

LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Abington Parish Council on

Monday, 24 February 2020 at 7.15 pm in the Abington Institute Great Abington.

DRAFT TO BE AGREED AT THE NEXT FULL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

In attendance. Cllr Henry Batchelor (HB), Cllr John Batchelor (JB), for part of the meeting. There were three members of the public present.

The chairman agreed to change the agenda order to take public participation after item 2.

1. Apologies for absence. None

2. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27 January 2020 were agreed.

5. Public participation - Abington Woods

Holme Court School will be moving from Abington Woods to Cherry Hinton Hall in the near future. The Parish Council was delighted to hear that the Local Education Authority has agreed to purchase the buildings so that Granta School, which is based in Linton, can have facilities at Abington Woods.

The school has a well established relationship with the team at Abington Woods. Pupils benefit from the opportunity for outdoor education and vocational training there. It was not envisaged that the scale of use of the site would change significantly.

Abington Woods is an important Local Green Space in Little Abington. It will continue to be available to the local community by arrangement as well as other organisations.

Members of the public left the meeting at 19:30

3. Matters arising. The action list was reviewed and updated. It is not clear when Paragon will submit the planning application for the new facility on the Comfort Café site. They seem to have several planning applications in hand.

4. Members' declarations of interests for items on the agenda. Dr R Smith. The agenda included a payment to him.

6.. Report from Cllrs John and Henry Batchelor

The content of the report was noted.

Cambridgeshire County Council

- **Local Highways Improvement schemes.** Application dates will be brought forward to April/May so that projects can be planned and completed within a financial year.
- **Greater Cambridge partnership**
 - A1307 improvement work continues . Resurfacing work at Linton would result in some disruption to traffic for a few days.
 - The Mayor of the Combined Authority is proposing taking over the upgrade of the A428 route between Cambridge and Cambourne. One advantage would be stronger leadership, better alignment with associated regional and local initiatives and stronger public accountability for delivery of this costly work programme.
- **Police**
 - Consultation on the new policing strategy. LAPC would reply before 2 March.
 - There will be elections for a new Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2020.

South Cambridgeshire District Council• **Planning matters.**

- Following a legal challenge, the District Council is reviewing its protocol for delegated decision making on planning applications. Parish councils will be involved and consulted.
- Transfer to the new planning information system went smoothly. The Clerk has consultee access and she has received a report from the new system. **CLERK** to follow up LAPC's request for SP (LAPC Planning Chair) to have consultee access.

Discussion points

- **Bus Passes.** The application process has been updated. Applications can be made on line or by phone. It was felt that some people might have difficulty. IT help is available at local libraries. The monthly Abington Hub offers IT help, but it does not have access to a printer or a scanner.

Cllrs Batchelor left the meeting at 20:00

7. Planning

7.1 Planning applications: No new applications.

7.2 SCDC Planning decisions and amendments. No decisions this month.

- Bancroft Farm farmyard, Church Lane. SCDC has received updated plans for the site. The Parish Council is awaiting details ready for public consultation.

7.3 Local Developments

- Greater Cambridge - new planning system . See item 7.
- Greater Cambs Local Development Plan (LDP) – VAA attended the Big Debate and PB had joined a local meeting arranged by the District Councillor for Balsham. LAPC's response was submitted on time. See Appendix
- Greater Cambridge Local Planning update. Noted
- Consultation South Cambridge Railway station. This was discussed. **CLERK** to reply

8. Highways and traffic

- **Speedwatch.** Thanks to RS by taking the equipment to Norfolk for repair. One session has been held. A new rota will start on 2 March
- **Local Highways Improvement scheme application.**
 - LAPC was not represented at the recent panel meeting. Decisions are awaited.
 - The new timetable was noted and welcomed. Options for the next round include double yellow lines on the approach roads to Fourwentways and resubmitting the bid for MVAS on Newmarket Road if it is not successful.

9. Village Environment/ community engagement

- **Local Engagement event - clubs and societies.** LAPC reiterated its support for an event. It agreed to contribute towards the cost of hall hire and printing flyers etc.
- **VE Day commemoration/event** – discussed at GAPC/ LAPC liaison meeting.
- **Litter and concerns at Fourwentways.** Not aware of any action by SCDC and no obvious improvements. **CLERK and IS** to draft letters to EG Garages and Shell.

10. Finance and compliance**10.1 Income.**

Cambs County Council Grass cutting grant	£	506.44
Great Abington Parish Council: Ford Maintenance and share of website costs	£	83.56
CCC refund for Millennium Bridge Inspection	£	64.80
Cambridge Building Society Interest to 31.12.2019	£	37.70
South Cambs District Council grass cutting grant	£	250.00
TOTAL	£	333.56

Ickleton Parish Council will discuss the invoice for Speedwatch at their next meeting. **CLERK** to send a reminder for one other invoice.

10.2 Payments.

All payments on the agenda were agreed.

AJ King Maintenance SO February 2020	VAT £85.77	£	514.60
Mrs G Dalton Clerk salary February		£	294.62
Dr R Smith travel to Westcotec (Speedwatch repairs) 120 miles		£	24.00
TOTAL		£	833.22

10.3 Q3 finance report:

Finance reports to end of January were noted. There were no concerns. Projected year end expenditure would probably be less than £25,000.

	TOTAL	Current	Cambridgeshire Building Society
Opening per bank statement	£24,021.74	£ 8904.98	£ 15116.76
Balances at close of meeting	£23,188.72	£ 8071.96	£ 15,116.76

10.4 Village maintenance contract. Three companies were asked to quote: RH Landscapes, Anglia Tree Contractors and Brookfield. RA and the Clerk had met them, and they had all sent quotations. It was agreed to appoint Brookfield. **CLERK** to follow up

11. Meetings /representation

11.1 Recent meetings.

- **Feedback and recommendations from GAPC/LAPC Liaison Meeting.** SB, RS and RA attended.
 - Planning for VE Day commemorations has met some stumbling blocks,
 - GAPC will contribute to the cost of Speedwatch repairs.
 - e-bike project - LAPC reps will meet Emma Pery to help with planning
 - The group had agreed an approach to data protection for contributors to the village newsletter
 - No progress on establishing a website working group. GAPC felt it was LAPC's responsibility. Agreed the **CLERK** should meet the website designer to discuss technical issues. LAPC discussed approaches to managing access and concerns about information governance.
- **CAPALC:** The value of membership of CAPALC was considered. They were unable to provide any analysis of the size of member parish councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The impression was that their activities were focused mainly on large parish councils. LAPC would not be represented at the EGM on 2 March.
- **Haverhill Forum.** Meeting notes were received.

11.2.LAPC representation at forthcoming meetings.

SCDC Planning Forum - 30 March- None. Acting Police & Crime Commissioner - 4 March SP & RA, Zero Carbon Workshop - 7 March PB. Agreed to advertise this event in case of any community interest.

11.3 Annual Parish Meeting agenda

- Climate Change - CCC have agreed to send a rep. They asked for some briefing.
- A1307 - RS suggested inviting a rep from the Greater Cambridge Partnership for an update on progress and plans.

CLERK

12. To receive minutes from committees

12.1 Institute Management Committee. No recent meetings.

12.2 Recreation Ground Committee. Next meeting 2 March

13. To receive reports from representatives.

13.1 Village maintenance contract. The contractor has attended today. He will continue to do so until the new contract is set up.

13.2. Lights, roads and pavements. One interactive speed sign is intermittent.

13.3. Trees

- A tree fell in a property on the High Street in the recent storms and damaged a wall which partially collapsed onto the pavement. The rubble has been cleared and the householder is dealing with it. Several large branches fell on to Cambridge Road. They were cleared away promptly and the householder has taken action to reduce future risks. .

- **CLERK** to apply for tree vouchers. They will be pooled with GAPC to plant trees on the Recreation Ground. **CLERK.**

13.4 Police –

- **Coffee with a Cop.** Next session Saturday 14 March.
- **Consultation on new police hub and new Cambridge City police station.**
CLERK to reply on behalf of LAPC.
- **Questions to Acting Police and Crime Commissioner - dangerous parking at Fourwentways, Speed on Newmarket Road.** **CLERK**

14. Correspondence. Correspondence has been forwarded or included in the circulation file.

15 Any Other Business/Items for next agenda

- The Abingtons Allotments Association has received a Community Chest grant for a heavy duty shredder
- Action list/ Carry forward items. Abingtons website
- Items for village newsletter.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

**Next meetings:
Monday 23 March 2020 at 7:15pm
Monday 27 April 2020 at 7:00 pm
followed by the
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AT 8:00PM
Abington Institute, High Street, Great Abington**

Signed

Date
23 March 2020

Chairman

Matters arising/meeting action list

February 2020

Meeting date/Topic	Action	Responsible	Update/status
July 2018	Road safety junction Bourn Bridge Road/CIS	CCC PB/RS	Feb 2019 CCC will repaint white lines. Awaited OCT 2019 NO PROGRESS CIS have serious road safety concerns Jan 2020 LHI MVAS bid. Feasibility ✓, panel meets 3/2. Await decision Feb 2020. LHI decision awaited. No progress on dangerous junction
Sept 2018			
Fourwentways	Public Participation: Lorry parking Fourwentways and litter.	CCC Highways CLERK	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 Nov 2019 Some press coverage. Jan2020 Reply to planning conditions and failure to enforce. Feb 2020 Contact Shell and Euro Garages HQs
Roads and pavements	Pavements - poor condition. Some hazardous Cambridge Road - road surface	ALL	July 2019 some road resurfacing scheduled but not in Little Abington Jan2020 Agreed Spring 2020 PC village walk round
Tree Risks	Condition of trees & hedges on Cambridge Rd Tree overhanging 19 Church Close	IS/RS Clerk	1 risk on private property at 27 Cambridge Rd. Update risk list Oct 2019 New risks noted. Fallen tree on Cambridge Rd reported. Jan2020 Flailing done but tree still a risk to o/head cables Sept 2019 householder has written to Cottage Preservation Society Oct 2019 in progress. Jan2020 SCDC contacted CPS. Tree work application received
JAN 2019			
	Tree works Ivan Clarks Corner	Clerk	UK Power Networks requested contact details. Oct 2019 Nil. Feb 2020 still no action. Trees are growing into cables. Contact UK Power Networks
	Comfort Café site. deteriorating appearance		March 2019 Consider S215 Town & Country Planning Act May 2019 Noted proposal for Med Tech development July 2019 Chairman contacted Paragon (site owner)See minutes

		SB	Sept 2019 Fly tipping reported. SCDC Enforcement taking action. OCT 2019 SCDC enforcement action Nov 2019 order completed. Jan2020 Awaiting planning application. Feb 2020 Planning application still awaited
Feb 2019			
Speedwatch	Arrangements with GAPC to be agreed	LAPC/GAPC SB RS/CLERK	Sept 2019. GAPC to support LHI application. Sept 2019 GA SW volunteers sought. Nov 2019 No new volunteers Jan2020 No new GAPC input. Raise again at Liaison meeting. Agreed to repair monitor. Feedback from police requested. Feb 2020 repaired and reinstated. GAPC to fund 60% cost . No police awaited
Directory	Abington Directory Review and update	RS	Wip. Parish Nurse PLUS team Sept 2019.To incorporate in a Village Welcome Pack Jan 2020 Pack on circulation for comment
May 2019			
Code of Conduct	Register of Interests Updates required	ALL	
Litter	Mapping hot spots and problem areas Litter pick equipment	Clerk Clerk	Sept 2019 SCDC to enforce litter picking conditions at FourWWays Oct 2019. No discernible improvements at FourWentWays OCT 2019 follow up SCDC's offer for 20 kits. Nov 2019 20 received. Policy and advertising c/f January 2020 Jan2020 Agreed loan agreement. Awaiting photo for launch. Annual Litter Pick 4 April. Alignment with national initiatives Feb 2020. Signed up to Keep Britain Tidy initiative
Street faults	Several street faults still outstanding Speedwatch signs ordered Dec 2017 – still awaited Improving working relationship with Highways	CCC CLERK	March 2019 SW sign chased. CCC Action awaited Oct 2019 no progress on SW signs FEB 2020. .Police chasing up SW signs
June 2019			
Interactive speed sign	Downloading census data	PB/CLERK	Sept 2019 Agreed monthly download. Task to be shared. Feb 2020 To do in Spring
Highways faults	Maintaining a log of faults	CLERK	
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. Standing agenda item

			Feb2020. Still no resolution
Info System Risk management	User names and passwords for critical IT systems to be passed to chair and held confidentially and securely IT security/Cyber training	Bank signatories/ CLERK	Sept 2019.Chairman has list of Clerk's passwords and user names Sept 2019 CAPALC cyber training licences x2 purchased. 1 licence inoperable Nov 2019 Clerk doing course & chasing access for licence Jan2020 agenda. One CyberSafe course completed. Feb 2020 clerk has a certificate! Still awaiting access for second licence holder from CAPALC.
Sept 2019			
Street lighting	SCDC street light bulb upgrade	Clerk	OCT 2019 SCDC lights- survey lights on inventory.
OCTOBER 2019			
Trees	Add new risk to risk register. Alert CCC to fallen tree on Cambridge Rd	Clerk	Feb2020 tree still dangling precariously but not resting on cable
Website and information governance	Obtain information to clarify security, "ownership" and administration and management procedures	CLERK	Jan 2020. For Liaison meeting agenda Feb2020 Liaison Group agreed LAPC should lead this work. Plan required
NOVEMBER 2019			
Burger King	Check progress on planning conditions	HB	Jan 2020. LAPC objected to discharge of planning conditions. Feb 2020 no updates from SCDC
JANUARY 2020			
APM agenda	Invite CCC to join discussions on climate change	WHO? CLERK	Feb 2020 CCC confirmed. Briefing required Invite GCP
Maintenance contract	Re-let contract. Request 3 quotes	RA/CLERK	Feb 2020 Agreed to appoint Brookfield . Finalise arrangements
Tree planting	Decision on use of vouchers required	ALL	Feb 2020 Vouchers received. CLOSE
SCDC planning decision making	Reply to concerns about changes in protocol on delegated decision making	CLERK	Feb 2020 SCDC to keep Parish Council informed
FEBRUARY 2020			
Consultations	Responses to police and Network rail	CLERK	Feb 2020 sent 28th Feb CLOSE
Police	Questions to acting police and crime commissioner		Feb 2020. Agreed and sent 28 Feb CLOSE

APPENDIX 1

Response to Local Development Plan consultation February 2020

Little Abington Parish Council (LAPC) is broadly in agreement with the proposed key themes as the process for agreeing the new Local Development Plan gets underway.

We would expect to see evidence of alignment with the plans of adjoining local authorities and other public authorities including the County Council, the Greater Cambridge Partnership and the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority as well as evidence of linkage with public service providers in this area such as Health and Social Care, Education and the Police.

Development and transport plans in adjoining authorities, such as North Uttlesford District Council and West Suffolk Council/St Edmundsbury should also be considered.

SPECIFIC POINTS

1. Potential for overdevelopment in and around Cambridge City including South Cambridgeshire.

Clearly Cambridge City and the area around it is of significant national economic and strategic importance, particularly for life sciences/ biomedical sciences /information technology research and industry. However, there is a risk of over development in this area. This is a key issue for many residents who are concerned about the quantity and pace of development in the South Cambs district and query the numbers demanded by central government.

Planners need to understand and reflect on what communities want and build on local knowledge and the tradition of the area. This must include planning for any new settlements or significant developments within existing communities.

We recognise that land is scarce and building higher rise buildings might be appropriate in some parts of Greater Cambridge, but it would not be acceptable in rural villages and areas with a historical style of architecture.

One Parish Councillor commented –*“The SCDC vision is stated as “to put the heart into Cambridgeshire”, but I reject the implication that it currently lacks a heart. Let’s recognise both the city and its surrounding network of vibrant village communities as having a pretty healthy heart already. Keeping it beating and avoiding sclerosis should be the objective”.*

2. Transport and infrastructure

More housing and other developments will lead to more traffic. Transport corridors in and around Cambridge and South Cambs are already highly congested. Putting more development near them without adequate consideration will only make things worse.

The Greater Cambridge team needs to work with the transport providers such as Network Rail to improve train services into Cambridge, e.g. from Whittlesford and surrounding small stations.

This needs to be phased with development, not an afterthought. Public transport must be affordable and accessible if drivers are to be encouraged off the road.

Buses, trains, cycle paths and metros are great for people, but no good for transportation of goods, lorries, vans, and tradespeople. A better rail infrastructure might provide an opportunity to shift transportation of goods from roads to rail particularly on the route from the eastern ports to the Midlands. This would be a major strategic shift requiring collaboration with multiple agencies.

However, there is no rail link to Haverhill to solve the problem of increasing goods traffic on the A1307. Much more thought needs to be given regarding the location of future distribution centres. They need to be closer to motorways and major routes and not in towns such as Haverhill with heavy goods traffic coming close to, or directly, through South Cambs villages.

3. Zero Carbon/Electricity

More homes, more jobs, increased development of business and science parks, electric cars. How will the increased demand for electricity and energy be met?

All planning applications for new housing developments should require initiatives to reduce emissions such as heat pumps and solar panels.

4. Water

There has been concern about the aquifers in this part of South Cambridgeshire. Further development means increased demand for water. Although at present (February 2020) the news is full of problems with excess rainfall and resultant flooding, after a few dry weeks in the summer it will be a different story with warnings of water shortage.

We need to conserve more water which will require increased storage capacity with larger reservoirs and underground storage of water. Planners should encourage/insist on more rainwater harvesting and use of grey water in all planning applications.

Sustainable drainage systems (SUDs) should also be considered and measures taken to reduce leakage.

5. Flooding

Although this is not currently a problem in Little Abington, further development, without thoughtful planning, could heighten the risk.

Any further development needs to ensure adequate drainage including upgrades of existing drainage whenever an opportunity (such as house extensions or small-scale developments) arises.

Ditches and rivers need to be kept clear and properly maintained with adequate flood defences provided in those areas prone to flooding.

6. Green spaces and Green Belt

The Plan must prioritise maintaining and protecting Local Green Spaces including Protected Village Amenity Areas (PVAAs). When opportunities arise new and accessible Local Green Spaces and PVAAs should be considered. Landscapes that are regarded as "special" by local communities should also be protected from development. These actions will protect biodiversity as well as providing more open spaces for recreation.

Building on the Green Belt should be avoided whenever possible. However, if building on Green Belt is required, an area of at least the same size should be provided to compensate.

Plans for new developments should include planting trees (not which trees will be removed as at present) and green spaces.

7. Villages

Small distinct villages are a characteristic of South Cambridgeshire. We feel there is risk of “sprawl” along new transport corridors and close to transport hubs.

LAPC notes consideration for “small” site developments of less than 1 hectare. For a village the size of Little Abington this would be a significant development for perhaps as many as 30 dwellings. Any development should be in keeping with appearance and characteristics of the local area and address local need.

Comment from a Parish Councillor: *“my most serious comment relates to “locating development”. The percentage allocated to “rural areas” should be brought down to say 10%, or we shall almost certainly start to destroy the character of many of our villages, not least our own.*

8. Access to public services

Public services in this area are already stretched. Schools are oversubscribed and NHS facilities are running over capacity. Primary Care is also overstretched.

Any new developments will need close working with public agencies such as Health & Social Care and Education to ensure that there is adequate service provision planned to open at the same time as developments are completed.

9. Biodiversity

Comment from a Parish Councillor: *“I would have liked to see a mention of supporting and promoting allotments and particularly of finding ways to link schools and the allotment movement. Learning how to grow our own and import less has an impact on food miles, plus the health benefits of exercise and connecting with the natural world”.*

10. Community Engagement

One parish councillor commented on difficulty navigating *“the labyrinthine structure of the document on the web site”.*

If the Greater Cambridge team is genuinely seeking meaningful community engagement and consensus in producing this plan we strongly recommend reconsidering how best to engage with the public and local communities with written materials and face to face exchanges of information.

It was a disappointment that there were no public exhibitions in this far South East corner of “Greater Cambridge”. The team needs to work harder to develop relationships with communities.