

## LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 29 April 2019 at 8.00pm  
in the Abington Institute, Great Abington

**Present:** Mr Brunning (Chair), Mr Allum, Mrs Bolden, Ms Pattinson, Dr I Smith, Dr R Smith, Dr Valge-Archer, Mrs Dalton (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr J Batchelor, Cllr H Batchelor. There were five members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for absence.** None
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2018.** Agreed.
3. **Follow up from previous meeting.**
  - **Noise from TWI/Granta Park.** The problems continue. The noise is disruptive and troublesome, particularly at night time and at weekends. TWI acknowledged the noise nuisance and was keen to find a remedy. Residents had worked with Environmental Health (EH) to monitor noise levels. They were found to be marginally above acceptable levels. EH made some recommendations to TWI. **Discussion point:** Other potential sources of noise from the site should be considered.
4. **Chairman's report - Mr Brunning (See Annual report)**

The Chairman's report highlighted successes and issues from the last year. He thanked the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their contribution.

  - 2018 was an election year. Little Abington was an uncontested election. Mr Ellis had resigned after several years as a parish councillor. New parish councillors. Dr Viiia Valge -Archer, Dr Richard Smith and Mrs Sheila Bolden were welcomed .
  - **A 1307 South East Cambridge Transport Study.** Expecting some improvements on the route in the near future.
  - **Planning.** Significant developments being discussed include a massive expansion of the genome campus at Hinxtton, Agritech near Sawston and the North Uttlesford Garden Village near Great Chesterford. There have been few developments to consider in Little Abington except house extensions. There will be a new house in Church Lane and planning permission has been granted for three new houses on Cambridge Road.
  - **Fourwentways.** Very little progress with the litter and lorry parking problems.
  - **Village roads and traffic.** Church Close had been resurfaced; the parish council funded "gates" on Bourn Bridge Road in an attempt to reduce speeding and "children playing" signs have been erected at Ivan Clarks Corner. The Speedwatch team has extended its coverage to include Pampisford Road.
  - **Footpaths.** Residents are leading initiatives to expand footpath coverage. LAPC is discussing a permissive path arrangement for the route behind Westfield to Sluice Wood with the landowner
  - **Granta Park.** Open access to residents has not been restored. It is possible to walk on part of the site via the main gate. Residents have been offered membership of the gym. The Illumina building is open.

Finally, Mr Brunning said he would stand down as Chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May. He did not plan to stand for re-election in 2022.

### **Discussion points**

- It was noted that there is no access to Granta Park from Little Abington. The path at the end of the old coach road has been fenced off.

**5. Financial Report – Clerk (See Annual Report)**

- The Parish Council had agreed the draft annual accounts. LAPC is no longer subject to external audit but internal audit will be required before the final accounts can be agreed.
- Year end balances were less than last year. Some large invoices for street lighting and the village gates were awaited.
- The report summarised the main elements of income and expenditure in 2018-19
- Following market testing insurance continues with Hiscox on a three-year agreement. A new contractor had been appointed for village maintenance.
- 2019-20. The annual precept had increased to £17,500. This was partly due to a 5% increase in the grant made to the Recreation Ground Committee

**6. Reports from Representatives**

**Abington Recreation Ground Committee**

- The Committee works to manage and enhance the site on behalf of the Parish Councils.
- A tree survey was commissioned to assess the condition of trees on the site and in preparation for the cycle pump track. One tree was removed due to disease and one was lost in a storm. Others have been tidied up. Three new trees have been planted.
- Cycle pump track. The committee has taken advice from the District Council. It is in contact with local consultants with relevant experience.

**Discussion**

- Fence in the children's play area. Some dogs are able to get through it. Dogs are prohibited from the play area.
- Basketball hoops and nets have been replaced
- There are plans for refurbishment using Section 106 funding
- Tennis. Kit is stored in the container. Contact details required for key holders. The lines need repainting.
- The new seat was very welcome

**Abington Institute Management Committee.**

See Annual Report.

**Planning**

- Early proposals for development of the Bancroft Farm farmyard site were shown to the Parish Council in February. A planning application had not been submitted. The initial aim was for a small (6) development of good quality single storey homes suitable for downsizing. The barns might be converted to small business units.
- The Committee for Abington Housing has not been active this year. Housing development in Great Abington continues. Work has started on the development in Linton Road and there are plans for another small development on the opposite side of the road. Planning permission has been granted for eight dwellings on the Strawberry Farm site. Moorefields at the top of the High Street is complete.

**7. Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor (SCDC) - Cllr John Batchelor.**

- SCDC is now led by the Liberal Democrats. Cllrs John and Henry Batchelor represent the Abingtons. John is chair of the Planning Committee and Henry is on the Staff Committee.
- The budget had been agreed.
- Reviews of administration and organisational structure are in progress. New senior staff will be appointed in the near future.

- Local planning. Following a protracted inspection process the Local Development Plan was published. In the absence of an agreed plan some speculative developments were given permission. The local development planning process will start again soon

**8. Report from County Councillor - Cllr Henry Batchelor**

- Cambridgeshire County Council has suffered from cuts in government grants. They are looking for ways to make savings.
- It will move from Shire Hall in Cambridge to purpose built facilities in Alconbury. This will be cost saving but there are concerns about access
- Following a pilot period charging for use of computers in libraries has stopped.
- A1307 – there are proposals to build a Park & Ride nearby. One member of the public suggested it could be used for overnight lorry parking. Improvements at Linton Village College, Dalehead Foods and a cycleway to Linton should be completed in the next year.
- County archives. The new site will open in Ely soon.

**Discussion**

- The relationship between the Mayor of the Combined Authority, the District Council and the County Council needs to be better understood. They must work collaboratively if they are to be effective.
- Access following the move to Alconbury. There might be local satellite offices; telephone services will be enhanced and some service changes to reduce the need for face to face contact

**9. Parish Nurse Project**

- Steve Jordan gave an update on the project. All of the parish councils in Granta Vale are supporting the project.
- SJ has been appointed as a community worker to support the project, in particular to facilitate and coordinate the development of stronger community cohesion including cross village working. (Caring, Compassionate Communities)
- One element of this work will be to publish a directory of community activities across all seven villages in Granta Vale
- SJ was keen to develop a network of local volunteers
- A monthly “community hub” has been set up in Balsham

**Discussion points**

- Will there be a community hub in the Abingtons?
- The directory could replace the Abington Directory which is now out of date. It will need to be on a website . How will it be kept up to date?

**10. Abington Futures feedback**

Tony Orgee gave some feedback from the event. The results of the survey will be published in the Abington and Hildersham News.

**Key points/priorities**

- Trees - valuing and protecting them, planting new trees and replacing some.
- Footpaths and rights of way. There is a need for more routes. Responders were very keen for access to Granta Park to be restored.
- Fourwentways. Most people who attended the event signed the petition. There was a strong view that solutions are urgently required.
- Parish plan. Most of the actions have been completed. Future planning should be focused on activities for younger people. It was suggested that the survey should be extended to the school and parents to get their input.

**11. Abington Woods**

- The site is an outdoor learning centre
- Current projects include developing the “chapel” area, making it a centre for spiritual wellbeing. It is already being used for church services.
- The site needs to be financially sustainable. It is set up as a Community Interest Company.
- Current activities include sessions for young children and toddlers, scouts, family events and family days, community events such as the World Rivers Day.
- It was suggested that the regular Open Woods days should be re established

**The way forward**

- Keen to establish a project structure and a more business like approach.
- Help and support would be welcomed. It was suggested that volunteers to help the groundwork could be recruited.

**12. Any Other Business.** None

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

**Signed**



**Date**

26 May 2020

**Parish Council Chairman**