

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

PRESENT: Cllr Bathmaker (Chairman), Cllr Williams, Cllr Pipe, Cllr Sharp, Cllr Jones (PC meeting), Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Barlow, Cllr McClelland  
District Cllr McCraith, County Cllr Dent  
Members of the Public -4

**7.15 pm PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING**

**01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Pledger, Cllr Jones and District Cllr Cathcart

**02. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

The Chairman and Cllr McClelland declared a non pecuniary interest under Item 6.2 as friends of the applicant.

**03. OPEN FORUM**

There were no issues raised.

**04. AFFORDABLE HOUSING –SHEEN FARM**

The Clerk advised that she had received an e-mail from Julie Fletcher, South Cambridgeshire District Council Head of Housing Strategy, confirming that she would support a local connection being attached to the scheme proposed for Sheen Farm (8 affordable and 10 market houses). Ms Fletcher added that the affordable units would remain in perpetuity with priority given to local residents. In addition any shared ownership units would be restricted to stair casing 80% so that they remained in perpetuity also.

Cllr Sharp reported that he had spoken to Mr Parker, the owner of the land by Chapel Close, and he had shown an interest in developing the land to include affordable housing with market housing. Councillors were advised that when he was approached in the past about affordable housing he had stated at the time that he would only consider this if there were some market houses in the scheme. Cllr Pipe reminded Councillors that the scheme would need to be for over 10 properties before the affordable element was triggered. The number would need to be confirmed with South Cambridgeshire District Council. Councillors agreed that this site would be more central to the village and they would be in support providing there were affordable dwellings. Cllr Sharp would advise Mr Parker and then the onus would be on him to investigate as the landowner.

*-Cllr Sharp*

**05. HIGHFIELD FARM –SUGGESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

5.1 Top three suggestions from Parish Plan

5.2 Replacement play area fence

5.3 Installation of facilities at St Catherines Church

5.4 Refurbishment of Village Hall Kitchen

The Chairman advised that Mr Collins, Reg Bio, had stated that he would attend this meeting. In his last update Mr Collins advised that they were trying to appoint a main contractor. The Chairman would try and get a meeting arranged to discuss the progress.

*-Cllr  
Bathmaker*

**06. TO CONSIDER PLANNING/TREE APPLICATIONS**

6.1 Planning Ref S/1933/16/FL

Mossbury Farm –Proposed Garage, new staircase for access to upper space of existing two storey barn –Additional information regarding materials and details of staircase and roof light  
(Mr & Mrs Franks)

***Recommendation –Support***

6.2 Planning Ref S/2441/16/FL

5 Anvil Avenue –Two storey side extension and associated internal alterations

***Recommendation –Support***

## 7.30 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### 01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Pledger, District Cllr Cathcart

### 02. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no interests declared.

### 03. OPEN FORUM

**Bassingbourn Road Speed Limit** –It was suggested that the 30mph speed limit should be extended as far as possible along Bassingbourn Road. The flashing sign was too close to the village to have any impact on driver speeds. Councillors were advised that most drivers did slow down for cyclists and horses but not all.

The Chairman referred to the speed cushions on Bassingbourn Road at the entrance to the village. The Parish Council were currently working on collecting data to support their request for a reduction in speed. A traffic survey had been carried out which showed that there was a problem. Bassingbourn Road was very hard to police as it currently had a 60mph limit. Cllr Pledger was in the process of overseeing a petition and this had been advertised on the village social media website and the local press.

**Recreation Ground Hedge** –The hedge facing South Street had a lot of overgrowing briars hanging from it which were a hazard to cyclists.

Cllr Sharp stated that the weather during the Summer had caused the hedge to grow extensively. A request had been made by the footballers for the hedge to be cut back. This would be discussed under Item 8.1.4.

**Gutters and Gullies** –These were full with weeds growing through them. Something needed to be done to avoid flooding once the rain came.

Cllr Pipe reminded Cllrs that a working party had carried out some work on grips on the side of the road going towards Steeple Morden. They looked quite full again. Cllr Barlow advised that he had cut some out during the Summer which he felt needed attention. Cllr Dent explained the position regarding the County Council and how they were no longer proactive. They would not react until there was a flooding issue. It was now down to the community to organise work such as this themselves. The Clerk advised that there was a publication ‘Community Highways Volunteering Scheme Information Pack’ which had been circulated. It was agreed that a request for a working party would be put in the Parish Post. -Cllrs

**Paths and verges** – The pavements on Church Street needed attention. There was also concern over the verge by Brook Farm on Bassingbourn Road which had been churned up. The resident advised that he had contacted the water company, that had caused some of the problem while pipe laying, and they had agreed to reinstate the verges. This had not happened.

**Dog Fouling** –The fouling was especially bad from Cockhall Lane along the farm path to the Clunch Pit. Some people picked up using plastic bags and either hung them from the shrubbery or left them on the path.

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had addressed the dog fouling problem in the village by using fluorescent spray paint. He suggested that something could be put in the Parish Post again reminding residents about clearing up after their dogs. Cllr Wiltshire stated that there were signs around the village but people could not be made to pick up. She offered a can of spray paint for the resident to use.

#### 3.1 Recreation Centre/Village Hall Improvements

There was no further update.

#### 3.2 Highway Issues

##### 3.2.1 Speed of Traffic Through Village

##### 3.2.2 Bassingbourn Road –Gathering of information for MHI Application

An update on this had been provided under Open Forum.

##### 3.2.3 Royston Road –Update on Police Covert Radar Survey and CCC Traffic Survey

The Chairman advised that the results of the Covert survey had been received and it was identified that there was a speeding problem. The police officer, that carried out the survey, advised that the lighting on Royston Road was more like footway lighting and not carriageway lighting. If this was the case then, in the absence of 30mph repeater signs, the 30mph speed restriction was not enforceable. There was currently a seven day survey being carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Cllr McClelland asked if the police advised on pedestrian footpaths when carrying out these surveys. She was particularly concerned about the crossing of Royston Road and the footpath along Bassingbourn Road to the Primary and Secondary schools. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had in the past had a number of discussions with County Officers about the crossing point on Royston Road which they felt was adequate as was Bassingbourn Road. After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a site meeting with the Highway Officer, through County Councillor Dent, to discuss these issues.

-Clerk

#### 04. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

##### 4.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016

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

#### 05. MATTERS ARISING

##### 5.1 Highway Issues

These were discussed under Item 3.

##### 5.2 Speedwatch signs and Equipment

The Speedwatch equipment had now been purchased but it came without any Speedwatch signage or tabards. In order to use the equipment the Police pool equipment had to be hired. The Speedwatch teams were trying to find a supplier.

A discussion took place on the Speedwatch signage to show that the scheme was operational in the village. In the past the County Council had advised that they had insufficient data sets for signs to be allowed. The Clerk would follow this up.

-Clerk

It was suggested that the 30mph adhesive signs for litter bins could help remind people of the speed limits. The Clerk would find out where a stock of these, and the cost, could be found.

-Clerk

##### 5.3 Update on Parish Plan

Cllr Pledger had extracted the data to compile an action plan. A working group would be set up to go through the points, see which were relevant to which authority, and report back to the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that she had put copies of the Plan in the village shop.

-Working Group

##### 5.4 Update on Clunch Pit Activity and Signage

Cllr Sharp advised that Mr Parker was having some difficulties with DEFRA relating to hedging and fencing which he was trying to resolve. Cllr Jones reminded Councillors that at the last meeting he had suggested sending a letter to the local press, and updating the leaflet for the village, thanking the motorbike riders for not using the Clunch Pit. He had shared this with the Trail Riders Association who advised him not to do this. They had been visiting the site and thought that by bringing the Clunch Pit to people's attention it would generate interest again.

##### 5.5 Parking on Bassingbourn Road

There was no further update.

##### 5.6 Request for Horse Signage on Bassingbourn Road

Cllr Pledger was following up the requirement for a safety audit, before signage was agreed, with the County Council officers.

-Cllr Pledger

##### 5.7 Appeal for Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers

The Chairman would arrange for an appeal to go into the Parish Post.

-Cllr Bathmaker

##### 5.8 Meeting Lane/ Malting Lane Path

Residents of the neighbouring property had over the past week arranged for their fence to be replaced and in the process cleared all the shrubbery and brambles from their side of the path. The area was now completely clear. It was noted that there was still one of the original fence posts sticking out of the ground but it was believed that once everyone was happy with the new fence it could be removed. Cllr Pipe stated that the maintenance of this path had been an ongoing issue for a number of years. Cllr Barlow suggested that some foliage be planted to take away the bareness and agreed to arrange for some grass seed and wild flower seed to be put down.

-Cllr Barlow

#### 06. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received was discussed under agenda items.

#### 07. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

##### 7.1 County Council

Cllr Dent had circulated a report. He advised that there was still not a decision on the future of Bassingbourn Barracks. A planning application had been successful for access to the ski club via Guise Lane but negotiations still had to take place with the DIO. He added that planning permission

had to be in place before discussions could be started.

Cllr Dent then advised that the County Council was starting to run more efficiently. They were looking at £1.2 Billion of assets to try and bring money back into the Council. One of the projects was related to Wisbech Castle where use as an alternative venue was being investigated.

Cllr Dent stated that at the end of his report there were details of a Parish Council conference to be held in St Ives in November 2016. Details had been circulated to Councillors.

#### 7.2 District Council

Cllr McCraith reported that there was going to be a debate on the Devolution proposal at the October meeting but that had been deferred until November. There were a lot of worries relating to the proposals and understood that East Cambridgeshire were against it.

South Cambridgeshire District Council was going to lend a lot of money towards an ice skating rink on Newmarket Road in Cambridge. He confirmed that it was a private company steering the project but it should generate income for the Council.

The Boundary Commission had decided to slice off part of south Cambridgeshire into North Hertfordshire as part of the Parliamentary Constituency review. Cllr Mc McCraith stated that was how the proposal stood at the present time.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Dent and Cllr McCraith for their reports.

### **08. PLAY AREA /RECREATION GROUND/CENTRE**

#### 8.1 Play Area

##### 8.1.1 Play Area Weekly Inspection Update

The play equipment was being inspected.

##### 8.1.2 Play Area Fence

This was being considered as a project to submit for Bio Reg funding.

##### 8.1.3 Play Area Hedge

Cllr Williams advised that she had obtained further quotations but, as she was not aware of the fence replacement at the time, these included the footpath. Councillors agreed that the contractors would be asked for further quotations to cut back the hedge and the cheapest quote, up to a maximum cost of £200, be agreed and the contractor asked to proceed with the work.

*-Cllr Williams*

##### 8.1.4 Request from Footballers for Recreation Ground Hedge Cut

This had been discussed under Open Forum. Cllr Sharp agreed to speak to the contractor and ask for an interim cut now with a full cut of the hedge before the Spring.

*-Cllr Sharp*

#### 8.2 Recreation Centre Issues

##### 8.2.1 Planning Application for proposed extension to Centre

There was no further update for this meeting.

##### 8.2.2 Agreement of Representative for Recreation Centre Management Committee

The Clerk advised that Mrs Baker, who had resigned from the Parish Council, was a Parish Council representative on the Recreation Centre Management Committee. As she had now resigned a replacement was needed. It was agreed that Cllr Williams, who was currently served on the committee as a parishioner, would take Mrs Baker's place.

### **9. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION/TREE 2016**

The Clerk advised how Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Council installed their Christmas tree annually and the plan for this year was to dig a permanent hole and keep it covered over for the remainder of the year. Cllr Sharp offered to speak to the grasscutting contractors, if the Parish Council wanted to follow this method, to see if they would dig a hole on the village green. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to a member of the Pre-School committee about the children making some decorations for the tree which was thought to be a good idea. She suggested that if the tree was erected for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December the community could be invited to the green for the lighting of the tree. Cllr McClelland advised that she was told that there would be better lights available this year and agreed to get a price. The Clerk had also mentioned her idea to a member of the Church who suggested that the Choir could sing some carols. There was also the annual visit by the Royston Round Table, and their Father Christmas, which could be timed to coincide. Councillors agreed that further investigations be made.

*Cllrs & Clerk*

### **10. FINANCES**

#### 11.1 Payment of Accounts

It was noted that invoices were still awaited for the 2015 village Christmas tree.

MRS L WILLIAMS

Reimbursement for Rec Centre cleaning materials

£ 8.14

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL	
Contribution towards purchase of Speedwatch kit	£600.00
MRS S WALMESLEY	
Clerks Salary & Expenses 1/7/16 -30/9/16	£1022.60
HMRC	
PAYE 1/7/16-30/9/16	£139.20
STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL	
Contribution towards Speedwatch accessories	£ 12.50
EAST OF ENGLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE	
Donation towards First Responder Scheme (agreed at September PC meeting)	£ 300.00
TOTAL	£2617.44

PROPOSED Cllr Jones SECONDED Cllr McClelland

10.2 Conclusion of External Audit 2015/16

The External Audit had been completed with the comment that Box 9 of Section 1 had been ticked as 'Yes' instead of 'N/A'. This referred to the Parish Council's role in relation to Charity Trustees. The Annual Return had been put on the village notice board.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION**

11.1 Parish Post

Cllr McClelland advised that the copy date for the next edition of the Parish Post was the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016. This would then give enough time for the printing so that it could be distributed in early November with the Prospect.

*-Cllrs*

11.2 Speedwatch Request

Cllr Williams asked if a Speedwatch check could be carried out on Church Street towards the Church. She had recently witnessed an incident with a speeding vehicle. The Chairman stated that this location was not usually requested but agreed to arrange.

*-Cllr  
Bathmaker*

11.3 Church Street Trees

Cllr Wiltshire advised that some trees around the old Bakery building were a cause for concern and looked as if they needed attention. The Chairman agreed to find out who the owner was.

*-Cllr  
Bathmaker*

11.4 127 Bus

There had been a few reports on the village social media site that the bus was often speeding through the village. Cllr Dent asked for the details to be forwarded to him and he would then advise of the best point of contact.

*-Clerk*

**12. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

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

Chairman

Date