

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER
2020 at 7.30pm**

1 PRESENT:

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

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Barlow.

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

There were no interests declared.

4 OPEN FORUM –Comments and observations from Members of the Public**4.1 Play Area**

An offer was made by a resident to help with the purchase of play equipment. She also confirmed that she was on board for fundraising.

The Clerk had replied to the offer during the Summer and updated the resident on the current financial position and that there would hopefully be some funding coming forward once the Sheen Farm development took place.

5 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**5.1 District Council**

Cllr Cathcart referred to the recent release of the Call for Sites where a lot of sites in the village had been put forward. He stated that residents need to be reassured that the vast majority of the sites would not be sustainable and therefore rejected by the Planners. He added that the assessment of the sites would take some time with a consultation scheduled to take place in Summer 2021. Cllr Bathmaker asked how the existing historical status of 'infill only' could be affected. Cllr Cathcart feared that the Government white paper might change this and Litlington could lose this benefit. If the Parish Council was to respond to the white paper consultation Councillors were urged to concentrate on that and not on the detail of the plan. Cllr Sharp advised that the County Council had put forward a lot of land. It was stated that the same planning principles applied to them as everyone else.

5.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

He reported that the council had met that day and considered a number of motions including an anti-Semitism motion and a motion to investigate more thoroughly projects such as the Dutch style roundabout which had been delivered over budget.

The council had agreed to write to the Education Minister regarding the £28million shortfall in special education budget. Cambridgeshire schools were always poorly served with the current settlement penalising rural schools which were not Academy Trusts.

Cllr Kindersley then advised that the Fire Authority had agreed to make a payment of £50 to their staff to thank them for their work during the coronavirus pandemic. They currently had a large recruitment campaign to recruit on call fire fighters. Cllr Kindersley asked that this campaign be made known to associates living near fire stations.

Cllr Bathmaker asked if there was any news on the Sheen Farm site as there was a rumour that the site had been sold on. Cllr Kindersley was not surprised adding that there was a huge financial hole due to the Covid pandemic.

Cllr Williams complained about the hedge from the Sheen Farm site which was overhanging the footpath; The Clerk agreed to report on the Council website, **-Clerk**
The Chairman thanked Cllr Cathcart and Cllr Kindersley for their reports.

6 APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

6.1 Parish Council Meeting 9th September 2020

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

7 LIVE INITIATIVES/UPDATE ON RESOLUTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

7.1 NALC/CAPALC New website accessibility Regulations

Cllr Bathmaker had not yet managed to contact the original website designer. The Clerk advised that she had now revised the format of the minutes and agenda so that they complied with requirements. She also advised that an accessibility statement needed to go onto the website. She would circulate a draft to Councillors for agreement.

- Clerk & Cllr Bathmaker

8 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that correspondence received would be discussed under agenda items.

9 PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE

9.1 Play Area

Cllr Williams confirmed that there were no current problems but the lack of play equipment was disappointing.

9.2 Recreation Centre

The Recreation Centre Management Committee had met the previous week.

9.2.1 Refurbishment

The Chairman advised that the committee had discussed the possibility of internal refurbishment of the existing structure to bring the changing rooms up to standard. The committee was aware that grant funding would not be forthcoming if this approach was taken but it would be a step forward as at the present time the only option for the Centre was closure.

Cllr Bathmaker queried the cost. This was unknown at the present time but as there were earmarked funds it was hoped these could cover the costs. Cllr Pledger reminded the meeting that she was still pursuing the assessment of the village hall site with the registering of the land progressing. She suggested that the refurbishment discussions wait for a couple of months until the feasibility reports had been prepared. This would include a report from a structural engineer. Councillors agreed to wait until February 2020 and review the position then.

9.3 Recreation Ground

9.3.1 Play Area Trim Trail (Community Chest Grant)

The Clerk advised that applications for a Community Chest grant could only be made by Parish Councils with less than 160 electors. An application could be made by a community group.

A discussion took place on the Trim Trail equipment which Councillors agreed would be a good addition to the recreation ground. Cllr Gray agreed to circulate details of another company too.

-Cllr Gray

9.3.2 Mound

9.3.2.1 Purchase and Storage of Equipment

Cllr Gray advised that three shovels would cost £51. It was agreed that they be purchased.

9.3.2.2 Request for more soil

The youngsters had investigated more soil and been offered 16 tons for free from a landscape gardener. Concerns were raised over the quality of the soil and the possibility of contamination. Cllr Gray agreed to investigate further.

10 PROPOSED FEASIBILITY TENDER FOR THE VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION CENTRE

10.1 Update on Land Registry

As reported under Item 9,2 Cllr Pledger was in the process of registering the village hall land. She would then progress a feasibility report with contractors.

11 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC/STREET FURNITURE

11.1 South Street/Meeting Lane/Bassingbourn Road junction-Update on PFHI and LHI 2020/21

The Clerk reported that following agreement at the last meeting she had asked the Local Highway Officer to progress the improved signage. She had since urged an update and would continue to do so.

Cllr Bathmaker then advised that the application for the LHI bid 2020/21 missed the deadline for submission. He suggested that now efforts should be put into a stronger case for the 2021/22 round. Cllr Bathmaker agreed to advise the residents.

-Cllr Bathmaker

A discussion then took place on the MVAS and where it should be moved to next. It was agreed to move to South Street next followed by Royston Road.

11.2 Direction Sign for Village Hall and Recreation Centre

The Clerk had urged an update from the CCC Local Projects Officer. The Parish Council had been told that the signs would be installed along with the 50mph speed signs on Bassingbourn Road but this had not happened.

11.3 Visibility Mirror post installation update

There was no update. The Clerk had urged with the contractor.

12 FINANCES

12.1 Payment of Accounts

OPUS ENERGY	
Streetlighting August 2020 (inc £6.84VAT)	143.60
,MR G BARLOW	
Reimb for mound safety signs	23.96
MRS G BILES	
Litter picker salary July –September plus expenses	236.30
MRS S WALMESLEY	
Clerks salary & expenses July –September 2020	1086.97
HMRC	
PAYE July –September 2020	263.60
CHUBB FIRE AND SECURITY	
Fire blanket for Recreation Centre (inc £6.19 VAT)	37.16
TOTAL	£1791.59

AGREED. Proposed Cllr Bathmaker, Seconded Cllr Williams

12.2 Update on Internet Banking Application

The Unity Trust Bank Account had now been opened. To operate the account some funds had to be transferred for the Barclays account. It was agreed that £5000.00 be transferred which would enable the online transactions to start in November 2020.

Clerk to arrange a cheque.

-Clerk

13 PLANNING

13.1 Planning Applications

13.1.1 Planning Ref 20/02236/HFUL

The Barn, South Street –Proposed roof lights and facade alterations, loft conversion, floor plan redesign and all associated works

Recommendation Support

13.1.2 Planning Ref 20/03683/HFUL

10 Cockhall Close –Garage Extension

Recommendation Support

13.2 Tree Work**13.2.1 Update on Tree Work agreed at last meeting**

Cllr Barlow had received an updated quotation for £185. He proposed that the contractor be asked to go ahead with the work as soon as possible due to the tree being a Health and Safety issue. This was agreed by all Councillors. **-Clerk**

13.2.2 Government Planning White Paper

Cllr Pledger had circulated a summary of the White Paper to Councillors who agreed that not enough information was known to make a representation at this stage.

14 COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS**14.1 Coronavirus Volunteer Group**

There had been further updates from South Cambridgeshire District Council about Covid 19 where cases were on the increase again. It was acknowledged that the group would have to reform at some stage. The Clerk would keep Councillors updated.

15 VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 2020**15.1 Christmas Lights**

Cllr Barlow had circulated details of the tree lights from previous years. Councillors agreed that the tree decorating would be discussed at the November meeting.

15.2 Update on Living Advent Calendar

Cllr Pledger had appealed through the village Facebook page for volunteers to decorate their windows on the lead up to Christmas. She had received a good response from residents. There were three windows left. Cllr Sharp advised that he was liaising with the Church PCC to see what they could do.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION OR URGENT ATTENTION BY THE CLERK**16.1 Halloween**

Cllr Pledger advised that local Government was trying to co-ordinate organised Covid secure events for Halloween this year. She suggested that children could still dress up and walk around the village with an adult on a pumpkin, either real or of a picture, hunt. The adult could then provide the treat. Cllr Pledger asked if the Parish Council would support this. Councillors agreed that they would. Cllr Pledger agreed to advertise.

-Cllr Pledger

16.2 Defibrillator

Cllr Gray reported that a new defibrillator had been provided for the recreation ground cabinet and the East of England Ambulance Service was aware.

16.3 Recreation Centre First Aid Kit

It was agreed that an up to date First Aid Kit be purchased. Cllr Gray to arrange.

-Cllr Gray

16.4 SCDC Planning/Parish Council Forum

Cllr Gray had attended the recent remote meeting which he found useful. He reported that every council in attendance had a complaint about the current planning system.

17 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

10th November 2020

18 Close of Meeting

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm