

A Parish Council meeting was held on Monday on **Monday 18th November 2019**, in the main hall at the Institute.

Present: Bernie Talbot, Pennie Zimmern, Louise Patten, Liz Sainsbury, Tony Orgee, Emma Pery, District Councillor and County Councillor Henry Batchelor, District Councillor John Batchelor, the Clerk and 7 members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.15pm

60. Open Forum – The previous owner of 7 Chalky Road explained that he now owned the land next to this property and that it was the site of the old piggery, which he had put in planning permission to have demolished so that he could build a new dwelling there, as per the Neighbourhood Plan. He expressed concern that the owners of 7 Chalky Road were seeking permission to build a new dwelling on their land when the piggery was on his land. Bernie Talbot explained that this planning application would be considered later during this meeting. Another resident explained that they had submitted a pre-application to South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), who had said that they could only build a new dwelling on the site of the old piggery, which the owners felt was in an inconvenient location and asked if the Parish Council would support their application. Bernie Talbot explained the Parish Council was unable to prejudge an application that it had not seen.

Bernie Talbot explained that the planning department had been approached and asked to use common sense and discretion when considering applications related to the Neighbourhood Plan and that the planning officers could use the Parish Council's recommendations as a guide. The minutes of the meeting held with Nigel Blaseby of SCDC Planning dept were being written up and should contain the recommendations above.

61. Apologies - Jane Bowen

62. Approval of the minutes for last meetings on 16th September 2019 were approved but would need to be reprinted as one word was in red.

63. Do any Councillors have interests to declare in the items to be discussed during the meeting? Has the Clerk granted any dispensations under section 33 (1) of the Localism Act and the basis is set out under section 33(2) No interests were declared or dispensations granted.

64. Report from District Councillor and County Councillor Henry Batchelor – his written report had been circulated on email.

Approval has recently been given for 55 new houses to be built in Linton, these were in addition to the 47 already approved.

Henry Batchelor reminded councillors that the District Council had an Innovate and Cultivate Fund for community groups which the Parish Nurse Scheme had already benefited from. The Community Chest Fund had been given an additional £45,000 for community schemes.

Residents had until December to take part in a Combined Authority bus survey.

The Police and Crime Commissioner had recently stepped down and the position was unlikely to be filled until May.

65. Report from District Councillors John Batchelor - his written report had been circulated on email.

The Wellcome Trust outline planning application for a new science park with 1500 houses had been approved and none of the other large planning applications for the area could be taken into consideration when a decision was made. The Trust development was a 30 year project in which the building of the houses was a later stage of the scheme.

Uttlesford District Council had asked that the Wellcome Trust application be considered by a planning inspector, who might be able to take account of other existing large planning applications in the area.

District Councillor and County Councillor Henry Batchelor and District Councillor John Batchelor left the meeting

66. Planning

a) Planning applications to be considered at the meeting:
S/3699/19/FL- Mr J. Tilley, 45 North Road – erection of a cart shed for garaging and charging for 2 electric vehicles

The council recommended approval with no comments made.

S/3693/19/FL -Dr R. Hamilton & Dr N Oakendon, 7 Chalky Road – erection of dwelling.
Bernie explained that the application must be considered on its own merits and whether the proposed new dwelling is adjacent to the old piggery which is on property owned by another person.

The council recommended refusal as the planning application goes against the Neighbourhood plan which requires the piggery of the site to be demolished so that the new dwelling can be built in its location, but the piggery is on land owned by someone else.

b) Planning applications/appeals considered by the Parish Council since the July meeting and decisions made by the District Council on separate sheet

67. Finance

a) Income: half of precept £6,000 plus quarterly interest of £12.73.

b) The Clerk had started the process to get Emma Pery added to the bank mandate, **The form was authorised by Bernie Talbot and Pennie Zimmern at the meeting, with the approval of all councillors.**

Bernie Talbot declared an interest in the next item as Chairman of the Abington Institute and did not participate in the discussion for item 67c.

c) The remaining Section 106 for the Institute are to be used for institute flooring; can councillors authorise this payment of £8,075.49 directly to Abington Institute? Pennie Zimmern proposed the payment which was seconded by Liz Sainsbury, with the support of all councillors.

*It was agreed that the donation to the StopNUTown would not be made until confirmation was received of the correct payee for the cheque and the location to send the payment.

Payment to be authorised by councillors:

101219	Abington Recreation Ground	Half of annual precept	£2,067.50
101220	*StopNUTown	Contribution to challenge new town plans	£3,000
101221	Paula Harper	Pay Oct & November 2019 – no tax	£537.24
101222	Hildersham Parochial Church Council	Parish Nurse scheme support	£1,000
101223	Abington Institute	Section 106 funds for new flooring	£8,075.49

Five residents left the meeting, leaving only two at the meeting.

d) The Clerk explained that the council was limited in the amount it could spend on section 137 funds annually (to approx. £5000) and as these funds were to be used to contribute to the StopNUTown to oppose a new town near Great Chesterford and to fund the Parish Nurse scheme, the council should spread the proposed cost over two financial years. Councillors agreed to pay the Parish Nurse scheme £1,000 now and the remaining £1,000 in 2020-21 financial year. Councillors also agreed to pay the StopNUTown £3,000 this year with the balance of £2,000 in the next financial year. **These changes to planned expenditure and to the payments in the above table were proposed by Liz Sainsbury and seconded by Tony Orgee with the support of all councillors.**

e) Bank balances as at 31st October 2019:

Community Account - £12,663.87

Business Interest - £25,534.84

Active Saver Account (s106 funds) – £61,760.70

f) A Finance working group meeting was held on 15th November to consider the draft budget and precept request. This meeting was attended by Tony Orgee, Bernie Talbot and Paula Harper.

g) Update on councillor access to accounts. The bank had asked that Tony Orgee attend a branch with identification and that Bernie Talbot complete some forms as they thought that his signature had changed significantly to the one they held on record. **Action Tony Orgee and Bernie Talbot**

68. Actions from the last meeting

- a) Highway Repairs – The Highway Officer Nicola Burden (NB) had told Bernie Talbot that she had not authorized any kerbs to be lowered in Great Abington and that she does not know who asked for this work to be done. NB was awaiting a contractor's quote to get the sunken path and section of road on the High Street repaired. The County Council Permit Team were trying to track down the permit for the poor-quality repair undertaken on the footpath by BT. The poor visibility turning into Linton Road was to be chased up by **Bernie Talbot**. The gully team had been alerted to the need to clear the drain near the High Street flowerbed. The network management team had been advised of the two large puddles that form by the bridge on Newmarket Road which forced people to walk in the road. **Action Bernie Talbot** to contact NB about repairs to the path at the entrance of Mortlock Gardens and opposite it, as well as reminding her quotes were required to cut back trees on A1307 verge near Linton Lodge's land.
- b) The Police and Crime Commissioner meeting date had been changed but he had recently resigned. **Action Jane Bowen** to approach the person holding the position on an interim basis to see if they could attend the planned 4th March meeting.
- c) Update on transfer of land on Moorefield development to Council. Mark Carter of Teeslaw had received no response from Hill and had asked Bernie to chase them up- **action Bernie Talbot**.
- d) Approaching South Cambs. District Council regarding an overview of the former LSA in relation to buildings without planning permission. Nigel Blaseby and Beverley Charles of SCDC Planning Dept had been passed a letter of complaint about the department and had met with Bernie Talbot. **Action: Bernie Talbot** to chase them up to have a follow-up meeting to discuss buildings that are occupied without planning permission.
- e) Parking on the high street by Moorefield. The Clerk had delivered a second letter to all residents at the top of the High Street where parking on paths was happening; the letter outlined the council's option to seek double-yellow lines for this part of the High Street to prevent parking in this location altogether. Bernie Talbot highlighted that parking on part of the path and road was not contrary to the Highway Code, if only two wheels were on the path and pedestrians and buses could park could pass. The Council did try to get extra parking on the development at the planning stage but SCDC thought there was too much hard landscaping on the site already. **Bernie Talbot** to discuss with NB, whether parking locations could be painted half on the road and path to denote safer locations to park at the top of the High Street.
- f) Dog poo bin for Magna Close. - Despite chasing up the request for a new bin to be installed nothing has happened – **action Clerk** to copy Henry Batcheler on emails and request a second dog poo bin near Newhouse Farm. Bernie Talbot proposed that the council would be prepared to pay for the dog poo bin if it had bag dispensers up to £1000, which was seconded by Liz Sainsbury with the support of all councillors.

69. Items raised by councillors

- a) E- bicycles for the village. A grant has been applied for to fund awareness raising events on VE day in May and mid-May, when 10 bikes will be available to try. The second part of the grant applied for would fund the loan of an E-bike for a year which would allow residents to try the bike for free for a week at a time; specialist insurance had been investigated. The E-bike has a capacity of 30 miles before it needs to be recharged.
- b) Suggestion that more trees be planted in the village particularly in the Recreation Ground. The Woodland Trust was offering trees if the land was accessible to the public. Action: Emma Pery to contact Mrs Gorner's daughter Charlotte Sawyer-Nutt about planting trees on the rectangle of land behind the allotments on Linton Road; if hazel was planted it could be coppiced by the allotment group. Other areas for tree planting could be the field around Moorefield and Magna Close, with the land owners covering the cost of the whips (young trees).
- c) Zero Carbon Communities Fund & how to involve GAPC in SCDC's 2050 Zero Carbon pledge- see item 69a.
- d) Lowered kerbs still required in Magna Close- discussed earlier under item 68a.
- e) Hedges that have been identified as requiring being cut back. **Action : Bernie Talbot** to send the Clerk the wording that can be used in the letter from the Highway Officer about the costs being reclaimed from landowners if the CC are required to cut the hedges back . **Action Clerk** to write to all landowners on the list except the owner of Abington Lodge as Pennie had already talked to him.
- f) Suggestion that the council introduce an open forum at the end of the meeting, to allow brief comments or suggestions from parishioners. **Bernie Talbot proposed this be on future agendas which was seconded by Liz Sainsbury, which was supported by all councillors, except Pennie Zimmern.**

70. Consider/adjust draft budget and precept for 2020-2021

The draft budget had been discussed at the Finance working group meeting held on 15th November. Highlighted that the council had regularly budgeted for projects which had not happened, so these funds had been added to the general reserves.

Action Clerk : to add £1200 to the text at the bottom of the budget and include a comment the following funds were to be budgeted as earmarked funds (from reserves) : £2500 legal costs, £2000 for Local Highway Initiative and £2000 for trees; **these amendments to the draft budget and the precept of £12,000 were proposed by Bernie Talbot and seconded by Tony Orgee, with the support of all councillors.**

71. Parish Council needs to negotiate a new electricity supplier for village pedestrian lights

Although the council had authorised Utility-Aid to act on its behalf there had been no news – **action Clerk** to chase up. The Clerk had received emails that suggested the maintenance of the lights may change and was investigating this.

72. Liaison Meeting Report

b) Items from the Liaison minutes that need a decision:

- i) Village VE Day Celebrations – £2000 in total from both councils had previously been agreed.
- ii) Privately funded safety zone outside school – flashing light were likely to be costly
- ii) Improvements to Pampisford Road and Newmarket Road desirable – the councils need to look out for funding opportunities

The next meeting of the Liaison Committee was planned for 13th February.

73. Recreation Ground Committee Report

a) Report – At the last meeting the budget was discussed and it was agreed that the precept would remain unchanged. Risk assessment details were discussed as a result of the Internal Auditor's report. A noticeboard had been installed advising people who to contact if equipment required attention. Also a permanent notice had been erected about keeping dogs under control and banning dogs from some areas on the recreation ground. A new net was to be installed in the hard court. The committee was still awaiting information from the pump track contractors Clark and Kent who had been chased several times. The school had plans to develop land near the recreation ground including building a cycle shed by the boundary but the committee was concerned about theft in this quiet and accessible location. The school had requested a meeting with a representative of the recreation ground committee.

74. Correspondence

a) Email from Mr Tilley asking the council to withdraw its comments about his planning application. The council had taken legal advice from a solicitor who advised the council not to discuss the matter in public, but to convene a closed meeting (from which members of the public would be excluded), at which decisions should be made about this matter.

Louise Patten declared an interest in item 74b as a resident in Mortlock Gardens and did not participate in the discussion or the decision.

b) SCDC asked if the council had any objection to it selling a small parcel of land in Mortlock Gardens to a neighbouring household. Councillors unanimously agreed that they had no objections – **action Clerk** to reply to SCDC.

c) Telephone message complaining about dog poo – the Clerk had returned the call but had heard nothing further. Councillors agreed that this matter could be left until there was further correspondence.

d) Email from Mr McCrae asking if a no through road sign could be erected at the entrance to Meadow Walk to stop lorries trying to use it as a short cut – **action Bernie Talbot** to investigate. **Action Bernie Talbot and Pennie Zimmern** to walk through Meadow Walk to investigate which trees were blocking the pedestrian lights, as per a recent email.

75. Item for the next meeting's agenda on 20th January

Include Open Forum at the beginning and end of agenda, Grass contractor, March meeting date 30th March Holiday dates?

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Planning applications/appeals considered by the Parish Council and decisions made by the District Council

Parish Council recommendations:

S/3515/19/FL -Mr & Mrs Parris, 36 South Road - demolition of piggery and change of use and erection of a log cabin.

Parish Council recommended approval on 4th November

Application withdrawn 06/11/19

S/3387/19/RM – Strawberry Farm, 3 Pampisford Road – approval of matters reserved for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale.

Parish Council recommended refusal on 21/10/19

District Council decisions:

S/2844/19/FL – Mr David Greenwood, Illumina Centre, Granta Park – installation of temporary external cold storage packaged chilled storage unit.

Parish Council recommended refusal 16/09/2019

District Council approved on 31/10/19

