

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

PRESENT: Cllr Pipe (Chairman), Cllr Bathmaker, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Baker, Cllr Jones, Cllr Sharp, Cllr McClelland  
District Cllr Cathcart, District Cllr McCraith, County Cllr Dent  
Members of the Public -7

**7.15 pm PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING**

**01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Pledger

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

There were no declarations made.

**03. OPEN FORUM**

3.1 Planning Application S/0400/15/FL –Highfield Farm

The chairman explained the application for Highfield Farm advising that it was a unit for producing electricity fuelled by bio oil which is made from processed cooking oil. Some written representation against the application had been received and circulated to Councillors.

Concerns were raised by a member of the public over the monitoring of the operational time, which the application sets at a maximum of 600 hours a year, 3 hours per day 6 days a week between the hours of 7-00am and 11-00 pm, and whether the generator would run for more than that length of time. It was stated that the National Grid operations centre would be responsible for its use and they would be working to a contract. The Chairman added that any planning consent approved was given with a set of conditions which must be complied with.

It was advised that there were a number of inconsistencies in the application and the associated documents.

A representation was read to the meeting supporting concerns raised by residents in attendance at the meeting and also supporting the three written representations.

Cllr Jones stated that he had looked at the application and the only issue he believed was relevant to residents of Litlington was any possibility air pollution. One of the representations included observations made by a chemist which would need careful consideration by the South Cambs Planning Department particularly as there would have to be official monitoring to ensure that EU and UK Air Quality Regulations were observed.

The Parish Council were criticised for the lack of communication with parishioners over this application. The Clerk advised that it had been received and dealt with in the same way as any other planning application for Councillors to comment on. Parishioners in attendance stated that the whole village should be made aware of the application, and invited to comment, before the Parish Council made their recommendation. -Clerk

Councillors then agreed that the District Council Planning Officers would be asked for an extension to the consultation period of one month. This would give time for a village meeting to be held. Once this was agreed a meeting would be advertised and the developers invited to attend the meeting to answer questions. Clerk to arrange.

**04. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

4.1 S/0400/15/FL

Highfield House, Highfield Farm, Royston Road –Installation of bio-fuelled power generation and refurbishment of existing barn and new sub-station (REG Bio-Power)

The application was discussed with residents under Item 3.1 where it was agreed that an extension to the consultation period would be requested and a village meeting held.

**05. OTHER**

5.1 S/2649/14/FL

Mr T Kerchiss –The Old Bakery –Erection of a house and garage  
Revised plans for information only had been received.

### 5.2 S/2761/14/FL

The Horse and Groom site, Baldock Road –Demolition of existing Horse and Groom building and erection of two detached (1 x 4 and 1 x 5 bed) dwellings with associated parking and amenity land (Mr L Connors)

The District Council had refused the application. Councillors expressed their concerns and asked what development the District Council would allow on the site. The Chairman had contacted the planning department for an explanation but had not received a response. District Cllrs Cathcart and McCraith stated that they were surprised that the application had not been referred to the planning committee as both Litlington and Steeple Morden had recommended approval. It was agreed that the District Councillors would speak to the planning officers and ask why the application was not referred to the planning committee and what they considered was acceptable for the site.

*-Cllrs  
Cathcart &  
McCraith*

## **7.30 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Pledger

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

There were no interests declared.

### **03. OPEN FORUM**

#### 3.2 Recreation Centre

Parishioner, Heather Williams, had carried out a lot of research since the last meeting into the proposals to extend the Centre. She circulated the information to Councillors. She advised that if the Parish Council agreed to go ahead with the proposals she was happy to project manage. She also wanted an indication that it would be supported so that she could start fund raising.

Mrs Williams discussed her findings and was asked questions about financing. She had investigated a public works loan and advised Councillors of how this worked. Mrs Williams confirmed that a lot of residents she had spoken to would be agreeable to an increase in their precept to fund the improvements. A discussion took place on the village hall and recreation centre and the need for the two buildings. Mrs Williams stated that she was only interested in improving the recreation centre and believed that the village hall would still be a viable asset alongside. It was suggested that Parish Councils who had recently carried out similar projects be contacted to see how their refurbishment costs were met and how the improvements had changed their income.

It was suggested that this be an agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> May so that resident and users of the facility could be given the opportunity to support the project. This was agreed. The Chairman thanked Mrs Williams for all the work and research she had put into the proposals to date. This was echoed by other Councillors.

### **04. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

#### 4.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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

### **04. MATTERS ARISING**

#### 5.1 Bassingbourn Road Parking

The Highway officer had advised that following a request from the District Council officer, Andrew Cole, the request to mark parking bays had been declined. If parking bays were facilitated they would need to be under controlled/restricted parking conditions. Councillors agreed that they had tried as hard as possible to get a resolution to the parking problems and this should now be removed from the agenda for future meetings.

#### 5.2 Request for a bus shelter on Church Street

Cllr Jones had spoken to the residents near to the proposed new position of a shelter and they had been against the structure being outside their property. It was agreed not to continue to pursue this request.

#### 5.3 Highway Issues

##### 5.3.1 South Street/Meeting Lane Junction/Local Highway improvements Initiative 2014/15

The Chairman advised that he had now received a best estimate for the scheme which amounted to £10,900.54p better than expected. The County officers were going to arrange to meet the residents who had objected to the proposals to discuss a resolution.

### 5.3.2 Speedwatch Signs

Cllr Bathmaker confirmed that he had forwarded the details of the Speedwatch sessions to the County Council officer, Peter Taylor, but had heard nothing further. The Clerk was asked to follow up. -Clerk

### 5.3.3 Village Cage Green –proposed wooden posts

County Highways had advised that the solid oak bollards were not kept in stock and suggested that they be purchased directly from a builders merchants. Highways could supply the parish with black and white reflector posts as an alternative.

Councillors agreed that oak posts would look a lot better. The Clerk was asked to arrange the purchase of 5 x 5ft posts. -Clerk

### 5.3.4 Drainage –Malting Lane/South Street

It was advised that the drains had been cleaned by residents. Cllr Dent advised that the County Council no longer had teams of people cleaning them and the only time they would respond was to a flood issue.

### 5.4 Update on Parish Plan

Cllr Jones stated that he would try and circulate some details over the weekend. There was a lot of data collected and he had a problem as the person helping to analyse the questionnaires had moved on. The Chairman suggested that it would be most helpful if the information relating to the village hall and recreation centre could be pulled out.

### 5.5 McDonalds Litter

The Clerk was still trying to find out who she should contact.

#### 5.5.1 Request for a litter bin by level crossing

This had been requested at the last meeting. It was noted that if a litter bin was put there it was unlikely that the District Council refuse collectors would empty the bin. It was suggested that a sign might be a better option asking people not to leave their litter. This was agreed. The wording would be arranged out of the meeting. Clerk to arrange. -Clerk

### 5.6 Anvil Avenue Parking

Cllr Bathmaker advised that the school had arranged for a note in the school newsletter asking drivers to drop their children at the village hall to pick up the bus. He added that since then there had been the school Easter holiday and better weather so the problem had decreased. It was suggested that the school be asked to remind parents again when the new term started in September 2015.

### 5.7 Next Edition of Parish Post

Copy for the Post was to be sent to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Cllr Bathmaker would liaise with the Prospect deliverers so that the publications could go out together at the beginning of May 2015. -Cllr  
Bathmaker

## **06. CORRESPONDENCE**

### 6.1 Local Government Transparency Code

The Code had been copied to Councillors. The Clerk advised that modifications would need to be made to the village website to accommodate the additional information. She would liaise with Cllr Pledger. -Clerk

### 6.2 Level Crossing Closure -12<sup>th</sup> July 2015

A communication had been received from Centurion Traffic Management advising that the level crossing would be closed between 01.25 and 06.25.

## **07. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

### 7.1 County Council

Cllr Dent reported that things were currently very quiet. Cambridgeshire County Council had ratified their budget. He confirmed that he had followed up on some Bassingbourn Road issues.

### 7.2 District Council

Cllr Cathcart advised that the Local Plan was still being examined by the Inspector who had a couple more issues to look at regarding the fringes of Cambridge.

There was some concern over the City Deal and how it may impact on local villages. There was a lot of money involved which needed to be spent wisely. Councillors were reminded that there were three councils responsible for making the decisions who were Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Cllr Cathcart advised that he had received a lot of support from the recent consultation for the use of Article 4 Directions, especially in support of retaining The Hoops in Bassingbourn and The Crown in Litlington. This proved that there was still a need for a pub in the villages. The results from the consultation would now be put before the District Council Planning Committee. The District Council were going to run a pubs event and it was suggested that The Crown Landlady may be interested. Cllr Bathmaker would forward details on to her. -Cllr  
Bathmaker

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors for their update.

## 08. PLAY AREA

### 8.1 Play Area Weekly Inspection Update

Cllr Williams confirmed that the inspections were regularly taking place. She had reported concerns over the zip wire which believed had been vandalised. Cllr Bathmaker confirmed that it was safe to use but needed tightening which the Chairman would arrange.

-Cllr Pipe

Cllr Williams asked that the edges of the recreation ground be rolled when the weather was suitable. She believed that rabbits were causing this as it was very uneven. It was agreed that the contractor, Bullards, be asked to roll.

-Cllr Williams

### 8.2 Proposal to upgrade/refurbish Recreation Centre

This was discussed under Item 3.1.

### 8.3 Request from Recreation Centre Management Committee for new tables

It was agreed that the Clerk order 12 new tables and 12 new chairs. An application for a Community Chest grant would also be made.

-Clerk

## 09. CLUNCH PIT LAND

Cllr Jones and Cllr Sharp had met with Mr Parker who had some maps which contradicted the District Council ownership. The District Council officer, Claire Sprout, was liaising directly with Mr Parker over this. Cllr Jones added that he had contacted the Environmental Health officer regarding the noise from the motorbikes using the clunch pit. He gave the best times for the officer to visit and was awaiting a response.

-Clerk

Cllr Sharp suggested some notices be erected stating 'no motorbikes'. These were available from suppliers and did not need to be custom made. It was agreed that two signs, one for the entrance from Cockhall Lane and one from Ashwell Stret, be purchased. Clerk to arrange.

## 10. FINANCES

### 10.1 Payment of Accounts

R G OLIVER & SON

Recreation Ground hedge cut (Inc. £28.90VAT) £173.40

MRS S WALMESLEY

Clerks expenses January –March 2015 £ 51.55

TOTAL £224.95

PROPOSED Cllr Wiltshire SECONDED Cllr Williams

The Clerk advised that she had not received the invoice for the recreation centre cleaning. Councillors agreed that when it was available it could be paid before the next meeting.

## 11. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015 –AGREEMENT OF AGENDA

The draft agenda for the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 was discussed. It was agreed that the topics for discussion be the Recreation Centre proposals, a Speedwatch update and Dog Fouling. The Clerk would forward the agenda to the Parish Post editor for inclusion.

-Cllr Sharp  
& Clerk

Cllr Sharp advised that dog fouling and the control of dogs was still a big problem and would write an item for the newsletter.

## 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION

### 12.1 Parking by the brook in Bassingbourn

Cllr Williams expressed her concern over the vehicles from Brook Farm parking by the footpath to Mill Lane. Cllr Dent confirmed that County Highways were aware and monitoring.

### 12.2 Gatley End, Steeple Morden

Cllr Williams had reported the poor road surface in the past. Cllr Dent confirmed that now a new financial year had started the work was on the County list.

### 12.3 Bassingbourn Road Path Spray

The Chairman asked the Clerk to remind County Highways that they had promised to spray the footpath on Bassingbourn Road between the two villages.

-Clerk

### 12.4 Malting Lane/Meeting Lane path

It was advised that the path was beginning to become overgrown. The Clerk to remind the contractor that this path should be included in the grasscutting schedule this year.

-Clerk

## 13. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Chairman

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Date