer of 2020, where there was a good response from the village, and also that there might be the chance of a Village Fayre Covid restrictions allowing.

Following discussion it was agreed not to pursue an Easter event this year.

14 COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS

14.1 Coronavirus Volunteer Group

Regular updates continued to be sent out from South Cambridgeshire District Council. As far as everyone was aware there was still a Care and Share being run from The Crown.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION OR URGENT ATTENTION BY THE CLERK

15.1 Cemetery Grasscutting

Cllr Sharp again expressed his concern over the withdrawal of funding for grasscutting by the Parish Council. There had been a lot of negative feedback from residents. The Clerk reiterated that the Parish Council was prohibited from contributing to the maintenance of an open burial ground.

It was suggested that the Church representatives put an appeal on the Litlington Live Facebook page asking for either a volunteer or donations to help with the grasscutting costs.

15.2 MVAS

Cllr Williams advised that the battery was not holding charge for very long and suggested a replacement be purchased. She also advised that when a SCDC street light column was recently replaced the bracket to hold the sign had been removed with the old post. The Clerk to obtain costings for a new battery and bracket for approval at the next meeting. **-Clerk**

16 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

9th March 2021

17 CLOSE OF MEETING

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm