

FENSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full Parish Council

Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School, Fenstanton

Thursday 21 February 2019 @ 19.30 pm

Abbreviations : CCC – Cambridge Country Council; CC- County Council; HDC – Huntingdon District Council; DC – District Council; Cllr – Councillor

Present

Cllr Kent - Chairman

Cllr Ferrier

Cllr Hayes

Cllr Henderson

Cllr McGee

Cllr Mitchell

Cllr Morris

Cllr Pask

Cllr Pryke

Cllr Saunderson

Cllr White

In attendance

Cllr Davies - HDC

Cllr Bates - CCC

Annette Eggett - Clerk

3 parishioners

19.122 Public Consultation

The Chairman closed meeting at 19.31.

19.122.1 Chequer Street

A parishioner raised concerns about parking on footpath at Chequer Street which posed a safety risk especially for wheelchair users and children. Cllr Henderson pointed out this was CC land and CC were not keen on making parking areas or driveways. Houses here have parking to the rear. Cllr Kent reminded members that Cllr Mead was of the opinion that there was no reason why the houses could not have driveways in front. However, this was a conservation area. The Clerk will pick up with conservation, Cllr Mead and the police. The Chairman to be involved. **ACTION : Clerk etc.**

Cllr McGee added there was no slope for wheelchairs on this bit of Chequer Street therefore there was no proper wheelchair access at all here.

19.122.2 Junior School spaces

A parishioner had concerns about the possible lack of spaces at the junior school given the number of new estates and asked if another junior school would be considered. Cllr Bates explained that a fairly detailed investigation was carried out when houses were built as regards school places which involved complex calculations to work out what was needed and that the roll of children does fluctuate up and down. There were currently vacancies in Fenstanton and there were no plans to expand the school at present.

19.122.3 Roundabout at Dairy end of High Street

The same parishioner asked if there was the possibility of a roundabout on the High Street to cut down on possible accidents. Cllr Kent stated he was not aware of any plans for a roundabout but that enquiries would be made. There may however be an island crossing to narrow the road when the development is completed. Cllr Bates confirmed this was the case. Several councillors also had concerns about this area.

- 19.122.4 Headlands willow tree**
 The same parishioner pointed out that a willow tree had not been trimmed for eight years. As this was near his house he was concerned it would do structural damage. This was a DC responsibility and Cllr Davies would get in touch and liaise with the parishioner. **ACTION : Cllr Davies**
- 19.122.5 King William IV pub planning application**
 A parishioner voiced concern about the application (previously dealt with at the PC planning committee meeting) to turn the pub into a private dwelling. Cllr Kent confirmed that the PC would be registering the pub as an Asset of Community Value and Mr Kim Yeomans was heading up a community group about this situation.
 The Chairman reopened the meeting at 19.46.
- 19.123 Declarations of Interest** – there were none.
- 19.124 To Approve the Minutes 10 January 2019**
 These were approved with one small amendment.
Proposed : Cllr Hayes; Seconded : Cllr Pryke; Vote : All in favour
- 19.125 Matters Arising from Minutes – for information only**
 19.104 *London Road Speeds*
 Cllr Saunderson undertook to contact Andrew Chabbot.
 Cllr Saunderson had spoken to a colleague in Hemingford Grey to confirm that both Fenstanton and Hemingford Grey PCs would have to approach CCC under the LHI (Local Highways initiative) to see if any funding was available. Cllr Saunderson could also approach Roadwatch to put up some speed measuring kits. Cllr Kent advised against Roadwatch but felt the PC should look into the LHI. Cllr Bates urged that the time to do that was now and forms would be circulated in April for the PC to make a bid should it wish to. This is to be picked up with Hemingford Grey and to be an agenda item for the next meeting. **ACTION : Clerk/Cllr Saunderson**
- 19.126 Huntingdon Neighbourhood Plan** – submission response required 26.3.19.
 Copies were circulated. All comments to be with the Clerk the second week in March. **ACTION : All**
- 19.127 CIL updates and decisions (Cllr Mitchell)**
- 19.127.1 Parish map**
 Cllr Ferrier felt this (information circulated) should be picked up as part of the new general approach. The previously mentioned map would be checked with Cllr Mead and then this new map pursued if no progress. **ACTION : Clerk**
- 19.127.2 Display boards**
 Static boards can be etched (with for example a map) at a cost of circa £1K. Cllr Kent pointed out that things change too quickly for everything to be etched. Cllr Mitchel pointed out that lots of the PC work reporting could be taken on line.
- 19.127.3 History of parish**
 Cllr Mitchell explained that one component of this was a book of historical pictures. It would cost £1K for 500 copies of Jean Ding's book to be reprinted and to be made into an online archive. The book could be sold at £5 or £6 with the profit being split between the PC and the URC.
- 19.127.4 Electrical charging points**
 Cllr Mitchell had identified five possible locations and he would approach people nearest those without dedicated off street parking and ask what they think about these and feed back into CC at a meeting towards end of April.

19.127.5

Kerb erosion repairs

Start date for this work was still awaited.

ACTION : Clerk

19.127.6

Adult Gym – gravel pathway treatment

Cllr Pask had arranged for several samples of a suitable surface for this area. He circulated these. Cllr Pryke had also sourced a treatment. After examination and a discussion on the various costs it was decided to propose a budget of £2,500 for the purchase and fitting (whether by supplier or Martin) to complete this project. This sum to be taken up by the General Purposes committee who are to decide on which option to go for with the budget given. Cllrs Pask and Pryke to liaise.

Budget of £2,500 agreed.

ACTION : Cllrs Pask, Pryke, GP Committee

Proposed : Cllr Kent; Seconded : Cllr White. Vote : All in favour

19.128

Development of FPC strategic plan (1st draft) Cllrs Mitchell and Ferrier

Cllr Mitchell invited comments on the document circulated and explained that the front page would remain very visual and simplistic. There were four pillars to the plans each having their own components within and these would hopefully help to measure PC work over a four-year period. He asked that all Councillors get back to him and Cllr Ferrier with comments, thoughts and amendments. These were required before the next meeting and the plan would be an agenda item.

ACTION : All

The Chairman felt this document provided a good foundation but queried where (for eg) the outdoor gym or pond refurbishment would slot in. Cllr Mitchell confirmed these would appear under capital advancement and structural improvement. He emphasized that nothing was 'set in stone' and this should be treated as living document as things such as HDC plans would constant be changing. The document had in effect started and some retrofitting could be done. Changes could be incorporated as the PC moved forward. The Chairman congratulated Cllrs Mitchell and Ferrier on a great piece of work.

19.129

Update on bus survey and response from CCC – Cllr Mitchell

Cllr Mitchell confirmed that he had completed the analysis and put together a report into which he had fed in major finds from the Combined Authorities (CA) plan. This had been submitted to CCC and the transport manager has replied to state it had been forwarded to CAPAC and Stagecoach. The Chairman congratulated Cllr Mitchell for another great piece of work.

Cllr Bates confirmed that the CA money was sent to CCC who would manage the budget for the next financial year. The current bus service continued until the end of the next financial year - 31.3.2020.

19.130

Communications Strategy Cllrs Mitchell and Ferrier

Cllr Ferrier explained that the first stage of this would be benchmarking how the community felt about what the PC were doing and this would involve a few focus groups to understand this. He and Cllr Mitchell would 'recruit' people for the groups – see table of ideal make up circulated – and they believed this structure would get result in a really good insight. The groups would be held at Cllr Ferrier's house. Cllr McGee suggested changing the age range of 18 to 25 to 16 to 25 and asked if Councillors should recommend people for the groups. Cllr Ferrier confirmed this would be helpful. The Chairman felt these focus groups should go ahead.

Proposed : Cllr Morris; Seconded : Cllr Pryke; Vote : All in favour

The Chairman felt this was a very good initiative.

- 19.131 Planning Permission Consultation - King William IV 1 High Street Fenstanton (ref 19/00142/FUL) Planning Committee**
To consider for approval / to note the following recommendations from the Planning Committee following its meeting on Tuesday 12 February 2019
- 19.131.1 Asset of Community Value**
It was agreed to register the King William pub as an Asset of Community Value. This will act as a slight delaying tactic giving interested parishioners time to consider what they may wish to do to keep the building open as a village pub.
Proposed : Cllr Pryke; Seconded : Cllr Hayes; Vote : All in favour
- 19.131.2 PC role**
It was agreed that the Parish Council is to help and facilitate with any action parishioners may decide to take but will not lead.
Proposed : Cllr Henderson; Seconded : Cllr Hayes; Vote : All in favour
- 19.131.3 Community group**
It was agreed that any further actions and representations will be community led.
Proposed : Cllr Morris; Seconded : Cllr Pryke; Vote : All in favour
- 19.131.4 Planning objection**
It was noted the deadline for response to the planning application is the date of this meeting; the Clerk has registered an objection at HDC based on forthcoming regulations changes, the pub's value as a community interest and community support. Cllr Mead will assist.
- 19.131.5 Chairmanship of planning committee**
It was noted that Cllr Ferrier was appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee.
- 19.131.6 General committee comments**
Cllr Ferrier noted a concern that only four parishioners attended the planning meeting. However there had been a long discussion and Cllr Mead gave excellent and firm advice. Strictly in planning terms there were no real reasons for an objection. He stressed it was important the PC helped but did not lead on this adding that the community group led by Mr Kim Yeomans was already gaining support. He did however feel that any possible future cost for the pub would deter parishioners. Cllr Mitchell added that the registration of the pub as an Asset of Community Value raised the question of other community assets. Both Cllrs Henderson and Bates felt this was worth establishing. These can include shops, areas of green and things to consider for the future. Cllr Bates suggested liaising with Houghton and Wyton who have already gone through this process. All agreed this was a good idea. Cllr Mitchell offered to lead.
ACTION : Cllr Mitchell
- 19.131.7 Planning training**
Cllr Henderson raised the issue of planning training for councillors. All agreed this was also a good idea. Clerk to check for any dates.
ACTION : Clerk
- 19.132 Village Meeting** – facilitated by the Parish Council – Cllr Mitchell
It was decided to hold the meeting in Mid-June (day of week to be decided) so that as many items as possible a ready for presentation and discussion. Cllr Mitchell suggested organizing an electronic survey link and putting a piece in Spectrum to establish the best day. All agreed.
Proposed : Cllr White; Seconded : Cllr Pryke Vote : all in favour

19.133 Update on Village Hall/Morris Homes situation plus forthcoming social events

19.133.1 Morris Homes / Village Hall

Cllr Bates reported that Morris Homes had written to him about resurfacing of Conington Road and they had agreed to do both sides of the road up to the end of the development. However the rest of Conington Road would not be done. The Chairman reminded members that Martyn Crawshaw, when on the PC had brought up the issue of the rest of the road in particular he was concerned about drainage problems. Cllr Bates suggested he and Cllr Mead should talk to the Chairman about this with enforcement officers.

Cllr Mitchell confirmed that the situation with the Village Hall was now in the hands of two sets of solicitors. Jane Blunt and Cllr Mead would report back to Morris Homes at the end of March. An enforcement office from HDC has also been in touch stating that the Morris Homes proposal was wrong and possibly illegal (the S.106 wording seems to be loose and weak).

19.134 FINANCE

General Monthly Finance

19.134.1 The finance updates were noted.

19.134.2 Payments were approved.

Proposed : Cllr Pryke; Seconded : Cllr White; Vote : All in favour

19.134.3 The transfer of funds was approved.

Proposed : Cllr Morris; Seconded : Cllr Pryke; Vote : All in favour

19.135 Reports – depending on attendance

19.135.1 District Councillors

Cllr Davies reported that following the **Luminus Homes** merge with Places for People (a quite large housing association) some gas installation problems seemed to have been resolved. There were concerns in St Ives over properties standing empty. HDC had asked for a meeting a few weeks ago to discuss these but it had been confirmed that properties are reviewed every year (some are bought, some sold, some built).

He also confirmed that HDC's **tree strategy** had been written in 2010 and now needed to be updated and reviewed; this was being done at the moment.

19.135.2 County Councillor

Cllr Bates confirmed that it was now business as usual at CCC as the budget process had now been completed. He reminded all that there was an increase in the number of vulnerable people and people living longer so there was continued pressure on statutory services.

19.135.3 Parish Councillors

The Chairman confirmed he had attended a site visit on the morning of this meeting with Cllr Bates, the environment agency and the police at Hall Green Brook. The top end of the bank was clear and free but other areas had silted up and the environment agency would report back.

19.135.4 Clerk and Police Reports

It was noted these would be circulated separately given length of this agenda.

19.136 To accept notices and matters for the next agenda

- Village Trust Garage Sale – 4 May – Clock Tower
- Focus groups top line feedback
- 4-year strategy
- London Road Speed Limit

- Councillor reports to be moved up to early in the agenda

19.137 Parish matters to note

19.137.1 Pot holes

There are still multiple pot holes on Behagg Way. Clerk to report.

19.137.2 A14 construction frames

Cllr McGee reported that these are making the Cambridge end of the High Street very untidy. Clerk has established they are from A14 but still in use from time to time. Clerk to ask if they can be at least tidied up.

19.137.3 Land near Bowls Club

Cllr Pask reported digging and burning on this land. It seems Lattenbury are preparing the land for horses. Cllr Bates has already spoken to them and is happy to help further if he can.

19.137.4 Developer signs

Cllr Ferrier had noted an increasing number of illegal development signs in the Parish. Cllr Henderson stated this was a planning enforcement matter. Cllr Ferrier would be happy to take this up.

19.137.5 Lost Property

Cllr Saunderson confirmed he had received an email from the police that they are no longer going to take in lost property unless it is a traceable wallet or purse. He has since spoken to PCS Phil Davies who confirmed this is the case. Cllr Saunderson also spoke to St Ives Town Council to see if it could take responsibility for this (not including bicycles). This would be considered at a forthcoming Amenities Committee meeting.

19.137.6 Second hand shop in High Street

Cllr Hayes reported that the second-hand shop had now been cleared and workmen in.

19.137.7 Police leaflets (scam advice)

Cllr Hayes asked if there were any more scam leaflets available. The Clerk has some to be delivered to the three main village shops and information and a link will be put on the website and Facebook.

19.137.8 The Fen Cycle Way

The Chairman confirmed he, Cllr Henderson and the Clerk would be attending an update meeting on 20th March at 11.30 in Cllr Bates's office at Shire Hall

19.137.9 Bell Lane – Chequers Close

The Clerk and Cllr Morris have taken pictures of the bad condition of this area and the problem has been reported to CCC.

19.137.10 Pond refurbishment (Mick George Community Fund)

The Clerk reported that there will be a delay on work to the pond following receipt of an in-depth environment agency report sent to The Fen Group who will be carrying out the work. Invasive pond weed has to be stored off site, treated and dried before it can be sent to landfill elsewhere. This may coincide with nesting period for newts (latter point to be followed up). In the meantime the fence and bollarding work will be started to the work deadline can be adhered to as much as possible.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.24