

**LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN LITLINGTON**  
**VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017 AT 8.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Bathmaker (Chairman), Cllr Sharp, Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Jones, Cllr Pledger, Cllr Pipe, Cllr McClelland

District Cllr McCraith, District Cllr Cathcart, County Cllr Kindersley

Mr Stephen Conrad (Cambridgeshire County Council)

Mr Derek Crosby (Cambridgeshire Police)

Members of Public: 165

Ms G Edwards (Steeple Morden Primary School), Mrs Sharp (Evergreens Over 60's Club), Ms C Smith (Village Fayre Committee), Mr D Chetty (Bassingbourn Village College) Mrs H Williams (Recreation Centre Improvement), Mrs L Baker (Litlington Pre-School), Mrs G Biles (Congregational Chapel)

APOLOGIES Mrs Jenkins (St Catherine's Church) Mrs M Baker (Village Hall), Parish Cllr Williams, Parish Cllr Barlow

**CHAIRMAN WELCOME AND REPORT**

Cllr Bathmaker opened the meeting.

**SPEEDING TRAFFIC THROUGH VILLAGE (Mr Derek Crosby –Police Traffic Officer)**

The Chairman introduced Mr Crosby and invited him to speak to parishioners.

Mr Crosby explained that he was appointed by the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire to speak on behalf of the Constabulary on speed issues. He referred to the recent unsuccessful application under the MHI scheme for traffic calming on Royston Road. He had carried out a covert survey which was followed by a speed data survey prior to the application. He was surprised that the main speeding was by vehicles coming into the village rather than going out. Although it was concerning for local resident the figures indicated that there was not a huge problem.

Mr Crosby had been in e-mail exchanges with residents and the Parish Council about signage. If the parish decided to go ahead with signage this would not require Police involvement as non physical traffic calming could be progressed through statutory notice. Mr Crosby added that if there was a standalone proposal to reduce the speed limit to 20mph he would not support it without substantial major re-engineering.

Mr Crosby suggested that the priority Give Way feature at the entrance to the village could be made longer. He was advised that the Parish Council had discussed the upgrading of the feature with the County Council officers, in connection with a MHI bid, but they did not feel it was suitable.

A parishioner stated that if a mobile speed van was used this would then allow for speed signs to be erected. Mr Crosby advised that the camera unit did not have huge resources as it was shared between Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, and it was directed at locations with speed related injury. In theory Mr Crosby could see no reason why a van could not visit. He confirmed that once visited then 'Speed Check Area' signage could be erected with County Council permission. He was the person to contact and once a request was received it would go on a list.

Mr Crosby was advised that speeding was not just an issue on Royston Road. Other roads in the village also had problems. A resident explained that he had problems leaving his driveway on South Street due to anti social driving and behaviour by others. Mr Crosby advised that he had only been asked to look at Royston Road and suggested that the anti social behaviour should be directed to the local PCSO. The Chairman confirmed that as part of the CommunitySpeedwatch checks South Street was found to have about the same speeding rates as Royston Road. Mr Crosby stated that the Police were fairly selective on data collection –the true data was gathered through the laser surveys.

Directions given through Satellite Navigation Systems, more often than not, did not recognise that there was a one way system in the village. Mr Crosby advised that the Police had no authority over these devices and suggested the issue be referred to the Department of Transport.

Mr Crosby was asked for his opinion on Royston Road options if there was an infinite budget. He stated that he would extend the current give way feature, as suggested earlier, and also install some form of speed cushions.

He concluded this section by offering parishioners help and advise. They could make contact through the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Crosby for his report.

### **PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AT SHEEN FARM (Mr Stephen Conrad)**

Mr Conrad, Strategic Asset Manager, reported that he had attended a Parish Council meeting in November 2016 and discussed the County Council proposals at that time. He had been involved with the Sheen Farm site since 2012 and since then Cambridgeshire County Council had received significant financial cuts. Mr Conrad explained how a development company had been set up to build on County Council or other land and this would help generate money for the County Council. There was currently around 2,000 homes in the pipeline.

Mr Conrad had a plan on display which had been submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council in support for Pre-App advice. Following meetings with their officers the plan had changed and there was to be a consultation in the village at the beginning of June on the updated plan. He was open to receiving all comments before the scheme was submitted as a planning application to South Cambridgeshire District Council. The proposal was for 22 units, with a mix of properties, and he was hoping this would include 40% affordable split 70/30 rented and shared equity. He added that allocation would be the responsibility of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Mrs Baker asked about the local connection for affordable housing. It was advised that the District Council policy was now that the first eight of affordable units could fall under the local occupancy rules. The remainder would then be allocated for general needs housing. Mr Conrad reiterated that South Cambridgeshire District Council would be responsible for allocation adding that there would be no stair casing out of the shared equity properties.

Concern was raised by a resident of the cottages opposite asking if there was to be a site entrance during the building phase. Mr Conrad advised that the County Council only had a limited amount of frontage. South Cambridgeshire District Council could place a condition on the planning consent. He added that there might be cost implications of another road but suggested parishioners make this comment in the consultation.

Mr Conrad was asked if there were long term plans for the rest of the field. He replied that the field was significantly larger than that shown on the plan. At some time in the future there may be the opportunity to do something else. At the present time the County Council was in an unusual position due to the lack of a Local Development Plan.

Mr Conrad was asked that if the consultation response was negative whether the County Council would change its mind. Mr Conrad stated that the County Council was a public body and answerable. The investigations and planning to get the proposal to the consultation stage had been very expensive and he could not imagine a planning application not being submitted.

A discussion then took place on Section 106 payments. A question was asked about the infrastructure. Mr Conrad confirmed that all statutory consultees are consulted and service issues investigated. The County Council also liked sustainable drainage and had recently been carrying out infiltration testing.

The timescale from planning approval to starting the building was discussed. Mr Conrad advised that because the County Council were still setting up the development company it was difficult to say. Leading time was around 15 months until building. The County Council had a general desire to start delivering schemes.

Mr Conrad was asked if the proposed new properties would be suitable for disabled residents. He confirmed that the dwellings would be built to a lifetime house standard whereby they would be designed to be adaptable over the years.

Mr Conrad was asked about examples of mixed market and affordable schemes in other areas. He replied that the County Council had not yet carried out the development themselves. He had been involved with affordable housing schemes but not mixed schemes.

Mr Conrad concluded his report by acknowledging that if the Local Development Plan was adopted soon it could over write the proposal. He added that this is the reason why the County Council was moving forward and wanted to see the planning application go to the District Council planning committee in the Summer 2017. Once the Plan was adopted the window for development outside the village framework would be closed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Conrad for his report.

### **MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the last parish meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016, had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were then approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no issues raised.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT 2016/17**

Copies of the income and expenditure account were distributed to the meeting. There were no questions raised.

## **TOWNLANDS CHARITY FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Cllr Sharp reported there had again been a Christmas distribution, with the help of a donation from the Church Charities, to 56 households in the village with residents aged 70 or over. Rent from the land and allotments amounted to £1368.00. The bank balance as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 stood at £360.75.

The Trustees also made a £200 donation to the Mobile Warden Charity and invited village groups to apply for a grant. Four groups responded and they were each awarded a grant.

## **REPORTS**

### **STEEPLE MORDEN SCHOOL (Ms Gabrielle Edwards)**

Ms Edwards reported that the school roll stands at around 200 and should remain so, given the predicted intake for 2017/18. These numbers allowed the school to fund seven classes from Reception to Year Six, with teachers supported by teaching assistant. After 11 years of running a very happy and successful school Mr Richard Lloyd had decided to move on. The Governors were delighted, to have been able to recruit Mrs Tracey How as the new head teacher. Mrs How was an experienced head who was well placed to build on Richard Lloyd's work. The school was inspected in December 2016, for the first time since 2012, and was found to still be a "good" school. This finding was particularly pleasing in the current context where many schools have not been able to retain previously "good" ratings.

The government introduced a new curriculum as of September 2014 and this was successfully implemented by the staff at the school. However, 2015-16 was the first year in which the national end of Key Stage assessments (Years Six, aged 10/11, and Two, aged 6/7) were based on this new curriculum as there was not enough time for the previous years to learn the new one in time for their end-of-key-stage tests (this was the case nationally).

The national picture in the end-of-key-stage tests in May 2016 was very mixed and the school performed very well in many areas. There were, though, areas of weakness and the school had worked very hard with a variety of partners to move past what was believed to be teething problems arising from this being the first year of the new arrangements. Ofsted recognised the work being done to improve.

In summer 2016, 84% of the Key Stage 2 (10/11-year-old) pupils achieved the Expected Level or above (a key government target) in Reading, while 81% achieved this level in Maths and 77% of our pupils achieved it in Spelling and Grammar. In all three subjects the children's performance was substantially above the national average. In Writing, however, 39% of our Key Stage 2 children achieved the Expected Level, which was well below the national average. The reasons for this had been carefully analysed and Ofsted agreed that this percentage did not accurately reflect the children's ability. Significant work had been done to ensure this result will not be repeated.

The school had run projects including an art project displayed in Ely Cathedral, a Year Four Egyptology day, a Year Five visit to the National Space Centre, a Year Six visit to the British Museum; a Year Six Shakespeare workshop, and a visit from a children's author. Year Five have also built and driven an electric car and have made and launched a weather balloon into the stratosphere.

The use of an area of Mrs Audrey Hitch's woodland behind the school as an outdoor classroom had continued to be a great success. In Modern Foreign Languages, the school maintained accreditation for International School Status, recognising the work in international education including letter writing and contact by Skype with schools in Nepal, Australia and Italy. The Ukulele Orchestra and the school choir continued to go very well and performed in church at the school harvest and Easter celebrations.

Sport remained especially important with a number of sports tournaments entered. A huge number of children had represented the school. The school received a lot of praise for the way they behave and publicity for their achievements. The school continued to run a number of clubs after school. The pupils have been very active in fund raising and chose Reach as their UK Charity and to adopt an elephant through the World Wildlife as their International charity for the year.

The Summer Fete and Bonfire Night were well attended. The school thanked the wider community who always attend and give generously.

The Chairman thanked Ms Edwards for her report.

### **BASSINGBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE ( Mr Dushy Chetty)**

Mr Chetty, Village College Governor, reported that they were enjoying a successful year with students experiencing a great many opportunities both in and out of college. A stable teaching staff meant that students were on track to achieve good progress throughout all the year groups.

The current role had 605 students, an increase of 10 students compared to this time last year, and recruitment for next year looks very healthy. The College were expecting to be full in the new year 7 intake in September, and have also been attracting new students in years 7, 8 and 9.

Head teachers around the country have been very busy raising the awareness of the impact of the new National Funding Formula, 8 – 10% real terms cuts are projected for the next three years. The financial situation continued to become more challenging and is a greater focus for schools around the country. The Governors

were waiting to hear how much the funding will be affected by these cuts.

National exam data has recently been published. This showed that students at BVC make significantly more progress than other students nationally and the Pupil Premium students achieve four grades higher (out of ten) than other pupil premium students nationally.

Highlights over the past year include welcoming guest speakers such as Professor Dame Carol Black, principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, and scientists Dr Sara Baker and Dr Jon Simons to talk to our older students whilst also attracting young visitors from feeder primary schools to sports sessions and hands-on science lessons. There had also been a dance show, performing arts concern and fashion show.

Fundraising events had raised several thousand pounds for children's, health and animal charities.

The Village College partnership with the Cambridge Centre for Sixth Form Studies facilitated a large-scale event to celebrate Brain Awareness Week and Maths masterclasses for Year 11. Students had also been invited to join an initiative at the Leys school in Cambridge which will allow them to take part in summer leadership development courses.

Debating and public speaking were continuing to prove popular with our Year 9 team taking part in this year's Up for the Debate competition and the regional heat of the Churchill ESU Public Speaking competition being held here in Bassingbourn.

The PTA would shortly be launching the The Parents and Friends Association in the hope of attracting support from former students a local villagers.

Mr Chetty concluded his report by advising that the Village College was now part of Anglian Learning, a Multi Academy Trust, with Bottisham and Sawston Village Colleges. Netherhall school and sixth form are also part of the trust. This was a very exciting opportunity for BVC which was sure to add to future success.

The Chairman thanked Mr Chetty for his report.

#### **LITLINGTON PRE-SCHOOL (Mrs Lorraine Baker)**

Mrs Baker Chairman of Litlington Pre-School introduced the new Leader, Yvonne Rolfe who took over the position from Rosy Taylor who retired after 27 years. Rosie was now on the committee so still helping out.

Pre-School encourage, support and welcome all at Litlington with fun, exciting and interesting activities combined with learning.

Many fundraising events take place throughout the year to raise the funds needed. The staff and committee work very hard to ensure it was a successful preschool. Pre-school had been very lucky this year to have had some brilliant donations from the Townlands Trust and the 355th Fighter Group which has meant they had been able to buy a new camera, first aid kit, and some new toys.

Pre-school had been selected to receive a grant from Tesco, for the project, 'Litlington Preschool Community Garden' which will be used for the garden outside the hall. Mrs Baker requested that when people were shopping in either of the Royston stores to help by getting the tokens from the checkout and put into the Collection box on the way out. Pre-school would be getting either £4000, £2000, or £1000.

Mrs Baker stated that the committee really appreciate all the support received from the village and feel very lucky to be part of a strong community. Attendees were invited to call into one of the sessions if they would like to find out more.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Baker for her report.

#### **VILLAGE HALL**

A report was not available.

#### **ST CATHERINES CHURCH**

A report attached at the end of the minutes.

#### **LITLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL (Mrs Gwen Biles)**

Mrs Biles reported she was the Chapel Secretary and Mrs Audrey Newman was the Chapel Treasurer. They worked together with a dedicated congregation. There was no monetary contribution from the Church to the Chapel which relied on fund raising and especially the Village Fayre where the Chapel stall was well supported. The Chapel also had a meeting/function room available which could be hired for a small donation. There was a friendly welcome for new people to the Chapel with the Sunday service at 11am followed by refreshments.

#### **MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME (Cllr David Sharp)**

Cllr Sharp advised that the Warden, Lynn, visited the members once a week and telephoned them on the other four days. Bassingbourn had now joined the scheme and the constitution of the Charity had been changed to show this. There was currently around 30 members of the scheme across the four villages. Members of the scheme enjoyed a Christmas lunch at The Jester and also a cream tea at Wimpole.

**EVERGREENS (OVER 60's) Mrs Pam Sharp**

Mrs Sharp reported that the club meet in the village hall once a fortnight and at present had around 30 members. Membership was declining. The club provided a variety of activities with different speakers including representatives from Air Ambulance.

Members of the club attended an annual dinner at the end of October with live entertainment. During the Summer there were outings to the seaside, garden centres, lunch and at least one cream tea somewhere. Mrs Bright and Mrs Wiltshire had provided a tea in their garden to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Queen. This year a trip to Hunstanton was being partly funded by the Townlands Trust and non members would be invited to join the Evergreens for the trip at a reduced cost. Mrs Sharp concluded her report by inviting anyone interested in joining Evergreens to let the committee know.

**LJ's (Ms Cathy Smith)**

LJs plus has been flourishing with numbers increasing this year again. It runs on the first Friday of every month (unless otherwise planned) from 7:30 until 9pm. Recently they had been averaging a very high attendances of between 30 and 50. It continued to be aimed at young people from Year 6 to Year 8 but in reality those who continue to enjoy it carry on attending since there is no other older local youth club available. As such the club had an age range of anywhere between 10 and 15 years old.

There were a couple of core helpers with some additional support but are often tight on help especially because of the large numbers attending now and one or two occasions have had to cancel. LJs is run purely by volunteers and parent/helpers. It's not greatly onerous and they would really like to have another couple of volunteers to be available on some of these occasions to ensure the club can always run. David Close, John Mills, Tina Richardson and Cathy Smith were thanked for helping regularly.

**VILLAGE FAYRE (Ms Cathy Smith)**

Ms Smith reported that she was the current committee Chairman. The 2016 Fayre raised just over £1,000 which went to the Church for their 'toilet' fund. The committee was now starting to prepare for the 8<sup>th</sup> July and the theme this year was Tractors. There were some new committee members but helpers were always needed on the day to man the stalls. The committee was still to decide where the profit from the 2017 Fayre would go.

**RECREATION CENTRE (Cllr Lisa Wiltshire & Mrs Heather Williams)**

Cllr Wiltshire reported that The centre was being used regularly by different clubs – Badminton, Line dancing, Steeple Morden football clubs and LJS Village Youth Club.

Roller skating and a local pigeon club used the hall to meet, weigh and check their pigeons before sending them off.

There were currently two village football teams Saturday and Sunday. The football pitches are used by local village football teams when unable to use their own village pitches.

Steeple Morden have marked a smaller pitch for their youth team which is being used regularly The Rec Centre is becoming very popular with local clubs, being booked nearly every week night. Income from hire £5141.51 Less expenditure £3027.62

The rec centre made a profit of £2113.89

During the year money had to be spent on the shower replacement heaters. One set of showers had to be closed off as they have become unfit for use.

It was agreed that £15,000, including the £3,975.83, carried forward from previous years from the sale of the land to the Woodland Trust, be allocated towards the refurbishment of the Recreation Centre. This will help when applying for grants as it shows the Parish council is committed to the project.

Mrs Heather Williams had continued to work hard to provide the village with an all-purpose facility. She had been working on the idea to create a new extension which will contain new changing rooms, toilets and kitchen.

Working alongside the FA to provide building which will meet all their requirements.

Mrs Williams reported that hopefully the final design for the Recreation Centre extension was nearly ready and once approved grant applications could commence. The profit made last financial year through Recreation Centre bookings would help with the applications. Mrs Williams would be fund raising again through a Bar at the Village Fayre where 80% of the profit raised through the bar would be donated to the refurbishment fund. The other 20% would be retained by the Village Fayre.

**HIGHFIELD FARM REG BIO PROJECT**

The Chairman reported that contractors were being sought to get the project underway. There were a couple more years until the planning consent expired. As more information became available the village would be updated. Ms Smith stated that it seemed likely that work on the Sheen Farm development and this project would be at the same time. Mrs Williams asked if there was to be any community contribution from Reg Bio. The Chairman replied that at this time they would not comment.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**DATE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.55 pm

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(Chairman)

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Date

**REPORTS****ST CATHERINES CHURCH**

St Catherine's is one of six churches within the Shingay group of parishes in the Diocese of Ely. The Parochial Church Council met four times during the past year to discuss how best to carry forward the work of the Church and the maintenance of the building and grounds. The main points of discussion included the provision of toilet and kitchen facilities, ongoing Church repairs, the theft of the church's silver in May 16 and the installation of a roof alarm. Despite the upfront cost of £7000 and the ongoing annual cost of the £460 the PCC reluctantly agreed to fit a roof alarm to the Church roof, in order that we are able to benefit from full insurance in the event of lead theft rather than the £500 cap that is fixed by insurers in the absence of an alarm. The installation was completed last month and apart from a couple of false alarms has been monitoring the roof silently ever since.

This has obviously put a bit of a hole into our savings but the toilet fund is doing well. With projected cost at around 42k we are currently £15000 off our target. At present we are in discussion with the environment agency and the church authorities as to the best way forward for the removal of the waste.

Our fete was held just last month and our thanks goes to all those who supported the fete. It is the largest fundraiser of the year for the church and we are grateful to all those who attend and help out, most particularly this year as the weather was hardly glorious.

The Book Cafe continues, as it has done since 2008, to run on the first Saturday of each month. Proceeds from the Book Cafe go towards the upkeep of the Church and the Ugandan charity Child of Hope. We also support Jimmy's Night shelter with cash donations and food collections from the Harvest festival and Christmas Eve service.

We welcomed this year Ann Bol as a new curate to the group of parishes. Originally from New Zealand she has been a welcome support for the clergy and lay ministers in the group.