

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY ON TUESDAY 13th
APRIL 2021 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT:

Cllr Wiltshire (Chairman), Cllr Sharp, Cllr Williams, Cllr Gray, Cllr Parker, Cllr Bathmaker, Cllr Barlow, Cllr Jones, Cllr Pledger
County Cllr Kindersley (part). District Cllr Cathcart (part)
Members of the public 3

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 declaration made.

3 OPEN FORUM –Comments and observations from Members of the Public**3.1 Advertising Parish Council Meetings**

It was advised that the link to this Parish Council meeting, put on the village facebook page, did not work which had resulted in a delay getting into the meeting. Another parishioner added that the website was also hard to find especially from a mobile phone. The Clerk confirmed that the agenda, which included the zoom link to the meeting, was put on the Parish Council website and notice boards the week before the meeting. Cllr Bathmaker advised that the Parish Council was investigating a replacement website. He was hesitant in using the village Facebook page for matters relating to the Parish Council as the feedback was often negative with comments and complaints. It was agreed that in future the meetings would be advertised on the page.

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

Cllr Cathcart apologised for missing the last meeting.

He reported that the Call for Sites exercise was proceeding reminding the meeting that there was a huge number of sites submitted. It was likely to be late Summer/early Autumn before further information was known. Cllr Cathcart would advise Councillors if anything happened in the meantime. He then advised that some developers were pre-empting the short list with the submission of planning applications.

The District Council general housing repairs contract was up for renewal. At the present time the contract was with an outside contractor. Cllr Cathcart added that he would like to see the contract back within the District Council.

There had been a workshop on Gypsy and Travellers with the aspect of an unauthorised site and the provision of a permanent site covered. Last time sites were investigated by South Cambridgeshire District Council evidence showed that there were sufficient sites within the district. Cllr Cathcart stated that Councillors needed to be aware that this was a possible issue for the future.

Covid cases within the district were quite low at the present time but there was likely to be an increase as restrictions lift. Cllr Pledger added that the vaccinations had now been opened up to 45-50 year age group.

A discussion took place on the previous Gypsy and Traveller consultation where, at the time, a site in Bassingbourn was proposed. Cllr Kindersley advised that South Cambridgeshire had the second largest traveller population in the UK.

4.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

The bus service had been reintroduced as No 17. The route was going to be longer but without a subsidy this was not possible. The service now covered the Royston Gateway

and Cllr Kindersley hoped that this was useful. The bus company had indicated that if there were any suggestions on improvements to the route they would consider them. Cllr Kindersley then referred to the proposed Thakeham development where details were supposed to have been submitted to the District Council by Easter. This had not happened. Anthony Browne MP had asked a question in parliament about new towns and it was advised that the Government were looking at a new town in Cambourne and Cambridge. Cllr Kindersley thought that the Marshalls site might be considered as this was a large area of white land not within the Cambridge green belt. Cllr Gray stated that the Thakeham project was not something which should be ignored.

The LHI bid for improved traffic calming at the junction of South Street/Meeting Lane and Bassingbourn Road had been successful. The Local Highway Officer had also confirmed that the signage for the Meeting Lane/Bassingbourn Road/South Street junction had been ordered.

Cllr Kindersley then referred to the new route put forward by East West rail for consultation. Although this now would not affect Litlington directly other villages close by could suffer. He requested that the Parish Council consider putting forward a formal response to the consultation which Councillors agreed to do and asked for guidance from the pressure groups on wording. Cllr Kindersley confirmed that East West Railroad and Cambridge Approaches were working together and some guidance would be forthcoming. The consultation closed at the end of June 2021.

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

5 APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

5.1 Parish Council Meeting 9th March 2021

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

5.2 Parish Council Planning Meeting 6th April 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 reported that he was working with a couple of developers. The Clerk had also forwarded details of a contact who had offered to help set up a website that could be adapted to suit multiple councils. She would forward a link of a presentation to Cllr Bathmaker.

-Cllr Bathmaker & Clerk

6.2 Repair to Church Wall

This was in hand with the Clerk. She had an action to contact a structural surveyor.

-Clerk

6.3 Update on AGM/Annual Parish Meetings after 6th May 2021

A letter had been sent out by the Government confirming that remote meetings would not be allowed after the 6th May. Due to Covid restrictions face to face meetings would not yet be allowed inside.

Councillors agreed to hold a short remote AGM on the 4th May 2021 starting at 7,45pm. They also agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would go ahead remotely on Tuesday 27th April starting at 7pm. The Clerk to invite representatives from village clubs and organisations via the zoom link.

-Clerk

7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 SCDC Request for Parish Council view on sale of land Abington Road

The owner of 2 Abington Road had approached South Cambridgeshire District Council to see if she could purchase the area of land next to her property. The officers were carrying out a consultation with relevant parties and asked for the Parish Council comments.

Concern was expressed over visibility if the land was in future used for vehicle parking. Councillors agreed that they wanted the land to remain in South Cambridgeshire District Council ownership and left as a grassed area. Clerk to respond to the consultation.

-Clerk

8 PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE

8.1 Play Area

8.1.1 Damage to zip wire –quotation for repair

It was noted that the equipment had rusted and eroded away. The Clerk was to get some more photographs and forward to play equipment contractors for a quotation on the repair which was likely to be expensive.

-Clerk

8.1.2 Proposal for additional play equipment

Cllr Pledger was investigating options. She had received an offer of help from a resident which she would follow up.

-Cllr Pledger

8.2 Recreation Centre

8.2.1 Reopening of building –Update from Recreation Centre Management Committee

The Management Committee had met remotely and discussed the first stage of the restrictions lifted which allowed organised sport for children to resume. For the time being the Centre would only be used for children's dance classes. Cllr Williams reported a fault with the electric supply to one socket. Someone was plugging in equipment which fused the supply. The Booking Secretary had been asked to request that any user that found the supply fused, following the use of the socket, to let her know so that further investigations could take place.

Cllr Williams confirmed that the cleaning contractor had resumed the cleaning of the hall following use in addition to the cleaning by the users.

8.3 Recreation Ground

The junior football teams had resumed their sessions on the recreation ground.

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. She had received the update from the Solicitor earlier in the day.

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 2021/22 –Result of Planning Meeting

As advised by Cllr Kindersley the LHI bid had been successful.

10.3 PFHI Update on improved signage South Street/Meeting Lane/Bassingbourn Road Junction

Again as advised by Cllr Kindersley the signage had been ordered by the Local Highway Officer but there was no update available on when it would be installed.

10.4 Traffic Flow Survey Through Village

Cllr Bathmaker urged Councillors to consider the next stage of traffic calming through the village. Councillors were reminded that they were going to carry out a survey of traffic prior to the first Covid restrictions. Cllr Pledger had obtained a cost for a professional survey which, at the time, Councillors did not want to progress.

It was acknowledged that any request for traffic calming needed evidence through data. Cllrs Pledger and Bathmaker proposed that the professional quotation be revisited as this would be a thorough survey which could not be carried out by Councillors. The Clerk would circulate the quotation again so that the way forward could be agreed at the next meeting.

-Clerk

A discussion then took place on the data provided by the MVAS. The sign would be continue to be moved around the village to gather information.

10.5 MVAS Replacement Batteries

The Clerk advised that the cost for two new batteries would be £154.80 including £25.80 VAT. Councillors agreed that the two replacement batteries be purchased. Clerk to arrange.

-Clerk

11 Payment of Accounts

OPUS ENERGY Street lighting energy charge January 2021 (inc £33.98VAT)	£213.93
AMAZON PAYMENTS LTD Shovels and spades (inc £10.68VAT) £64.09 Cleaning Products for Rec Centre (inc £5.66 VAT) £46.81	£110.90
MRS L WILLIAMS Cleaning products for Rec Centre	£35.47
TOTAL	£360.30
AGREED BETWEEN MEETINGS TEES Solicitor fee for Land Registry (inc £80.00 VAT)	£484.00

Agreed. PROPOSED Cllr Gray SECONDED Cllr Sharp

12 PLANNING/TREE WORK APPLICATIONS

12.1 Planning Applications

12.1.1 Planning Ref 21/00913/LBC

The Barn, South Street –Installation of conservation roof lights and associated works

Recommendation -Support

12.2 Planning Ref 21/00145/S73

Sheen Farm, Royston Road –Confirmation of affordable/market housing

The Planning Officer had confirmed the mix of dwellings. Cllr Gray had pointed out where in the documentation it referred to shared ownership. It was noted that work had started on the site.

12.3 Tree Work

Cllr Barlow advised that there was nothing further to report at this time.

13 COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS

13.1 Coronavirus Volunteer Group

Regular updates continued to be sent out from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

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

14.1 South Cambs Magazine

Cllr Sharp queried whether other Councillors had received the paper copy of the publication as it had not been delivered to his house. Other Councillors confirmed that they had received in the past week or so.

14.2 Motorbike Signage

Cllr Barlow reported the signage missing on the footpaths, and permissive path, around Ashwell Stret. Cllr Jones had some spare signs and would work with Cllr Barlow reinstating the signs. If more signs were needed the Clerk would arrange the purchase.

-Cllrs Barlow & Jones

14.3 Platinum Jubilee 2022

Cllr Pledger reminded Councillors of the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and suggested that a tree be planted in the village to commemorate the event. It was suggested that the tree could be planted on the village green. This would be an agenda item for discussion at the June Parish Council meeting. In the meantime Cllr Barlow agreed to investigate suitable varieties of trees.

-Cllr Barlow

14.4 Recreation Ground Mound

Cllr Sharp had some soil which he agreed to deliver at the mound the following weekend. The spades and shovels had been purchased for the youngsters to use.

-Cllr Sharp

15 DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

4th May 2021 (AGM) Annual Parish Meeting 27th April 2021

16 CLOSE OF MEETING

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.57 pm