

FENSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full Parish Council

Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School, Fenstanton

Thursday 12 April 2018 @ 19.30 pm

Present: Cllr Kent – Chairman
Cllr Dartford
Cllr Lee
Cllr Henderson
Cllr Pask
Cllr Pryke
Cllr Saunderson
Cllr West
Cllr White

In Attendance: Annette Eggett – clerk
3 members of the public

The Chairman, Cllr Kent, welcomed all present including members of the public.

17.149 Public Consultation

The meeting was closed at 19.30 for the public consultation to take place

Potholes/flood water

Parishioners with ongoing problems from flooding and potholes outside their front doors reported that the problems were now really serious. A meeting had taken place in October 2017 about the drains to be cleared out but nothing has been done and what was a reasonably small problem then was now a big problem.

Cllr Kent had met up with them earlier in week and reassured the parishioners they had the full support of the Parish Council. He agreed the gully pipes needed clearing out. Cllr Mead had also been to inspect the problem, taken pictures and send these to CCC. The more people that complained, the better, he confirmed. Although it was sometimes difficult it was important to get CCC these when the problem was happening. Cllr Mead had since spoken to Cllr Bates and had also made direct with the local flood agency. He stated this was not an issue for Anglian Water as it was a road problem. All agencies involved needed to be drawn together. The owner of the problematic pipes felt he should remove them unless CCC wanted to work on them. Cllr Bates had drafted a note to CCC Highways representative to ask them to attend as quickly as possible. The parishioners would be informed of the date of any meeting so they could attend and clarify where all the pipes were.

Cllr Kent acknowledged that access to front doors and safety from a disability / mobility point of view was very serious. Cllr Mead agreed that any water covering up potholes made the situation even more dangerous. He urged everyone to stay focused on contact with CCC as they were the only ones with the power to do anything (being the local flood authority). No work could be undertaken to potholes whilst the area was flooded. A parishioner confirmed that whilst the potholes had been marked they had never been filled.

Flooded field

Anglian Water would attend to discuss this issue. A parishioner pointed out that the ditch in question was now higher than the outlet pipes.

Cllr White reminded members that there were other areas of the village which flooded which all needed attention.

(Cllr Saunderson joined the meeting)

The meeting was reopened at 19.41.

17.150 Apologies for Absence

These had been received from Cllr Ian Bates.

17.151 Declarations of Interest – none.

17.152 To Approve the Minutes of 8 March 2018 already circulated.

These were approved with the following amendments:

- 17.141.3 Reference should be made to a public footpath not a bridleway;
- 17.148,4 This should read that HDC do not want to take over parking control;
- 17,148,5 Cllr Saunderson's name to be spelt correctly; minute should read that at the Road Safety Committee meeting it was noticed that the accident rate was rising and that County Council was aware of this;
- 17.148,7 The construction vehicles in the village were Murphy vehicles and the construction workers were staying within the village.

Proposed: Cllr Henderson; Seconded Cllr Pryke. All in favour.

17.153 Matters Arising from Minutes

These had been covered in the agenda however the following further points were made:

Huntingdon Local Plan 2036 (17.142.1)

Cllr Lee reiterated her concerns about the Local Plan. Items which should not be in or had been removed seemed to have reappeared. Cllr Dartford agreed that it seemed things that had been taken out of the old plan had reappeared in the new one without consultation.

Cllr Mead agreed that some elements were vague but confirmed that 'Vindis' was now completely deleted. Cllr Dartford pointed out that there was a garage in the plan but it was in London Road. Cllr Mead reminded members that comments could not be made now and advised Councillors to work with other people to get representations into HDC.

Cllr Mead added that Fenstanton will be confirmed as a key service centre. He urged working with the Diocese on allotments (see further down in minutes) as he believed the draft policy stated that they would have to provide replacements (or the developer would). He stated that the A14 was an 'artificial separation' and the Diocese had land on the other side of the A14. Cllr Lee reminded members that should a need arise for allotments the Parish Council had a responsibility to provide suitable alternative land, Cllr Mead agreed but the issue of building on allotment land was the responsibility of the Diocese. Cllr Lee recommended very speedy correspondence to Diocese. Cllr Henderson had spoken to a representative already but this had been informal. Cllr Mead urged a proactive approach by writing to the Diocese to ask about the land on the other side of the A14 and trying to set this up as a replacement for the allotments. Allotments would not be run by the Diocese and the possibility of a Trust should be discussed. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Mead on wording.

ACTION:Clerk/Cllr Mead

Cllr Lee stressed that the appalling state of the bus service needed to be relayed to the inspector in correspondence. The service would worsen in September (2018) when funding would be withdrawn.

Cheque (payment) presentation (17.144.1)

It was clarified that with the exception of emergency/urgent payments all payments (cheques or electronic) should be attended to at Full Council.

17.154 CIL – Discussion of Investment of Funds

There was a lengthy discussion; the following is a summary of points made:

17.154.1 General

Cllr White urged for a commitment to the use of CIL money soon rather than having multiple discussions about it. Cllr Henderson suggested that rather than using all of it on one project it should be spread across various projects. All felt the issue of benefitting the whole village was a difficult one.

Cllr Mead reminded members that any planned expenditure should be notified to HDC. HDC would simply check that the spending was appropriate.

Cllr Lee asked if Cllr Mead could give the members some clarification on the spending of CIL monies. He replied that this could be used for anything that helps a proportion of the community and this would include gym equipment and benches.

17.154.2 Glebe land / allotments

There was a suggestion that the Parish Council should try to buy the Glebe land – both where the allotments are now and that on the other side of the A4 and hold the latter for allotment use. Many Parish Councils own and administrate allotment land. However this land would only be sold as development land and the price would therefore be prohibitive. Cllr Kent suggested asking the Diocese to provide replacement allotments. Cllr Mead reminded members not to spend CIL on something another organisation would pay for. The Parish Council could help any negotiations by providing money towards part of a scheme (for example paying for water services to the allotments). Cllr White stressed that attempts to secure the future of the allotments must be made. Talks should be opened up with the Diocese.

Cllr Lee suggested fighting from the planning application stage – the village had just one school and a depleted bus service so the question must be asked about whether the village could sustain extra houses. All agreed this was a valid point and should be included in any representation to the inspector of the 2036 plan.

17.154.3 United Reform Church hedge work / kerbing / road width

Cllr Henderson reported that hedge work in this area had been undertaken (mainly ivy) and this had freed up a strip of approximately 18 inches. If the hedge were to die or be removed that would free up space that would increase the, at present, very narrow road outside the church. He suggested digging out the kerbing near the hedge and possibly asking the A14 team to help with this and in particular with the laying of some concrete. This would be put on the agenda for the next General Purposes committee.

Cllr Dartford suggested the provision of gym equipment for adults and young people would be a welcome benefit for the village as currently there were no provisions for this age group. It would help to promote health and wellbeing. Cllr Caswell agreed and having looked into this seven pieces of equipment could be

purchased for in the region of £8.500. There was space for this to be put at the football field at the Hamptons area or the kit could be split between there and the Chequers area. This was also something for the General Purposes committee.

17.154.4

Clock Tower / Village Pond Fence

Cllr Caswell reported there were five missing posts around the Clock Tower. Cllr White stated that repairs to the Clock Tower area could be funded by the Pitfield bequest funds (this would include replacement posts/bollards). Cllr Caswell suggested replacing current posts with metal ones.

Cllr Caswell also suggested replacing the pond fence (wooden) with a metal fence some of which came with a 10 year guarantee. Gove House could be approached to see if they would like to contribute to the fence being extended and made completely secure. Cllr Henderson suggested involving conservation.

17.154.5

Village appearance and upkeep

- Cllr Caswell expressed his disappointment and the general lack of interest around the table and felt everyone should be considering how to improve the village. He wanted to bring the village back up to reasonable standard.
- Cllr Caswell suggested that although much of this might be Highways responsibility and not that of the village, CIL money (circa £10K) should be set aside to tidy up and improve the appearance of the village in a one-off exercise. Work could include reclaiming the foot paths and sorting out trees that needed cutting and trimming properly by employing a tree surgeon to address all those that needed it. All work should be to a standard that the village would want. When complete the Parish Council should inform county council of what it had done and ask them to continue to maintain all the good work. He reminded members that HDC did not have the money for this. Cllr White was concerned that this might not be a justifiable use of CIL funds. Cllr Mead mentioned that a 'mix and match' approach may be the one to take for a co funded CIL project. * See update further down.
- Cllr Caswell continued that the picnic table at the play area was defunct and should be removed and two new ones purchased. Recycled benches were an option. He felt it was time to take pride in the village and make other people proud.
- Cllr Lee supported these ideas but urged that care should be taken particularly if approaching HDC. Cllr Caswell felt a bid, if necessary, could be prepared following CIL discussions.
- Cllr Kent felt that a draft 'mini plan' was forming but research needed to be carried out around the ideas so that approximate costs could be listed and then that list should be prioritised.
- Cllr Mead stated that if the new fence around the pond was no more than 1 meter high then no consent was needed. Similarly if the post around the clock tower were steel and painted black, no consent would be needed.

It was decided to have a stand-alone CIL meeting at a date to be arranged.

ACTION:Clerk

17.145.6

Pitfield Playground

Cllr Pryke confirmed that all prices were in and the General Purposes committee suggestion for Full Council totalled £25,605.79 including VAT). Tables for the area

were quoted as an extra £1,500 plus VAT however recycled tables were available at three for £950 plus VAT).

All members agreed with the commitment to ordering the playground. It was agreed to 'bid' for this at HDC however there had been an update since this meeting changing this action point. See below. *

Proposed: Cllr Lee; Seconded Cllr Caswell. All in favour.

** Update since meeting * CIL money already in Parish Council possession – which are referred to as called Meaningful Proportion Payments - does not require any further 'bidding' to be spent. Bidding is for for additional CIL that HDC hold as the charging authority for infrastructure projects that Parishes can apply for to help funding for any projects identified as a priority for the parish. Bids must be supported with business plans and/or evidence.*

17.155 Village Meeting

There were differing opinions around the table on whether to go ahead with this or not. The meeting was closed at 20.30 to allow Cllr Caswell to ask members of the public present for their thoughts. Whilst it was felt to be a good idea lack of attendees was a concern. The meeting was re-opened at 20.34.

Cllr Pask urged the committee to go some way towards canvassing village opinions. He suggested a central display of material with a few councillors on hand to answer any questions; this was an informal proposal with more work to be done on it.

The Chairman suggested looking at the issue later in the year when hopefully there would be some positives to be demonstrated after investment of CIL funds. A vote was taken with two in favour of a meeting and four against. It was therefore decided to put this on hold for now and put it back on the agenda in six months' time. Thanks should be given for the feedback received so far from the notices in Spectrum.

17.156 Correspondence & Clerk's Report

All items noted and the following additional points made:

Guest house at 5 Elizabeth Court

The Clerk is to check with HDC if appropriate planning permission had been made as this would be required if more than two bedrooms were being rented out. It is believed there are three. **ACTION:Clerk**

Village stocks

These would be reclaimed by the Parish Council and a decision about display or storage was deferred.

Litter picking in the village

Cllr Caswell informed the meeting that he had arranged for additional litter picking to be done under the Community Payback Scheme – a site visit is to be arranged when a Risk Assessment will be carried out and a date fixed. This would be repeated annually going forward.

17.157 Committee reports and updates

17.157.1 Burial Board

Cllr Lee reported that the new Burial Fees had been decided and thanks Cllr Pryke for helping with this. She acknowledged that the new Burial Board Committee

would be deciding on Chairmanship (in May) but her offer of standing as lay-member still stood.

Cllr Caswell queried the two tombs in need of repair and the timescale. The Clerk confirmed these would be covered at the time of the annual graveyard inspection (May) when Mr Blunt from the church had confirmed he would attend to point them out. Cllr Lee reminded members that the church had involved a firm of architects on the initial inspection of these and this should be for discussion at the next Burial Board meeting.

Cllr Henderson queried the cost implication of the recent announcement of Government payments for child burials. These costs and any possible start date would be established. The announcement had been covered in the new burial fees although no firm dates as yet.

ACTION: Clerk

17.157.2 **Finance & Constitution**

The date of the next meeting of 26 April 2018 was noted. Cllr Caswell gave his apologies in advance.

17.157.3 **Planning**

Application 18/00440/FUL – erection of two dwellings on land south of Greenfields
There had been no objections to this application.

17.158 Representative Reports

17.158.1 *District Councillor* – nothing to report

17.158.2 *County Councillor* – not present

17.158.3 CAPALC (Cllr Saunderson)

Cllr Saunderson had attended the CAPALC Extraordinary general meeting where it had been agreed to increase fees by 3%. CAPALC have moved to offices from St Ives to Lakeside Lodge Health Club in Pidley. The organisation was attempting to revive itself and increase membership beginning with a regular newsletter. The current Chief Executive was retiring but had agreed to postpone the date of retirement.

17.159 Finance

17.159.1 **Payments**

There was one query over frequency of Clerk's expenses payment. The Clerk would reconfirm if these should be claimed and paid monthly but irrespective was asked to claim these monthly. The payments were approved.

ACTION: Clerk

Proposed: Cllr Henderson; Seconded Cllr Pryke. All in favour.

17.159.2 **Transfer of funds** – not required.

17.159.3 **Standing Orders / Direct Debits**

It was agreed these should be set up for monthly expenses of rent and system backups. BT landline bills to also be set up – these would be a variable direct debit.

Proposed: Cllr Lee; Seconded Cllr Pryke. All in favour.

17.159.4 **Clerk 6 month review**

The Clerk and members of the public left the meeting. The Chairman updated councillors.

17.160 Office Administration – all items noted and the following points made:
17.160.1 **General Data Protection Regulations**
Whilst no government regulations had been issued as yet work on this is to continue.

17.160.2 **Risk Assessment**
This would be done at the forthcoming CIL meeting if time allows.

17.161 World War 1 Centenary
There were conflicting opinions around the table about how to commemorate this centenary. When a decision was taken to purchase the usual wreath for November 11 Cllr Pask felt the members were being dismissive of what was actually being commemorated. He suggested the possibility of adding a scroll or image to the wrought iron fence previously discussed for the village pond. The church or village could be asked to contribute. However it was decided that there should be no commitment but that this could be revisited nearer the anniversary; the Parish Council could consider contributing towards the Church effort or other requests for assistance.

Proposed: Cllr White; Seconded Cllr Saunderson. All in favour.

17.162 Police report – this was noted.

17.163 To accept notices and matters for the next agenda – none.

17.164 Parish Council Meeting Dates – April and May
These were noted. Cllr Caswell gave apologies in advance for the 10 May meeting – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Buchanan asked to minute a vote of thanks and well done to Martin Heyward for all his work in keep the subway tidy (it has not flooded).

ACTION:Clerk

CLLR LEE HAD DECIDED NOT TO STAND AGAIN AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR. A VOTE OF APPRECIATION WAS PROPOSED TO CLLR LEE FOR ALL HER WORK ON THE PARISH COUNCIL OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS AND PARTICULARLY FOR HER WORK ON THE BURIAL AND PLANNING COMMITTEES.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.28