

FENSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
held at Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School, Fenstanton
Thursday 19 July 2018 @ 19.30 pm

Present: Cllr Pryke – Committee Chairman
Cllr Buchanan
Cllr Caswell
Cllr Kent
Cllr Pask
Cllr Saunderson

In Attendance: Annette Eggett (clerk)

1 Appointment of Committee Chairman.

Cllr Pryke was appointed Committee Chairman

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

2 Appointment of Committee Vice Chairman

Cllr Pask was appointed Committee Vice Chairman

Proposed: Cllr Caswell; Seconded Cllr Kent; All in favour

3 Apologies for absence - none

4 Declarations of interest - none

5 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 April 2018 already circulated

These were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Caswell; Seconded Cllr Buchanan; One abstention (absence from meeting)

6 Matters arising from the minutes

4.4 *Chequer Street Green – erosion of edges*
This is now under consideration for CIL investment.

8 *Chequer Street car park barrier / play area*

Cllr Saunderson reported that the barrier at the car park was now hinged and lockable. Thanks to Martin for doing a good job.

Cllr Pryke had attended the play area with a representation from Komplan (Pitfield Play Area) and inspected bolts and other defects. The Komplan fitters kindly cut off a problematic bolt. This is a maintenance budget item.

It was noted that the play area here was looking somewhat worse for wear. It was suggested and agreed that items for younger children be added. Based on previous quotes received a swing and a rocker would be purchased at a maximum cost of £2,000 and the play area given a tidy and clean up. New kit is a CIL item although other sources of funding to also be investigated with a view to reserving this sum for other (larger) CIL projects. To go to Full Council agenda.

Proposed: Cllr Kent; Seconded Cllr Pryke; All in favour

6 *Pitfield Play Area*

The Pitfield play area was proving very popular. **A vote of thanks was taken for Cllr Pryke for all his work on this project.**

Quotes

Cllr Caswell stated that under EU legislation three quotes were not required for projects under £10,000 however he was not sure if this applied to Parish Councils(although The Good Councillors Guide recommends this). Clerk to look into this

ACTION: Clerk

7 CIL Investment / Forthcoming Projects

Reconfirmed below with comments added and in all cases if alternative funding can be sourced, and core CIL funds to be retained for the larger projects :

SHORTLIST FOR CIL INVESTMENT

7.1 POND REPAIR AND RESTORATION – action Cllr Henderson; Cllr Pryke

Cllr Henderson and the Clerk had met with a pond specialist, when a very positive discussion took place with a view to restoring the pond to its former 'glory'. A quote is awaited and attempts should be made to receive two more.

Cllr Caswell recommended making the Clock Tower and pond the focal point for the village. He and the Clerk would be meeting a representative from HDC conservation team the day after this meeting to discuss bollards, pond fencing and a safety gate. He suggested erecting story board of the history of the pond, clock and whipping post. The wooden bollards would be replaced with cast iron to match the new pond fence, five missing bollards would be replaced, and two bins were missing (to be replaced). All agreed these were good ideas. Cllr Kent suggested making the land at the side of the pond into a quiet area for people to sit and placing a bench there. He was happy to talk to the land owner at Grove House about that piece of land and any other issues relevant. He also mentioned that local farmers might be called on to help store fish and plants from the pond.

7.2 POND (fencing) – action Cllr Caswell

See above

7.3 CYLE-WAY – action Cllr Henderson

Cllr Kent confirmed he would be happy to talk to landowners down The Fen and felt there would be organisations the council could approach for help with funding. Cllr Caswell agreed reminding members of the A14 Heritage Fund and adding that comments received at the Sports Day were positive about this project.

Cllr Kent recommended getting assessments and then costings done. Cllr Saunderson suggested approaching Sid Barnett regarding The Fen and noted that part of the track past the houses had plainings laid down but from the bottom of the hill the surface would be more problematic. Cllr Buchanan suggested building in on-going maintenance of the tarmac on The Fen. Cllr Saunderson added that proper tarmac would take a tractor. Cllr Kent would help with consultation with any farmers involved; costings must be completed as no grants would be secured without.

ACTION: Cllr Henderson / Cllr Kent

7.4 OUTSIDE ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT – action Cllr Pask

Cllr Pask circulated two information sheets from outside gym suppliers. He had also spoken to Soham Council who had been considering disposing of their kit as they had experienced problems with under usage and vandalism. However due to S106 rules their kit could only be moved within the village. Cllr Pask continued that the site in Fenstanton – Hampton Close open area - posed no problems. The prices connected to the two information sheets were similar but by about £5K depending on the choice of flooring. One company (Freshair Fitness) would use rubberised matting that allowed grass to grow through and there was no need for specialist matting as all equipment was not at a height that required specialised landings. Cllr Pask would shortly be looking at kit in-situ at Holt. He had seen Outdoor Gym kit which he felt looked very solid. Cllr Caswell noted there was a new outdoor gym in Hlnchingbrooke Park; Cllr Saunderson might be able to look at this on the Tuesday following this meeting. The Clerk had previously met with a third company on site but having passed the information over to Cllr Pask he felt this was not quite as good adding in that in a recent survey he had read Outdoor Gym performed the best. Freshair were quoting £6.5K; Outdoor Gym were quoting £13.5K. Cllr Saunderson suggested fencing off the area but Cllr Buchanan felt the kit needed to be as easy to access as possible. Hopefully vandalism would not be a problem given the houses nearby. Cllr Kent recommended consulting nearby residents. As stated above if other sources of funding can be secured then core CIL funding can be retained other (larger) CIL projects.

7.5 KERB EROSION – action Cllr Caswell/Cllr Henderson

Cllr Henderson reported that tarmacking of the Low Road would be assessed to form the new cycleway and removal of verges would be included. Conservation at HDC would be consulted. In the village itself two greens would be addressed – the right hand side (looking toward the King Bill) of

the long green in Chequer Street and Honey Hill where three sides were OK but the fourth was not. Cllr Kent pointed out that children walked near the former and it was also quite dangerous to have so many cars there. Cllr Caswell confirmed that the idea would be to take some green away and raise the kerb at the same time (there are some covered over drains here) and that conservation would have no issues with this and in fact felt it would be beneficial.

APPROVED BUT NOT CIL INVESTMENT (GENERAL / COMMITTEE BUDGETS)

7.6 GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE PARISH (ongoing)

The date (or dates) for Community Service maintenance team were awaited. The Parish Council had to be prepared to take on some tasks that HDC used to do as they simply were not doing those now. It was worth asking landowners to help and to call in favours wherever possible.

7.7 **RUBBISH BINS** – General Purposes not CIL – action Clerk
See below – 10.5.

7.8 **TABLES/BENCHES** – General Purposes not CIL – action Cllr Pryke/Clerk

7.9 **CLOCK TOWER AREA** – Pitfield Fund not CIL – action Cllr Caswell/Clerk

Given the nature of the projects and investment there will be overlap on Full, Finance and Constitution and General Purposes Committees.

8 Pitfield Play Area

To note:

- The opening took place Sunday 8 July.
- Tables/bins and some signage for this area are on order/being researched.
- Connecting path to Apple Tree Close – to confirm this is not feasible. Cllr Pryke has looked at this. The area was totally overgrown, partly a farmer's field and there was a huge fence in the way.

9 Kier Living Community Help

To note this took place on Friday 13 July when the Clock Tower benches and posts and the pond fence were sanded and stained.

10 Expenditure

To approve the following expenditure:

Signage

10.1 **4 no. 'No Ball Games'** signage for Dove Close green area (Headlands Play Area) following visit to office by concerned resident. Total £90.

There was much debate over this item with some councillors of the opinion signage would not make a difference. However all agreed this was a very difficult and trying situation. Cllr Kent suggested adding directions to where to go to play football as there was a pathway through Scorney and Headlands. It was suggested investigating access to the football field for residents in general. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Mead about where responsibility for this area lay (it was felt it was not Highways). Removal of the fencing was mentioned as a possible option to be discussed with Highways (or other). It was noted that the signs are not intended to stop all games in this area (having regard to obligations connected to play areas) but an effort to help residents with problems with balls being hit against fences or ending up in gardens. An explanation to go into Spectrum as to the background to the signage and why it was a generic 'No Ball Games' message (bespoke signage costs are far higher).

ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Caswell/Cllr Henderson

Purchase of the signage was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Caswell; Seconded Cllr Buchanan; All in favour

10.2 **4 no. 'No Dog Mess'** verge signs @£35.00 (fix in ground); total £140.

10.3 **4 no. 'No Dog Mess'** signs (post fixings) for Cranesbrook, Mooresbrook, Pitfield @ £32.50; total £130.

10.4 **2 no. 'Dogs Must Be Kept on Lead at all times'** signs @ £22.50; total £45.00 (different fixings).

These were all approved – some of these should contain a more forceful message. It was noted these were also deemed necessary following comments and complaints from concerned residents.

Proposed: Cllr Caswell; Seconded Cllr Kent; All in favour

Bins

10.5 6 no. litter bins

There were agreed at £2,078.58 with collection costs (HDC) at £252.64 per bin per year. Total £1,515.84 (annual budget cost going forward). The Clerk to ask HDC if they could purchase on behalf of the Parish Council at a discount and recharged. Update since minutes started – this was not possible. Clerk has mentioned HDC and secured a discount.

Locations were agreed:

- Clock Tower (1) – a local business may be interested in sponsoring one of these
- Clock tower (2) – near the seat
- Cranesbrook and Mooresbrook (junction)
- Pitfield Play Area – two bins
- The new gym area

The bins to match current style (round).

The bin near the subway filled up very quickly. The Clerk confirmed this was exacerbated by fly tipping of garden rubbish by residents. Martin would be asked to empty more often if possible and the Clerk to look into a bigger bin for this area from HDC. Martin to be asked to fit.

Total expenditure for above items approx. **£2,500.00.**

ACTION : Clerk

Proposed: Cllr Saunderson; Seconded Cllr Pryke; All in favour

11 Mooresbrook footpath grass trim request

Cllr Kent suggested approaching the owner (Miss Hampton) to see if this path could be adopted by the Parish Council. If not Miss Hampton to be asked to trim back so people can use. Cllr Pask pointed out that if this area were listed for development there would be no hope of adoption.

Proposed: Cllr Kent; Seconded Cllr Caswell; All in favour

Update since minutes started – Miss Hampton's contractor confirmed she would not be willing to hand over but would be willing to keep it cut back.

12 Tree work

12.1 Behind Dove Close

The quotes for remedial work to trees behind Dove Close and at Headlands were reviewed and one accepted. One tree was cracked and the weight of all three trees involved needed addressing.

Proposed: Cllr Caswell; Seconded Cllr Kent; All in favour

12.2 Willows at Headlands and Church Leys Hampton Close

A decision on this was deferred whilst the Clerk asked Cllr Mead if it was in order for work on the willows (CCC) to go ahead. If it was then the quote to be accepted. The Clerk to note in Spectrum this work was carried out as a one off only as it is CCC responsibility but willows appeared to be a danger to pedestrians and CCC delays to be avoided. Update since minutes started; permission granted.

Proposed: Cllr Caswell; Seconded Cllr Pryke; All in favour

13 Brambles and hawthorns at Chequer Street

The Clerk was asked to check with Cllr Mead if this was Parish Council responsibility. If it was then a cut to be arranged; if not then HDC/CCC to be contacted.

ACTION: Clerk

14 To accept notices and matters for the next agenda

None.

15 Parish matters to note

15.1 Bins on High Street

Cllr Buchanan noted that there were always two house bins out on the pavement outside the chemist. These may be exempt to HDC rules if there was no access to the rear but Clerk to check. **ACTION: Clerk**

Update since minutes started – neighbour has also complained; the Clerk in contact with her and HDC.

15.2 Parking on pavements

Cllr Buchanan noted cars were parking on pavements on the corner outside the corner fish and chip shop.

15.3 Clock Tower parking restrictions

Cllr Kent noted that parking restrictions should be considered for this area with some signage. Cllr Mead to be contacted for advice including regarding enforceability (this has been a former agenda item and meeting discussion item).

15.4 Edge of Hilton Road

Cllr Kent noted that this was overgrown, foliage was falling in the middle of the road and also covering yellow road markings; vehicles were driving in the middle of the road. It was mooted that Mr Everdell should written to but undecided. Clerk to report.

15.5 Bowls Club

15.5.1 Cllr Pask reported growth on either side of the road to the Bowls Club.

15.5.2 Cllr Pask reported people had been dumping items in the ditch again and left an old mower there.

15.6 Chequer Street parking

Cllr Saunderson suggested that after the brambles and overgrown vegetation were dealt with obstacles of some sort should be used on the first 20 meters from the High Street to stop parking. All agreed this was a good idea. Cllr Kent suggested asking permission from the landowner before doing this and establishing whether the verge was Highways.

15.7 Fenstanton Village Hall Trust

There were varying opinions around the table about whether a village hall was suitable for CIL investment.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THEM MEETING CLOSED AT 21.20