

**Great Abington Parish Council**  
Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper  
17 Lewis Crescent, Great Abington, Cambridge CB21 6AG

A video conference Parish Council AGM meeting was held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 using zoom. Parishioners were invited to attend the meeting via zoom using the website (zoom.us) with the access details advertised on the agenda and email/contact details were advertised to enable residents to ask questions before the meeting.

Present: Bernie Talbot, Jane Bowen, Tony Orgee , Louise Patten, Emma Pery, District Councillor and County Councillor Henry Batchelor, District Councillor John Batchelor, the Clerk and 5 members of the public (incl. Jill Carter and Stephen McDonnell).

Meeting started at 7.15pm

**1. Open Forum** –Mark Lunn (a resident on Pampisford Road) stated that the pandemic had encouraged local people to walk and cycle more, and that lowering the speed limit to 20 mph throughout Great and Little Abington, may encourage people to continue walking and cycling. He also suggested that a ‘no entry except for access’ sign could be installed on Pampisford Road, possibly on the Granta Park side of the Cutting Road entrance on Pampisford Road. This would stop the ‘rat run’ traffic at ‘rush hour’ times and ‘satnavs’ would direct drivers to the A1307 . Bernie Talbot said that closing part of Pampisford Road had been talked about in the past and that this suggestion would be put on the next meeting’s agenda. Tony Orgee said the 20 mph speed limit in the village was something the council was keen to have implemented.

Councillor Henry Batchelor explained that a strong case with evidence to support it would be required to convince the Highway Department that Pampisford Road should have access restricted or be closed to through traffic. He suggested that the Council submit a Local Highway Initiative Fund application with speed data, to request a change in the speed limit through the village.

**Action Clerk** to add these items to the next agenda.

**2. Co-option of New Councillors** – Jill Carter and Stephen McDonnell stated that they were interested in becoming Councillors and Mark Lunn may be interested should a vacancy arise in the future.

Jill Carter explained why she would like to become a Councillor. She told the meeting that she had lived in the village for over 30 years during which she had been involved with the school as a parent and as the Deputy Head Teacher so had a great interest in local affairs. As the previous Parish Clerk to Great Abington Parish Council she was very aware of the work the Council did and as she had recently retired had more time to get involved.

Stephen McDonnell explained that he was interested in becoming a Councillor because he had become involved in a few village projects which he had enjoyed. He had lived in Great Abington for five years and had been made very welcome, so was keen to get more involved in village life and felt that he had lots to offer the community.

**Bernie Talbot proposed Jill Carter and Stephen McDonnell should be co-opted as Parish Councillors which was seconded by Tony Orgee, with the support of all Councillors.**

**3. Signing the Acceptance of Office & completion of the Register of Members Interests Form** to be witnessed by the Clerk at a later date.

**4. Register of Members Interests Form** - Councillors were satisfied that their interests remained unchanged from last year, no amendments required.

**5. Apologies** – none

The Election of Chairman and the Parish Meeting had been suspended until later in the year or until the 2021 AGM.

**6. Election of Officers for 2020/2021**

- Vice-Chairman - **Bernie Talbot proposed Tony Orgee, which was seconded by Louise Patten, and supported by all Councillors.**
- Planning meetings - Chairman and all Councillors
- Recreation Ground Committee representatives– Louise Patten, Emma Pery, Jill Carter and Stephen McDonnell
- Street lighting Roads, footpaths, hedges, trees and verges – Louise Patten and Jane Bowen
- Liaison with Little Abington Parish Council – Bernie Talbot, Tony Orgee and whoever could attend to make up three councillors.
- Police Liaison – Jane Bowen
- Village Institute Management Committee – Bernie Talbot
- Newsletter – Emma Pery
- Health & Safety inspection of assets: bins, benches, flowerbeds and bus shelters – Bernie Talbot and Stephen McDonnell
- Finance working group – Bernie Talbot, Tony Orgee and whoever could attend
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**7. Approval of minutes** - minutes for meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 were approved and would be signed by the Chairman.

**8. Declaration of Interests** – none declared.

**9. Report from District Council & County Council Henry Batchelor** –separate report sent.

There would be no elections for a new Police and Crime Commissioner, until May 2021, due to the pandemic. New funding, the Community Capital Fund (£5 million), aimed to fund local projects that bring communities together. Uttlesford District Council's new garden village planning application (near Great Chesterford) had been rejected by the government inspector; the district required a new Local Plan for the 5,000 homes required to meet Government targets. The deadline to apply for the Local Highway initiative Funds had been extended indefinitely. The upgrade to the A14 had been completed 8 months ahead of schedule. **Henry Batchelor** agreed to ask Nicola Burden to report back on the three dangerous trees by the A1307.

**10 Report from District Council John Batchelor**- separate report sent.

The Planning Committee would meet remotely from next Wednesday. Legal problems concerning changes to the Planning Committee's constitution and delegated powers should be resolved next Thursday. In the past the District Council had allowed the Chair of the Planning Committee to make decisions when the law states the Officer should be making the decisions.

Jane Bowen asked John about the email received about this change. He explained the letter was from the leader of the opposition. In future Parish Councils would receive an explanation

for why planning applications were not considered by the Planning Committee, when Parishes had requested this process.

Bernie Talbot explained that he with other local Councillors had met (on zoom) with the local MP to discuss the planning process among other things. Councils felt that their views were disregarded and that there was no feedback on why the decision was made. Emma Pery suggested that it would be helpful for Councils to know what material considerations would be taken into account with an application, as it felt as if the Planning Department used different criteria to the Parish Councils. A local planning application at ARCC had been decided under delegated powers although it was strongly opposed, there had been no platform for the public or Council to put their views and it didn't go to the Planning Committee, as the Parish had requested. John Batchelor said that Parish Council views were listened to.

### 11. Planning – separate sheet

Mark Lunn reported a scots pine leaning towards the highway on the bend of Pampisford Road. A healthy-looking pine tree next to it had fallen across road. **Action Clerk** to contact the Highway Dept to find out who was responsible for the verge trees so it could be checked for safety.

### 12. Finance

a) Authorisation of the payments in the table below. **Tony Orgee proposed the payments be authorised which was seconded by Emma Pery with the support of all Councillors.**

b) Income – interest £9.51 and a quarter of precept £3000.00.

c) Update on getting councillors authorised to do on-line banking/bank transfers. Emma Pery suggested the Council consider using a different bank. **Emma Pery** agreed to forward email details of the bank recommended by Waterbeach Parish Council and other Councils. **Action Clerk** to add this item to the next agenda.

#### Payment to be authorised by Councillors:

101240	Paula Harper	Purchase of mobile phone £84.94 & subscription to zoom £14.39	£99.33
101241	Paula Harper	Net pay April and May 2020 – (tax code BR)	£428.64
101242	HMRC	Tax for April £53.40 & tax on May £53.60	£107.00
101243	Valerie Silvey	Printing two editions of Abington & Hildersham News	£189.00
101244	Richard Smith	E-bike event poster printing & laminating	£17.99
101245	Glenn Broad	Two visits to cut churchyard grass	£98.00

d) Approval and signing off the financial year figures on the 'summary of receipts & payments' and the 'supporting statement'. **Bernie Talbot proposed the two documents be approved, which was seconded by Tony Orgee, with the support of all Councillors,** once the amendment was made to the 4,000 figures and 'StopNUTown' was added to the section 137 row.

e) Completion of the annual governance statement and approval and signing of the annual return accounting statements to be done once the internal auditor's report has been considered. It was agreed to meet on 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7.15pm to complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

f) The public inspection period for the audit will run from 15<sup>th</sup> June – 24<sup>th</sup> July. **Action Clerk** to put the notice up.

g) Retrospective authorisation to engage Mike Gutteridge to act as the internal auditor – **Jane Bowen proposed Mike Gutteridge as the internal auditor which was seconded by Bernie Talbot, with the support of all Councillors.**

h) The Finance working party meeting was unable to meet due to the pandemic, the year-end documents were sent to all Councillors prior to meeting.

### **Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

Community Account - £3,694.91

Business Interest - £29,632.57

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

### **13. Actions from the last meeting**

a) Secure the boundaries of the parking area at the Larkfield development. The Clerk had been advised by the landowner that the developer was responsible for securing the boundaries.

b) Council mobile phone had been purchased but it was not working at present.

c) Two new dog waste bins had been ordered for High Street & Pampisford Road.

d) Highway Dept contacted again about three trees on A1307 verge, adjacent to Abington Lodge, requiring attention.

e) Update on the transfer of the play area land from Hill Residential to the parish council. Mark Carter of Teeslaw had chased up the developers. The Clerk had contacted James Fisher (Section 106 Officer) asking when the Larkfield Funds would be transferred to the Council; there had been no response.

### **14. Actions required due to the pandemic**

a) The 'Love Abington' Group was doing a great job supporting vulnerable residents and Christine and Bernie Talbot were running a prescription collection service from the Institute. Currently nothing else was required.

### **15. Statement of Internal Control & Risk Management Schedule Policies**

a) Review and update the above policies circulated to Councillor; minor amendments had been made to the Risk Management Schedule.

**Tony Orgee proposed the two policies be accepted, which was seconded by Bernie Talbot, with the support of all Councillors.**

### **16. Council Assets**

a) Feedback on the inspection of the council's assets

The benches needed to be checked, the bus shelters were in a good condition, the defibrillator was checked monthly by Anton, salt bins checked and the gazebo was secure with the allotment group. Two panels on the High Street flowerbed were in need of attention. **Action Clerk** to contact Mr. Gosmark about fixing it. **Action: Bernie Talbot** to contact Mr. and Mrs. Hefford to remind them to claim back the cost of planting the flowerbed.

### **17. Correspondence**

a) Email from SCDC explaining the precept would be paid in quarters with the second quarter due earlier than expected on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

b) Email from SCDC Planning Dept. about concerns raised in the recent consultation and how it was dealing with the backlog of application.

c) Email from SCDC about Parish Council in financial difficulties due to the Pandemic. Bernie Talbot reported that the Institute had secured £10,000 from the SCDC Business Interruption Grant. Some Institute funds may be used to fund a celebration at the end of the lockdown.

**18. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 20<sup>th</sup> July.**

Request SCDC planning enforcement view illegal developments on the Land Settlement.

New banking arrangements

Consider suggestion for access only for part of Pampisford Road and 20mph limit in villages.

AGAR to be completed

DRAFT

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

**District Council decisions:**

S/4483//19/OL- Mr & Mrs Baldip Singh, 48 North Road – Outline permission with all matters reserved for a new dwelling.

Parish Council recommended approval on 20.01.20

District Council approved 18/03/20

20/01670/HFUL- Mr & Mrs Bjorn Krylander, 76 High Street- change to increase the pitch of the roof & increase the height to walls, install solar panels on roof, change garage windows & side door.....

Parish Council recommended approval on 20.04.20

District Council approved 29/04/20