

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON TUESDAY 12th
JANUARY 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 1

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were in attendance.

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

There were no interests declared.

3 OPEN FORUM –Comments and observations from Members of the Public**3.1 Royston Road Bridleway**

On behalf of a resident Cllr Bathmaker advised that motor vehicles were using the bridleway and asked that a sign be erected to remind drivers that no motor vehicles were allowed. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate a sign. **-Clerk**

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

Cllr Cathcart referred to the proposal for 25,000 new homes put forward by the Developer Thakeham. He stated that because there had been so many sites submitted from Litlington and Bassingbourn in the Call for Sites he did not want to comment as it might affect his future vote due to predetermination. He added that he would engage with the discussions but would not give a view at this time.

South Cambridgeshire District Council continued to operate during the current lockdown with staff working from home. There was business support available and Cllr Cathcart urged anyone needing support to engage with the District Council officers.

The District Council was looking at its finances and at ways to protect services.

There were some concerns over the vaccination program where residents were having to travel to Stevenage of Letchworth. It would have been better to hold the sessions locally.

4.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

He added to the update on vaccinations advising that he had put a message on the village Facebook page advising anyone over the age of 80 receiving an invite to attend one of the super centres that this was not the only option. People would be contacted about an alternative appointment which could be in their own home.

Cllr Kindersley had been contacted by neighbours of the Sheen Farm site asking for contact details of the new company. He suggested that due to people working from home, and therefore not answering office phones, to send an e-mail.

Details had been sent to the Parish Council, by Hertfordshire County Council, about the A505 junction and Royston Road, The improvement work seemed fairly straight forward although the road would be closed for between five and ten days which would be an inconvenience.

The new town Thakeham development proposal, which would be built across nine parishes, was discussed. Cllr Kindersley advised that an action group to oppose the proposal had been set up and had met with the development company who were intending to make a submission to South Cambridgeshire District Council by Easter 2021.

With regards to East West Rail the campaign continued for a route from Cambridge North.

Cllr Bathmaker asked if the Thakeham developer was pressing to bring a station further south. Cllr Kindersley stated that there was confusion over the relationship. He had put in a Freedom of Information request for sight of correspondence between the two.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cathcart and Cllr Kindersley for their updates.

5 APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

5.1 Parish Council Meeting 8th December 2020

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

As reported at the last meeting Cllr Bathmaker was to obtain some formal quotations.

6.2 Ivy on Recreation Ground Telephone Pole

Cllrs Barlow and Gray had cut out a section of the ivy which would allow the ivy on the post to eventually die back.

6.3 Feedback on Christmas lights/Advent Windows

The Chairman advised that there was very good feedback on the Advent Windows. Councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr Pledger for organising this. The Christmas tree lights were also a lot better this time.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Hertfordshire County Council Highways –Proposal for A505 Baldock Road/Royston Road Junction

This item was discussed under the County Councillor report, Item 4.2.

8 PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE

8.1 Play Area

There were no issues raised.

8.2 Recreation Centre

Due to the current lockdown the Recreation Centre remained closed. Once restrictions were lifted the Management Committee would revisit how the Centre could safely reopen. It was agreed that the recreation ground gate should remain open as people were still being allowed to exercise.

8.2.1 Hedge Cut

Cllr Sharp confirmed that he had asked the contractor to cut the hedge as soon as possible,

9 PROPOSED FEASIBILITY TENDER FOR THE VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION CENTRE

9.1 Update on Land Registry

Cllr Pledger advised that the land registration should be completed within the next two months. The next stage would then be progressed with a consultant.

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 Agreement of Quotation for improved signage at South Street junction (PFHI)

The Local Highway Officer had advised of two costings, £696.07 for the improved signage at the junction and £1327.42 to include improved signage at the entrance to the village on Bassingbourn Road. It was noted that the LHI 2021/22 Feasibility report included this work. After discussion it was agreed that as the Parish Council had agreed

to fund some improvement at the junction the Highway Officer would be asked to proceed with the signage at the junction at a cost of £696.07. **-Clerk**

10.3 Agreement of LHI Feasibility Report 2021/22

In addition to signage the Feasibility Report included physical changes to the junction. If successful the Parish Council would be required to contribute £2,700. Councillors agreed the report. The County Council Panel meeting to discuss the application would be held on the 17th February. Cllr Bathmaker agreed to attend remotely to support the application. **-Cllr Bathmaker**

10.4 Church Street Pavement

At the end of 2020 there had been concerns raised over the surface of the path which had been disturbed by the South Cambridgeshire District Council road sweepers when clearing leaves. The County Local Highway Officer had advised that the damage was to the very thin slurry seal which had been put over the top of the path which was not significant enough to meet the criteria for repair at the current time. The Officer contacted South Cambridgeshire District Council to alert them to the damage they had caused and was told that they were unable to fund a repair.

11 FINANCES

11.1 Payment of Accounts

OPUS ENERGY	
Streetlighting November 2020 (inc £34.88VAT)	£219.91
SLCC	
.Membership 2021	£185.00
VIKING	
Stationery (inc £11.32 VAT) to reclaim £42.29 from other PCs	£67.90
STEWART BULLARD & SON LTD	
Village grasscutting 2020 (inc £451.32 VAT)	£2707.99
Recreation Ground Grasscutting 2020 (inc £308.00VAT)	£1848.00
MRS G BILES	
Litter pick October –December 2020	£234.00
MRS S WALMESLEY	
Clerks salary & expenses October –December 2020	£1046.70
HMRC	
PAYE October –December 2020	£251.60
PJ ROBINSON	
Repair to Rec Centre heaters (inc £12.43VAT)	£74.59
TOTAL	£6635.69

A transfer of a further £5.000 would be made from Barclays to the Unity Bank Account. On this occasion payment would be made by cheque to Stewart Bullard & Son AGREED. Proposed Cllr Williams, Seconded Cllr Jones

11.2 Agreement of Precept/Budget 2021/22

Receipts and Payments to date had been forwarded to Councillors with a suggestion for a draft budget. It was noted that an allocation needed to be made for tree work, play equipment, LHI contributions and legal expenses for the Village Hall/Recreation Centre project. The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was currently a reserve of £15,000 for projects which could be used. After further discussion and on a proposal by Cllr Sharp, seconded by Cllr Pledger, it was agreed to keep the precept amount at £23,000 for this financial year due to the hardship for some residents affected by the pandemic. All Councillors in agreement. The Clerk to forward details of the final budget to Councillors and make the Precept demand from South Cambridgeshire District Council. **-Clerk**

11.3 Agreement of Donation towards Mobile Warden Scheme 2020/21

The budgeted amount was £600.00. Cllr Sharp advised that at the present time there were no members from Litlington using the scheme. He queried whether the Parish Council should continue. A discussion took place on the interest in the scheme and whether the community wanted something different these days. After further discussion it was agreed that the £600 be paid for the current year but the scheme Trustees be asked if there were any plans to review/rejuvenate the service offered for the future. **-Clerk**

12 PLANNING/TREE WORK APPLICATIONS

12.1 Planning Applications

12.1.1 Planning Ref 20/04809/PR04493/ PR103O

Post Office, Silver Street –Prior Approval Notification of proposed change of use from B1(a) (offices) to Class C3 (dwelling houses) to create a 1no 2 bed dwelling (Rajani Sisters)

-Recommendation Support

12.1.2 Planning Ref 20/05303/HFUL

Primrose Cottage, Abington Road –Replacement Conservatory Structure

-Recommendation Support

12.1.3 Planning Ref 20/05276/HFUL

Cockhall Close –Two 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.

13 COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS

13.1 Coronavirus Volunteer Group

Regular updates continued to be sent out from South Cambridgeshire District Council. There was to be a briefing on the 14th January details of which would be circulated to Councillors.

There had been no further news on the Bassingbourn Care and Share Food Bank to which the Parish Council, through the SCDC Covid Fund, donated £100. As far as Councillors were aware the Litlington Care and Share scheme was still active being overseen by The Crown.

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

14.1 Dog Thefts

Cllr Gray reported that there had been a lot of publicity on social media about attacks on people by gangs trying to take their dogs. This had happened locally so he warned dog owners to be on their guard and not walk alone.

14.2 County Broadband

Cllr Bathmaker advised that County Broadband needed more people from the village to sign up so that the project could be progressed. As a parishioner he would be putting an appeal on the village Facebook page. Councillors were aware that they could not endorse County Broadband actions as this was a private company.

14.3 Easter Event

Cllr Pledger suggested that following on from the success of the Christmas Advent windows something to celebrate Easter could be arranged for the village. It was recognised that whatever was organised depended on the Covid restrictions at that time. This would be an agenda item for ideas at the next meeting.

14.4 Christmas Tree

Cllr Barlow and his team were thanked for the regular watering of the Christmas tree.

14.5 Recreation Ground Swings

Cllr Williams suggested that a bag of grit be purchased to go under the big swings on the recreation ground. The area under the swings was currently very muddy.

14.6 Speed Sign Recordings

Cllr Williams expressed her concerns over the excessive speed of some vehicles on South Street recently. She asked that the recordings be analysed. She added that the MVAS was next to be relocated to Church Street and then to Royston Road.

14.7 Replacement Street Lights

It was noted that most of the South Cambridgeshire District Council lighting columns in the village had now been replaced.

15 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

9th February 2021

16 CLOSE OF MEETING

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