

LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Little Abington Parish Council on
Monday, 28 October 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Abington Institute Great Abington.

Present. Mrs Bolden (SB) (Chair), Mr Allum (RA), Mr Brunning (PB), Dr I Smith (IS), Dr. R Smith Dr Valge-Archer (VVA), Mrs Dalton (Clerk)

In attendance. Cllr John Batchelor (JB) for part of the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Ms Pattinson, Cllr Henry Batchelor.

2. **Minutes of last meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2019 were agreed. PB remarked that although parking on grass verges and pavements is not illegal it is illegal to obstruct pedestrian footways.

3. **Matters arising not on the agenda.**

The action list was reviewed and updated.

- **Road Safety.** The white lines at the junction of Bourn Bridge Road and Newmarket Rd have still not been replenished. It is very dangerous. The head teacher at the Cambridge International School has expressed grave concerns about road safety. The Clerk has given him contact details for the County Council. The trees obstructing vision at the road crossing on Cambridge Road have still not been cut back. This was raised with the County Council Highways Officer in August 2019.
- **Granta Park access.** No progress

4. **Members declarations of interest.** Nil.

5. **Public participation:** None

6. **Report from Cllrs Batchelor**

The October report was discussed. Of note:

- **Access to rubbish tips.** Access for trailers and vans to be limited. They need a permit.
 - **Hinxton Genome Campus outline planning application.** The application was approved by the SCDC planning committee. The rules do not allow the committee to consider the impact of other planning proposals in the same area however, now that this application has been approved consideration of any planning applications for significant developments would take account of overall impact on the local area.
 - **Community Chest.** The local Scouts group has been encouraged to apply.
 - **Litter Picking equipment.** SCDC is offering litter pick kits to parish councils.
- CLERK**
- **Greater Cambridge Planning.** The IT system will be upgraded in November.

JB left the meeting at 7:45pm

7. **Planning**

7.1 **Planning applications:** Nil

7.2 **SCDC Planning decisions and amendments**

- **S/4329/18/OL Genome Campus, Hinxton.** Approved. See item 6 above.

7.3 **Local Developments**

- **Uttlesford Local Development Plan.** The inspector's report is overdue.
- **New Local Development Plan.** It is understood that more than 500 submissions to SHLAA will need to be processed,
- **Greater Cambridge Local Planning.** October update noted.

8. Highways and traffic

- **Greater Cambridge Partnership – Cambridge South East Better Public Transport proposals.** 95 people attended the public information event in Great Abington. It was an opportunity for parish councillors to get some feedback from residents. The Parish Council's response was discussed. See appendix.
- **Linton Greenway.** PB said there was limited scope to widen the route from the Babraham Road Park & Ride site to the Babraham Institute. The route from Linton to Hildersham is being developed. It will include a road crossing for cyclists joining from the Abingtons.
- **Speedwatch.** Ickleton Speedwatch is now self-sufficient. The sharing scheme has stopped. The Abingtons scheme will need more volunteers if it is to run more often.

9. Village Environment/ community engagement

- **Street lighting.** LAPC agreed to the Clerk's proposed approach to finding a supplier for street lighting energy with the goal of taking responsibility no later than March 2020. The option of working with Hildersham and Great Abington Parish Councils is being explored. It seems unlikely there would be any cost advantage.
- **Zero Carbon Fund.** Great Abington Parish Council proposed making a bid for an e-bike on behalf of both parish councils. LAPC was concerned about some aspects of the proposal and agreed to wait for the draft application before agreeing if it would support it.
- **Litter pick equipment .** See agenda item 6.
- **Footpath behind West Field.** The Chairman signed the permissive path agreement. The design of notices was discussed. - cost £55.00 each. An item about the permissive paths will be included in the next village newsletter report.
- **Granta Park Noise .** The noise nuisance continues. Residents and SB have met the team from TWI. They agreed to walk round the site at night time in an attempt to identify the source of the problem.
- **Bonfires.** Two complaints about bonfires have been received. The police were involved on one occasion.
- **Fourwentways.** It was agreed to contact the local press about the problems at Fourwentways and lack of action by local authorities and the police.

SB

- **Comfort Café .** SCDC has given the owners of the Comfort Cafe site specific instructions to tidy up. Some residents have photographs of the site.

10. Finance and compliance

10.1 Receipts . Noted

SCDC Q3,4 Precept	£	8750.00
-------------------	---	---------

10.2 Payments . All payments were agreed

Contribution to Uttlesford fighting fund	£	500.00
AJ King Maintenance SO October	VAT £85.77	£ 514.60
Mrs G Dalton Clerk salary October	£	294.62
Mrs G Dalton Clerk expenses Q2	£	80.43
Abington Institute Room hire	£	36.00
Bridge inspection (CCC will reimburse)	VAT 10.80	£ 64.80
TSO Host Website Domain Renewal	VAT 4.79	£ 28.75

ARGC 50% 2019-20 grant	£	1378.00
TOTAL	£	2897.20

10.3 Half year finance report: Expenditure year to date has been published on the Abingtons website. The Parish Council reviewed the summary of expenditure compared to budget. There were no significant variances. It was noted that income from Ickleton Parish Council for Speedwatch will stop

M6 Finance Report:

	TOTAL	Current	Cambridgeshire Building Society
Opening per bank statement	£29,337.54	£14,258.48	£ 15,079.06
Balances at close of meeting	£26,139.92	£11,060.86	£ 15,079.06

10.4 Compliance

- **Compliance Working Group** . A summary of the Compliance Working Group meeting was reviewed . It was agreed that management and accountability for the Abingtons web site needs to be properly understood. Contributors should be aware of data protection requirement/regulations. **CLERK** to follow up.
- **Financial Regulations** The updated regulations were agreed.

10.5 Budget planning 2020-2121

- **Precept letter.** The deadline for the 2020-21 precept request is 20 January 2020. The tax base for Little Abington is 257.4.
- **2020-21 budget plan.** The draft budget plan was discussed. Room hire rates and the Recreation Ground grant need to be confirmed. It was agreed to plan for a 2% increase in precept. Clerk to update budget plan based on the discussions. **CLERK**

10.6 Risk Management The risk register has been updated. Some risks have reduced.

11. Meetings /representation

- Feedback from meetings attended by LAPC reps not elsewhere on agenda.
 - Local Plan Workshop. Report to follow
 - SCDC Planning Forum. Not represented
 - TWI noise. See agenda item 9
 - SCDC Southern Cluster. Report circulated
 - Greenways. See agenda item 8
- LAPC representation at forthcoming meetings.
 - Police & Crime Commissioner. Cancelled
 - Cambs Local Councils Conference. Clerk
 - Heidi Allen - proposed GCP bus route. Cancelled
 - Combined Parishes meeting 26 Nov. SB and VVA.

12. To receive minutes from committees

12.1 Institute Management Committee. Notes from 10 September noted.

12.2 Recreation Ground Committee. Next meeting 4 November

13. To receive reports from representatives.

13.1 Village maintenance. The PRVs have been cut.

13.2 Lights, roads and pavements. SCDC plan to replace the bulbs in their streetlights with energy efficient ones. This should reduce the cost of power for parish councils. They do not plan to do any upgrades or to remove or erect new lights. The Clerk has agreed to survey the lights on their inventory in darkness and advise them where lights are inadequate.

13.3.Trees. IS has identified three new potential risks. Two are on private property so they are the responsibility of house holders. A tree from the verge has fallen across cables on Cambridge Road. The County Council should remove it.

CLERK

13.4 Police. LAPC will submit two questions: - about Fourwentways and about local crime to the Police and Crime Commissioner before the meeting on 5 November.

CLERK

14. Correspondence. The correspondence file is on circulation

15. Any Other Business/Items for next agenda

- **Action list/ Carry forward items** Litter pick equipment
- **Items for village newsletter.** Footpaths, bonfires, not obstructing pavements

The meeting closed at 9:55pm

Next meetings:
Monday 25 November 2019 at 7:15pm
Monday 27 January 2020 at 7:15pm
Abington Institute, High Street, Great Abington

Signed

Parish Council Chairman

25 November 2019

APPENDIX 1

**Cambridge South-East Consultation:
Response from Little Abington Parish Council November 2019**

Public transport proposals. SUPPORT

- Little Abington Parish Council (LAPC) recognises the need to look for better options for public transport to key locations in and around Cambridge including Addenbrookes Hospital/biomedical campus, schools, railway stations at Whittlesford and Cambridge, and the city centre. Sawston and Linton are also important destinations for residents of Little Abington for shopping, schools and NHS Primary Care centres.
- The existing 13 bus service is excellent. It offers good access to Cambridge, including the hospital. It also links the Abingtons to Linton and Haverhill.
- Collaboration is required to develop and implement a **strategy to** improve the road and transport network in this area on the A505, A11 and A1307. The recent approval of the planning application to develop the Welcome Trust Genome Campus site at Hinxton makes this even more important.
- There is an immediate need to increase capacity at the existing Babraham and Trumpington Park & Ride sites. They are often full by the middle of the day leaving people with little option but to drive on to the city centre, adding to the congestion and then paying astronomical car parking fees which were imposed to support a strategy for reducing traffic in the city centre.

- Cycle routes need to be considered. With the evolution of e-bikes there are more options for travel and commuting by bicycle. Cycle routes must also be maintained.
- This is an extract from LAPC's response in 2018
"A solution needs to be found for completing the route from Newmarket Road (the old A11) to Granta Park. The route is used for cycling, walking or running by school children going to and from school or the School Playing Fields, local people and by Granta Park employees. Now that the landowner has closed access from Bourn Bridge Road down the Old Coach Road onto Granta Park there is no safe cycling route between Granta Park and the old A11/ Newmarket Road entry point to the cycleway. In peak hours there is heavy and speeding traffic on the Newmarket Road and there is no off-road cycling provision or, a footway on part of the route, . Although this could be added without substantial works for the most part, the bridge will be a bottleneck. A more feasible option is to route the cycleway down Bourn Bridge Road with a turn off towards Granta Park on the Old Coach Road which would not need much work to improve its surface. We understand this route already has an easement permitting access for people with a right to go to Granta Park i.e. employees, gym members and residents who might wish to use the remaining elements of the permissive pedestrian route. With removal of the barrier in Sluice Wood erected by the landowner this would reinstate a long established route for pedestrians and cyclists. There are PRVs on either side of Bourn Bridge Road. Although it would be a pity to lose them one option may be to consider using one PRV as a cycle route or possibly to take a strip of land from the fields so that the PRV provides some separation between the road and the cycle route. We are concerned about routing cyclists through the village. Bourn Bridge Road, Church Lane and the High Street are not suitable. Routing a cycleway across or around the perimeter of Granta Park., on to Pampisford Road making use of the existing verges to make a multiuser path to the proposed new junction would be a better option. The excellent multiuser path around the Babraham Research Institute demonstrates that this would be feasible without jeopardising site security. It would also improve provision for pedestrians on Pampisford Road."

PROPOSED STOPS. OPPOSE...

...because they do not add any real benefits. Whilst the proposed route would run close to Sawston and onwards to the Biomedical Campus it would not enable easy access to the centre of Sawston or to the medical practice and it would not provide a route to Whittlesford Parkway railway station which is the preferred railway station for most residents.

ENVIRONMENT

- LAPC welcomes any initiatives to improve the environment. Plans for a wildlife/ conservation area near two of the proposed Park & Ride sites were noted.
- However, one of the reasons that the Parish Council strongly opposes the proposal to site the Park & Ride car park/travel hub for more than 2000 vehicles at site C, on the A1307 in Little Abington, is because of the impact on the environment. Increased traffic flows and congestion will cause air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution along a residential street in our village.

PARK & RIDE/TRAVEL HUBS

General points:

- The proposals are for large (>2000 vehicles) car parks adjacent to travel hubs; the size of the car park is enormous, far larger than the existing Park & Ride site at

Babraham Road and the Abingtons would bear the brunt of the environmental consequences of developing such a large car park.

- GCP believe that by offering new parking capacity it will enable development of Granta Park. There is still space on Babraham Research site which may be better appointed for development than Granta Park which has already developed beyond the scope that was originally proposed. Granta Park is the source of noise nuisance to some residents of Little Abington. No more development on Granta Park should be permitted until these problems have been resolved.
- The focus of the current GCP proposals is to improve the route from Fourwentways to Cambridge. Option C creates a problem further “upstream” in Little Abington. Solutions need to be found to reduce traffic flows further upstream i.e. from Linton and Haverhill. This includes GENUINE collaborative work between local authorities and other agencies to develop a new route from Haverhill towards the M11.
- Overnight HGV parking is a problem at Fourwentways and elsewhere nearby. GCP and other agencies need to work with hauliers to find an acceptable solution.
- Speed limits. Householders who live in Cambridge Road are frequently in danger as they enter and exit their driveways. Reducing the speed limit to 30mph would help to improve road safety. The limits on surrounding roads need to be reviewed. Speed limits need to be properly policed e.g. with speed cameras.

Site A SUPPORT

- Offers good options for developing walking and cycling access for Granta Park and Babraham
- At the start of the shortest and least intrusive public transport route into Cambridge
- The site would be sensible hub point on any future public transport route following the line of the old railway towards Haverhill
- It is on the proposed route to Cambridge South Station, going close to Sawston, Stapleford & Gt Shelford.
- Further away from residential areas
- Easy to landscape to disguise it
- It would be on the western side of the A11, thus avoiding a fly over and all the accompanying expense and disruption.
- It is close to the Business/Research sites of both Granta Park & Babraham
- It is also in the correct location for the future plans to continue the public transport route to Haverhill.
- It is less likely to cause traffic congestion on the A1307
- There is risk of more congestion on the A505
- However, it is further away from Little Abington and less likely to be used by pedestrians

Site B OPPOSE

- Offers better walking and cycling access for Granta Park and Babraham than site C
- The site is in the dip and would be easier to landscape
- With proper provision for walking and cycling routes it would be possible for residents from Little Abington to walk or cycle to the travel hub.
- There needs to be some consideration of provision for pedestrians who use the Public Right of Way to walk to Babraham. There must be safe access across the car park for pedestrians and cyclists. The path to Babraham needs to be properly lit and the surface improved.
- LAPC’s major concern is the location of the single access and exit point for vehicles very close to the Four Went Ways roundabout. The junction with the A1307 would

need to be signalised making the risk of congestion in the village of Little Abington very high.

Site C **STRONGLY OPPOSE**

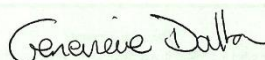
- The site slopes uphill away from Little Abington. It would be extremely difficult to landscape it so that it is hidden from view from Little Abington.
- Although the site is not Green Belt it is a large field that is currently used for farming offering a green outlook.
- Linking it to the proposed transport route will need to include a crossing over the A11
- The A1307 is already very congested. LAPC has not seen any of GCP's data on current traffic volumes or data models showing projected traffic flows. This is particularly important given the plans for a development of more than 5000 new dwellings in Haverhill, more warehousing, and hence more HGV traffic in Haverhill, and new housing developments proposed along the A1307 route. In the next two years or so almost 100 new dwellings will have been built in Great Abington. We are aware of proposals for more new housing near Linton. The parish council's own data from interactive signs and Speedwatch shows traffic volumes of about 1000 vehicles per hour towards Cambridge and up to 800 vehicles per hour towards Haverhill in peak times. It is hard to see how building a Park & Ride in Little Abington, which will encourage more cars, will reduce these problems. Instead it will increase congestion, reduce air quality, add to pollution and create even more road safety hazards than at present.
- There would need to be effective traffic calming measures in place to prevent rat running through Little Abington village which is already affected by speeding and dangerous driving. Many of our village roads lack pavements and have 90° bends.
- The site is probably too far from Granta Park and the Babraham Research site to encourage their staff to use it.
- Unless the travel hub offers transport options other than towards Cambridge and Linton and Haverhill there are no obvious benefits to residents of Little Abington given the excellent service from bus 13.
- If, in spite of its unsuitability, there is a decision to develop site C, there must be provision of safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists including crossing points.

ROUTES

- A (purple) **support** because of less impact on natural environment
- B (pink) **strongly support** because of less impact on natural environment
- B (brown) **oppose** because of impact on natural environment cutting across meadowland and across the river
- C (black) **strongly oppose**. LAPC opposes site C
- C (blue) **strongly oppose**. LAPC opposes site C and routing traffic from site B to site C would require a new road crossing the A11. It would also have severe adverse effects on the natural environment.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

NONE



Clerk, November 2019

Matters arising/meeting action list

October 2019

Meeting date/Topic	Action	Responsible	Update/status
April 2018	Granta Park access. Long-standing issue	PB	Standing agenda item. Feb 2019 Membership of gym offered. c.f Footpaths group. CLOSE ?
July 2018	Road safety junction Bourn Bridge Road/CIS	CCC	Feb 2019 CCC will repaint white lines. Awaited OCT 2019 NO PROGRESS CIS have serious road safety concerns
	Street lighting - Cambridge Road	CLERK	SCDC contact name received Oct 2019. SCDC to replace all light bulbs
Sept 2018			
Fourwentways	Public Participation: Lorry parking Fourwentways.	CCC Highways SB	Dec 2018 Site meeting with CCC & SCDC . Jan 2019 Petition. Feb 2019 CCC Not high priority given financial constraints March 2019 S215 Notice to be considered May 2019 Development of Comfort Café site might improve it. July 2019 Paragon (Comfort Café landowner) contacted Sept 2019 yellow lines discussed with CCC. Difficult to enforce. Oct 2019. Contact local press
Roads and pavements	Cambridge Road - road surface Pavements - poor condition. Some hazardous		July 2019 some road resurfacing scheduled but not in Little Abington
Tree Risks	Condition of trees & hedges on Cambridge Rd Tree overhanging 19 Church Close	IS/RS Clerk	1 potential risk on private property at 27 Cambridge Rd. Risk list to be updated. Oct 2019 New risks noted Sept 2019 householder has written to Cottage Preservation Society Oct 2019 in progress
JAN 2019			
	Tree works Ivan Clarks corner	Clerk	UK Power Networks requested contact details. Oct 2019 no progress
	First aid training	Clerk	Parish Nurse Team to be approached. Sept 2019 Mental Health First Aid training being evaluated. Oct 2019 No more training commissioned . CLOSE
	Comfort Café site. deteriorating appearance		March 2019 Consider S215 Town & Country Planning Act May 2019 Noted proposal for Med Tech development

			<p>July 2019 Chairman contacted Paragon (site owner)See minutes</p> <p>Sept 2019 Fly tipping reported. SCDC Enforcement taking action. S 215 order to be considered.</p> <p>OCT 2019 SCDC have taken action</p>
Feb 2019			
Speedwatch	Arrangements with GAPC to be agreed	LAPC/GAPC	Sept 2019. GAPC to support LHI application. GA SW volunteers sought
Maintenance contract	Contact farmer re hedges on A1307	Clerk Clerk	<p>April 2019 Farmer won't cut hedges unless road safety risk</p> <p>May 2019 CCC contacted - road safety concerns.</p> <p>June 2019 Response suggests CCC will cut back verge</p> <p>Sept 2019 CCC agreed to cut back to improve safety at crossing. Too dangerous now for contractor to cut verges.</p> <p>OCT 2019 NO ACTION. STILL DANGEROUS</p>
Directory	Abington Directory Review and update	RS	<p>Wip. Parish Nurse PLUS team</p> <p>Sept 2019.To incorporate in a Village Welcome Pack</p>
May 2019			
Code of Conduct	Register of Interests Updates required	ALL	
Footpaths	Response to Abington Lea Ltd	CLERK	<p>June 2019 Order signs.</p> <p>July 2019 posts awaited and insurance visit</p> <p>Sept.2019 Land owner contacted after insurance visit. Map and inspection protocol drafted. Landowner finalising legal aspects.</p> <p>OCT 2019 agreement signed Signage agreed.</p>
Litter	Mapping hot spots and problem areas	Clerk	Sept 2019 SCDC to enforce litter picking conditions at FourWWays
	Litter pick equipment	Clerk	Oct 2019. No discernible improvements at FourWentWays
			OCT 2019 follow up SCDC's offer for 20 kits.
Street faults	Several street faults still outstanding	CCC	March 2019 SW sign chased. CCC Action awaited
	Speedwatch signs ordered Dec 2017 – still awaited		Oct 2019 no progress on SW signs
	Improving working relationship with Highways		
June 2019			
Interactive sign	Downloading census data	PB	Sept 2019 Agreed monthly download. Task to be shared.
Highways faults	Maintaining a log of faults	CLERK	
Internal audit report	Action plan	CWG	<p>Sept 2019. CWG to meet October</p> <p>OCT 2019 CWG met CLOSE</p>

July 2019			
Granta Park noise nuisance	See Public participation. Noise continues.	SB	Sept 2019 TWI Works complete . Residents continue to monitor Oct 2019 Meeting held 9 October
Trees C'bridgeRd	List of trees causing concerns	IS	OCT 2019. New risks noted.
Info System Risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User names and passwords for critical IT systems to be passed to chair and held confidentially and securely Test IT security/Cyber training 	Bank signatories/ SP/Clerk	Sept 2019. Chairman has list of Clerks passwords and user names Sept 2019 CAPALC licences for cyber training purchased
Sept 2019			
Street lighting	CCC for devolving responsibility for power costs for street lighting to parish councils wef 1 /10/2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking into the options for working collaboratively with Great Abington & Hildersham if there is a cost advantage Setting up contract SCDC street light bulb upgrade	Clerk Clerk	Sept 2019 contact Brinkley about their approach; OCT 2019. LAPC approach agreed. Aim to complete transfer before end March 2020 OCT 2019 SCDC lights- survey lights on inventory.
Uttlesford development plan	LAPC to donate £500 in 2019-20 and reconsider in 2020-21 budget planning	Clerk/SB	Oct 2019 Included in Draft Budget plan
GCP consultation on A1307	Making a coherent response: Information for the public, Attendance at public exhibition on 21 October	ALL	Response agreed and sent 4/11/2019 CLOSE
Meeting P & C Commissioner	LAPC to agree 2 reps	ALL	Questions sent. Meeting with Police & Crime Commissioner cancelled
VE Day 2020 Commemoration	Budget for contribution, SB to represent LAPC on committee	Clerk SB	To be agreed OCT 2019 included in draft budget plan
Cutting PRVS	Check scheduling with Naturewatch	PB	Oct 2019 PRVs cut. CLOSE
OCTOBER 2019			
Trees	Add new risk to risk register. Alert CCC to fallen tree on Cambridge Rd	Clerk	
Website	Obtain information to clarify security, "ownership" and administration and management procedures	CLERK	
Litter Pick kits	Follow up offer from SCDC	CLERK/SB	