GREAT ABINGTON Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper

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**A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

WAS HELD ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2020 USING ZOOM

Parishioners were invited to attend the meeting via zoom.

Present: Bernie Talbot, Jane Bowen, Jill Carter, Stephen McDonnell (arrived during the meeting), Tony Orgee (after during meeting), Louise Patten (arrived during meeting), Emma Pery, County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor (arrived during meeting), District Councillor John Batchelor, the Clerkand three members of the public.

**Meeting started at 7.15pm**

**61. Open Forum** – no items were raised.

**62. Apologies -**  Tony Orgee and Stephen McDonnell emailed to explain that they would be arriving after the meeting had started.

**63. The minutes for the meetings held on** 21st September, 29th September, 19th October 2020 were approved and authorised to be signed by the Chairman. The minutes for the planning meeting on 9th November agreed to be re-circulated with revisions - **Action Clerk.**

**64. To receive declaration of interests from the Councillors.** Jill Carter declared an interest in item 69d, because her husband is the Council’s solicitor.

**Item 66 was heard before item 65 because Henry Batchelor had not arrived at the meeting.**

**66. Report from Councillor John Batchelor – previously circulated**

An update on planned improvements to the Hildersham crossroads – The Greater Cambridge Partnership negotiating team had made no progress purchasing the land required to improve the junction, as the landowner was unwilling to sell it. Compulsory purchase of the land could take 2/3 years, but this additional land was essential for the scheme. John Batchelor explained that the funding had to be used within a certain time-frame or be returned to the Government. Emma Pery was concerned that the scheme would not achieve what the community wanted and required without the crossing and as it was such an important safety improvement for the local community, that the District Council should have already started the compulsory purchase process. It was strongly suggested by Parish Councillors that the District Council should proceed with a compulsory purchase order of the land required. Bernie Talbot had met with the landowner who supported the signalised crossing but was not prepared to sell the land required to build it. John Batchelor was urged to press for the signalised crossing to be completed as soon as possible and steps to be taken to acquire the land needed to finish the scheme.

Local Plan (LP) to 2041 **–** the new plan had progressed to the next stage and workshops would be held on 30th November to discuss 8 strategies. Of the 40,000-61,000 homes required for the LP to 2041, 36,000 were in the existing Local Plan to 2031, so an additional 4,000-26,000 homes were required.

Councillor the promised feedback from the Planning Enforcement Officer about the reported planning irregularities highlighted on North Road, South Road and Chalky Road. Fortnightly requests for a response from Bernie Talbot had not been answered. **Action: Jane** **Bowen** volunteered to chase a response from the Enforcement Officer too.

**Councillor Henry Batchelor arrived during item 66.**

**65.** **Report from Councillor Henry Batchelor –****previously circulated**

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) were offering discretionary grants for local businesses of up to £3,000 to assist with lockdown costs. Village halls could apply for the funds.

Businesses should prepare for Brexit changes from January 2021, advice was available on the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce website.

Nicola Burden would no longer be the Highway Officer for our area, and there was no one to replace her. The Council should report problems to the County Council website or Denise Vacher at the Highway Department.

**Both Councillors John and Henry Batchelor left the meeting.**

**67. Planning – see separate sheet for applications previously considered.**

a) Planning Committee meeting on 11th November attended by Parish Council representative about S/3387/19/RM- Land to the rear of Strawberry Farm. Bernie Talbot represented the Council at the meeting and explained to the meeting that the link road was not necessary and the Parish Council strongly opposed it. The Case Officer said that it was not a material objection, and the application was approved. Councillors discussed the fact that any new access road from Pampisford Road or from the development would require planning permission.

**68. Finance**

a) **Authorisation of the payments in the table below, was proposed by Bernie Talbot and seconded by Jane Bowen, with the support of all Councillors**.

**Payment to be authorised by Councillors:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 101267 | Bernie Talbot | Tree supports/ties | £73.56 |
| 101268 | Glenn Broad | Churchyard grass cut | £49.00 |
| 101269 | Barchams | Mature trees x 3 | £666.00 |
| 101270 | Glenn Broad  | Churchyard grass cut | £49.00 |
| 101271 | Valerie Silvey | Cost of printing Abingtons & Hildersham News for two months  | £189.00 |
| 101272 | Paula Harper | Zoom monthly charge paid by Clerk x 5 -May-Oct-Nov (excLJune-Jul-paid) @ £14.39/each | £71.95 |
| 101273 | Paula Harper | Pay for October & November | £451.92 |
| 101274 | HMRC | Tax for October & November  | £112.80 |
| 101275 | Mike Gutteridge | Interim Audit  | £200.00 |

b) Opening account with Unity Bank. The authorised paperwork and cheque for £500 had been sent to Unity.

c) The Finance working party met remotely to discuss the draft budget and the interim audit report.

d) Review Interim Audit report and actions required. **Action Clerk** to circulate a version of the Interim Audit with actions suggested at the working party meeting.

e) Interim Auditor checked payments against the bank statements for April to October. Councillors agreed that this would fulfil the requirement for the Financial Regulations audit of payments for this period.

f) Clerk’s hours worked in last month. The four- week period reviewed was within the Clerk’s standard working hours.

g) Income into account:

- Donation towards Magna Close trees: £100.00

- Second half of precept: £6,000

- Section 106 funds (zipwire): £10,462.96

h) Authorise Clerk to transfer s.106 funds of £10, 462.96 funds to Active Saver Account. **Bernie Talbot proposed the Clerk be authorised to move the £10,462.96 funds to the Section 106 account which was seconded by Emma Pery, with the support of all Councillors**.

**Bank balances as at 30th October 2020:**

Community Account - £17,858.30

Business Interest - £26,644.62

Active Saver Account (s106 funds) – £53,750.88

**69.** **Actions from the last meeting**

a) Replacement mail box for Pampisford Road/ this part of village. The new mail box had been installed but hadn’t been commissioned for use.

b) New dog waste bins for High Street. Consider quote to install it. Councillors authorized the Clerk to accept the quote from Ian Blackman to install the new bin at a cost of £160; **this was proposed by Emma Pery and seconded by Jane Bowen with the support of all Councillors. Action Clerk** to order new bin and installation.

c) Highway Dept contacted again about three trees on A1307 verge, adjacent to Abington Lodge, requiring attention. There had been no reply to email enquiries.

**Jill Carter declared an interest in the next item because her husband is the Council’s solicitor.**

d) Update on the transfer of the play area land from Hill Residential to the parish council. Some progress seemed to have been made, with Mark Carter chasing them up regularly. The Council’s legal bill will be paid by Hill.

e) Hill to improve condition of play area and uneven surface, plant new trees and to plant the orchard. The land had been tidied up and the orchard tree had been planted.

**Stephen McDonnell joined the meeting**.

f) Local Highway Initiative bid submitted for a 20 mph limit through villages. Speed monitoring boxes had been used to gather data on traffic speeds. This data would be used to support the application.

g) District Council enforcement office investigating developments without planning permission on the properties on the old LSA Estate.Discussed earlier under item 66.

h) Improving broadband in local villages. Jane Bowen received holding emails and had resent her original email enquiry about a pressure group for local Councils to get superfast broad locally.

i) Printing of ‘The Abingtons and Hildersham News’. Granta Park had agreed to fund the printing of this publication for a year from January 2021 at a cost of approximately £2,400pa.

j) Report supplied on Youth event in summer had been circulated.

**70. Budget and Precept for 2021-2022**

Budget for 2021-22 had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting.

An increase in the precept of £500 to £12,500 was agreed as with the additional houses in the village it was unlikely to increase the amount paid by households too much. **The new precept amount of £12,500 and the budget for 2021-22 was proposed from Louise Patten and seconded by Jill Carter, with the support of all Councillors and adopted.**

**71. Actions required due to the Pandemic**

a) Any action required to assist people/volunteer groups? No action required.

b) Authorise the funding hire of Institute to provide a weekly 'mental health support group' for 13 residents in the villages. Ruth Clotherity had volunteered to hold 10 week sessions to support residents over the winter months. The sessions would start on 30th November and would cost the Council/s £144 to hire the Institute; Little Abington Parish Council had been approached to help fund the sessions. This initiative was backed by the Love Abington Good Neighbour Scheme**. Jane Bowen proposed the Council fund the hall hire for the sessions which was seconded by Emma Pery, with the support of all Councillors.**

**Action Bernie Talbot** to chase up LAPC to contribute 40% towards the Institute hire.

**72. Amendments to updated Financial Regulations**

a) To consider the adoption of the Financial Regulation draft November 2020

Bernie Talbot, Tony Orgee and Stephen McDonnell had met to review clauses of the regulations that the Council did not comply with and to review the regulations; the updated version produced had been circulated to Councillors. It was suggested that on-going bills would be paid by a debit card the Clerk needed to apply for from Unity bank. The Clerk explain three minor amendments that had been made.

**Bernie Talbot proposed the adoption of the revised Financial Regulation, which was seconded by Stephen McDonnell, with the support of all Councillors**.

73. Items raised by Councillors

a) Update on E-bike scheme. The e-bike was being used every week and the scheme was operating well, although volunteers to hand over the bike on Saturday were required.

b) Council taking responsibility for village verge cutting. Quote received from local contractor to assist with possible cost of work at £240/cut. **Jane Bowen proposed the Council take over the responsibility of cutting the village verges from Cambridge County Council, which was seconded by Bernie Talbot with the support of all Councillors. Action Clerk to contact Mr Vacher about this.**

**Action Bernie Talbot and Jane Bowen to write to the County Council (cc Chief Executive) about the inept service the Council has received from the Highway Dept over the last two years.**

c) Council website capacity. At the last Liaison Meeting it was agreed that the two Councils would work together to create a new website. Stephen McDonnell volunteered to get involved on behalf of this Council and Jane Bowen said she was happy to undertake any website work. A template website would be purchased from ‘wix’ or some similar company.

d) Outcome of meeting requested by Hannah Greenhow of Laragh about the proposed name of the new development on Linton Road. The developers did not like the Council’s suggestion that the development be named ‘Chestnut Close’. Tony Orgee and Bernie Talbbot met with James Snell (representative for Laragh Homes) via zoom. The outcome of this meeting was the suggestion that the name be Mitch Field (after previous land owner Dr Michinson) or Lodge Field (after Abington Lodge). Councillors did not like either names and felt there were too many roads with ‘Field’ in the name now. Bernie Talbot proposed the development be called ‘Lodge Close’ which was seconded by Jane Bowen, with the support of all Councillors.

74. Condition of the assets

Having inspected all the assets and completed a new asset sheet, minor work was required to loose screws in the High Street bus shelter -Action: Bernie Talbot- and the Pampisford Road shelter required cleaning and to have weeds cut back around it- Action Clerk to ask Michael Diggins to do this.

75. Report from the Recreation Ground Committee

A plan for a new pump tracked had been produced and the committee were looking at obtaining grants to help fund the project, as well as using the section 106 funds. Combined grant applications were being submitted with the school. Three quotes had been received for the zipwire, and the committee were deciding where to site it and looking at refurbishing the multi-sport area. The outdoor gym had been closed with signs up banning its use. Spikes had been put up over the swing frames to stop birds landing. Two boot cleaners would be purchased to go by the Institute and by the exit to the Recreation Ground. Louise was advised to discuss the location of the Institute cleaner with the cricket club, as it is their land.

Tony Orgee joined the meeting

76. Report from the Liaison Committee

The new website would be a joint Councils facility which was aiming to make information accessible to everyone. Emma updated the committee on the e-bike scheme and the representatives from both Councils noted that there were a number of major consultations underway.

**77. Correspondence**

a) Email from Hannah Greenhow of Laragh about the proposed name of the new development. Discussed earlier under item 73d.

b)Emails from Park Farm landowner. Many emails had been received from the owner of Park Farm, but there seemed to be no interest in getting a modern kissing gate installed at the access gate leading to Cutting Road. The Right of Way officer had visited Simon Chaplin and the pedestrian access to Park Farm was now open.

c) Request for replacement ‘No ball games’ sign in Mortlock Gardens. A SCDC Officer had this in hand.

d) South Cambridgeshire Blue Plaque Committee (via Geoff Harvey) suggested a Blue Plaque for Ivy Lodge, where Sir Fred Hoyle lived. **Bernie Talbot proposed that the Council support this request and that it would be willing to contribute up to £200 towards the cost, which was seconded by Stephen McDonnell, with the support of all Councillors**.

#### e) Request that Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (GCP) make improvements to pedestrian crossing to Hildersham footpath, when work undertaken on road. Monica Krylander had requested that improvements be made to the safety of the footpath crossing by the kennels, better visibility, when the GCP road improvements were made. Emma Pery suggested filming people crossing this section of road to make the dangers clear to everyone; Bernie Talbot agreed to contact Jimmy Lawrence to see if he could assist with this.

f) GCP consulting on preferred new off-road route between the new travel hub/park & ride site and Cambridge. The consultation open and closes 14th December. <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cset-eia> . **Emma Pery and Bernie Talbot** to create a response to this consultation.

Minerals and Waste Consultation – **Tony Orgee and Bernie Talbot** to create a response to this consultation.

#### g) SCDC consulting on minor changes to the social housing allocation policy until 18th December - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/comment-on-proposed-changes-to-social-housing-allocation-policy/>

**Jill Cater and Louise Patten** to create a response to this consultation.

h) Consultation of stakeholders at the start of the creation of the new Uttlesford Local Plan: http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan **Jane Bowen and Stephen McDonnell** to create a response to this consultation.

#### i) SCDC – Request to report any rough sleepers locally over the night of the 19th-20th November.

#### Facebook reports suggested that there was an intermittent rough sleeper in Great Abington. Emma Pery agreed to check on the morning in question and the Clerk to report as appropriate- - action Clerk.

#### 78. Next meeting’s agenda on 18th January 2021.

Holiday dates?

**Meeting closed at 9.30pm**

Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper

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

**Parish Council decisions**

Ref 20/03739/HFUL - 32A South Road - Single storey rear extension and alterations to existing dwelling

Parish Council recommended approval on 29/09/2020.

Ref: 20/03362/FUL, Land Adj. 19 South Road - Erection of one, 2 storey dwelling.

Parish Council recommended refusal on 09/11/2020.

Ref: 20/04197/HFUL, 21A South Road – Erection of garden studio

Parish Council recommended approval on 09/11/2020.

Ref : 20/03409/FUL, The Portway Granta Park - Internal and external refurbishment together with associated works - amendment

Parish Council recommended approval on 19/10/2020.

Ref : 20/04072/S73, 5 Magna Close - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to include amendments to porch design and position following grant of planning permission 20/02411/HFUL – amendment

Parish Council recommended approval on 19/10/2020.

Ref: 20/ 04052/FUL, The Watson Building 11 Granta Park - Retrospective installation of insulated ventilation ductwork to external facade.

Parish Council recommended approval on 19/10/2020.

**District Council decisions:**

Ref : 20/03409/FUL, The Portway Granta Park - Internal and external refurbishment together with associated works - amendment

Parish Council recommended approval on 19/10/2020.

District Council granted 09/11/2020

Ref. 20/02005/FUL - Land North Of Linton Road - Alteration to previously approved application ( S/3564/17/OL and S/1478/19/RM) comprising the change to two out of three x 2 bed houses into four x 1 bed flats - with individual access to each unit.
Parish Council recommended refusal on 27/07/2020.

District Council granted 21/10/2020

Ref. S/3387/19/RM Strawberry Farm Pampisford Road - Approval of matters reserved for appearance landscaping layout & scale following outline planning permission S/1433/16/OL for residential development comprising 8 dwellings including affordable housing provision landscaping and associated infrastructure
Parish Council recommended refusal on 16/09/2020

**District Council decision due 11/11/20.**

Ref: S/0657/FL – 22 South Road – retention of temporary dwelling (mobile home) as a separate dwelling

Parish Council recommended refusal

District Council refused application on 09/10/2020

Ref. 20/03170/HFUL **-** 5 Chalky Road - New Workshop / Store

Parish Council recommended refusal on 16/09/2020

District Council granted 13/10/2020

Ref .20/03362/FUL - Land Adj To 19 South Road - Erection of 1 two storey dwelling house
Parish Council recommended refusal on 16/09/2020

Application withdrawn 09/10/2020

Ref. 20/03221/FUL - Land North Of Linton Road - Increase of plots 3 and 8 garage roof pitch in order to convert roof space into habitable room with external side stairs access
Parish Council recommended refusal on 16/09/2020

District Council granted 09/10/2020

District Council granted 09/10/2020 Ref.20/03665/CL2PD - 45 North Road - Certificate of Lawfulness for conversion of part of existing outbuilding to form annex incidental to the main dwelling house for family member.

Parish Council recommended refusal on 16/09/2020

District Council granted 26/10/2020

Ref. 20/03694/HFUL, 20 Magna Close - Two storey side extension with single storey front and rear extension
Parish Council recommended approval on 16/09/2020
District Council granted 29/10/2020

Ref: 20/02220/S73 - Removal of condition 1 (Occupier) of planning permission S/0759/95/F Site address: 21A South Road

Parish Council recommended refusal on 22/06/2020.

District Council granted 14/09/2020

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