GREAT ABINGTON Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper

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**A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

WAS HELD ON MONDAY 18th JANUARY 2021 USING ZOOM

Parishioners were invited to attend the meeting via zoom.

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

**Meeting started at 7.17pm**

**86. Open Forum**

It was suggested that the Council ask parishioners how they would like section 106 funds from new developments spent to benefit the community. Bernie explained that the council had to bid in advance for the funds stipulating how they monies would be used for either outdoor schemes which included facilities on the Recreation Ground or improving community buildings, such as the Institute. He said the Council would welcome ideas from the community.

A parishioner suggested the sign near Moorefield for the construction site may be adding to the confusion that has resulted in drivers trying to use the footpath to Chalky Road as an access road. Stephen McDonnell explained the new ‘No Access’ sign that he had erected seemed to have stopped the problem.

There had been a car accident at the A1307/Pampisford Road junction with a tree damaged and debris on the verge, which had been reported to the Highway Department as debris was still at the scene.

**87. Apologies –** there were none

**88. Approval of the minutes for the last meetings** **–** the minutes for the meetingsheld on 16th November, planning meeting 1st December, and the 14th December were approved. The minutes for 4th January 2021 needed to be circulated.

**89. To receive declarations of interests from Councillors.** Tony Orgee and Jill Carter declared an interest in item 96 about the Love Abington Group and Jill Carter also declared an interest in item 94 and 95c about the section 106 funding as her husband acts as the Council’s solicitor**.**

**90. Report from Councillor Henry Batchelor –****the report had been circulated to Councillors**

Henry highlighted the District Council in particular was offering practical assistance as well as funding (to qualifying businesses) to assist individuals and business affected by the pandemic; there was also a Covid co-ordinator to assist people obtain assistance. The panel considering the Local Highway Initiative bids would meet to consider the applications on 8th and 11th February. The Rights of Way Officer was absent at present so matters should be referred to Henty or Dennis Vacher. Interviews for the new Highway Officer would take place soon. Martin Mann was the new Greater Cambridge Partnership Officer working on improvements to the local section of the A1307. The next meeting about the A1307 would take place on 28th January. The May elections for the new Mayor, a Crime and Commission Officer and County Council elections were likely to be cancelled.

**91. Report from Councillor John Batchelor - the report had been circulated to Councillors**

John Batchelor highlighted the seriousness of the situation locally with a huge spike in the number of people infected locally with covid 19.

**92. Highway Issues**

a) Newmarket Road junctions with North Road and South Road – cut back tree reducing visibility splay – The Highway Department had confirmed that all the land to the highway was owned by the owners of the adjacent land, not the Highway Department. **Action Clerk** to write to four landowners at the junction of Newmarket Road/South Road and North Road asking them to cut back the trees/shrubs to improve the visibility splay.

b) Ivy covered trees on the verge leaning over the A1307 - by Abington Lodge- to be attended to by Highway Dept.

c) Meadow Walk no through road signs -**Action Clerk** to ask County Council Officer Dianne Duncan for a new sign.

d) Footpath crossing A1307 – hedges had been trimmed.

e) A major puddle on Newmarket Road near the river bridge had not been resolved yet.

f) The drain at the very top of the High Street, on the corner as you turn left onto Pampisford Road was blocked with silt and weeds. **Action: Stephen McDonnell** to check.

g)Cars being directed to use the footpath by Satnavs – temporary sign installed and Highway Dept emailed. This was discussed earlier in meeting under the Open Forum.

h) LHI bid – when the bid was submitted in September there was little time to prepare it in light of the speed data gathered for the local roads. The bid was rather ambiguous talking about a 20 mph speed limit in the centre of the village and throughout the village.

The feasibility reports on the speed checks (undertaken on second week of October) on Linton Road opposite Meadow Walk, Near 155 High Street and opposite Westfield were not in the centre of the village. The speeds recorded were unlikely to get support from the Police for a speed limit change, therefore the Officer had suggested a flashing sign with an advisory speed of 20 mph outside the school, with a 40 mph buffer on Linton Road. The school would switch the sign on and off.

**Bernie Talbot proposed that the Council offer to contribute £2,000 to the suggested scheme, which was seconded by Tony Orgee, with the support of all Councillors, except Jane Bowen** who questioned whether the scheme should be regarded more favourable by the County Council, if the Parish Council offered to make a larger financial contribution. Tony Orgee explained the County Council was looking at value for money and this would enable them to fund more schemes.

**Henry Batchelor left the meeting to attend a meeting elsewhere**

**93. Planning – separate sheet for applications previously considered.**

a) Planning Applications to be considered:

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Ref. 20/04859/HFUL - 34 South Road - Proposed garage, garden equipment store and home office/ gym. Resubmission of 20/02099/HFUL

**All Councillors recommended approval of the application, except Jane Bowen who opposed it. The Councillors approval was only if a condition was included that the garage could not be used for business or occupation**.

Ref. 20/05065/S73 – 34 South Road – (S/1848/FL) to remove the limitation of the accommodation of the staff accommodation to be retained.

Councillors recommended the application be refused. The premise was given planning permission as an equine semen collection centre business with staff accommodation above.To the Councillors’ knowledge no equine semen collection centre business had ever been at this premises. As per the Neighbourhood Plan, the site of the old piggery had been granted outline planning permission for the only additional dwelling permitted at this address (this had not been built yet). Therefore the Parish Council considered the application under the terms of the Neighbourhood Plan. As only one additional dwelling was permitted on the site of the old piggery, this accommodation change should not be permitted as it would be a third dwelling at this address, which was not permitted by the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition to this, the building was not on the site of the piggery, and it was not subservient to the original house, which was required by the Neighbourhood Plan. The size of the building also exceeds the area permitted by the Neighbourhood Plan.

The original application was tied to business use which has never occurred at the premise therefore the permission should not be given. The limitation was requested to prevent the building being used as accommodation only, as there was a concern that this may be the aim.

**Bernie Talbot proposed that the Council recommend refusal of the application, which was seconded by Tony Orgee, with the approval of all Councillors**. **Action: Clerk** to circulate the wording of the Councils recommendation to the District Council with Councillors before sending it.

**John Batchelor left the meeting to attend a meeting elsewhere**

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|  Ref. | 20/05315/HFUL - 10 Chalky Road - Single storey rear extension and internal alterations |

**Councillors unanimously recommended approval of the application**

Reference: 20/05001/HFUL, 23 Magna Close, Two storey front extension and single and double storey rear extension. This application had been considered at a previous meeting.

**Jill Carter and Tony Orgee declared an interest in item 94 , the Institute hire for the wellbeing group supported by Love Abington, as both are volunteers on the Love Abington Group.**

**94. Finance**

a) **The payments in the table below were authorised by a proposal from Bernie Talbot which was seconded by Tony Orgee with the support of all Councillors.**

**Payment to be authorised by Councillors:**

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| Bank transfer  | Little Abington PC | Ford maintenance- April 2020-March 2021 | £45.00 |
| Bank transfer  | Abington Institute | Hall hire – Winter well-being only for 30th Nov,7th, 14th,21st Dec 2020 | £72.00 |
| Bank transfer  | Glassdon | Dog poo bin | £368.08 |
| Bank transfer  | Littlejohn | Annual audit | £360.00 |
| Bank transfer | Paula Harper | Zoom monthly charge paid by Clerk x 2 29/11/20 &29/12/20@ £14.39/each | £28.78 |
| Bank transfer  | Paula Harper | Pay for December & January | £451.72 |
| Bank transfer  | HMRC | Tax for December & January  | £113.00 |
| Bank transfer  | Valerie Silvey | Printing Nov & Dec News  | £204.00 |
| Bank transfer  | South Cambs. District Council | E-Bike grant funds return to SCDC  | £3,050.00 |

b) Unity Bank - **Authorise the transfer of balance of the Barclays current account (less £500) to Unity account an amount of £4.500; this was proposed by Stephen McDonnell and seconded by Bernie Talbot with the support of all Councillors.**  All authorised Councillors now have on-line access to account.

c) The Finance working party did not meet remotely.

d) External Audit completed. The Clerk had circulated the report from Littlejohn that stated the date the public notice was posted up pre-dated the internal auditor completing the audit, therefore in the next Annual Return the Council could not say it had allowed parish access to the records as required.

e) Income into account:

- E-bike funds - £3,050

- Interest - £34.77

f) Section 106 funds chased up and should be in account soon from April 2019 agreement.

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

Community Account - £4.352.68

Business Interest - £23,145.28

Active Saver Account (s106 funds) – £64,248.61

**Unity current account**:

Balance - £3,532.00 (incl £3,050 E-Bike grant)

Service charge - £18.00

**Jill Carter declared an interest in item 95c and j as her husband was the Council’s solicitor therefore, she did not participate in these items.**

**95.** **Actions from the last meeting**

a) Replacement mail box for Pampisford Road had been commissioned for use.

b) New dog waste bins for High Street had been delivered to contractor and was due to be installed on 1st  Feb.

c) Update on the transfer of the play area land from Hill Residential to the Parish Council – there was no further news.

d) Update on District Council enforcement office investigating developments without planning permission on the properties on the old LSA Estate properties. The enforcement officers update contained discrepancies about 21 and 21A South Road, and inconsistencies about whether permission had or had not been given for the log cabin at this address. The report may have been compiled without visiting the locations, by using Google earth. **Action: Jane Bowen and Bernie Talbot** to follow up, once Jane had forwarded the update.

e) Update on improving broadband in local villages – The Gigabit Voucher Scheme was government funding to enable local household and businesses to get access to superfast broadband. Currently 88 households/businesses of 448 in Great Abington have superfast broadband (possibly all in Granta Park). No premises in Little Abington have this service. Emma Pery was thanked for putting the details on Facebook and Genevieve Dalton for her work with this project and producing the posters.

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

g) High Street bus shelter loose screws had been tightened and the Clerk awaiting response from contractor about cleaning the Pampisford Road shelter and getting the weeds cut back around it. **Action: Clerk** to contact another contractor for a price to do the work.

h) Suggestion that hazardous crossing to Hildersham footpath be filmed by a local resident. The Highway verges had been cut back so it was thought unnecessary to make the film.

i) The Council had sent comments on the following consultations: SCDC consulting on minor changes to the social housing allocation policy, the preferred new off-road route between the new travel hub/park & ride site and Cambridge, a Minerals and Waste consultation and the creation of the new Uttlesford Local Plan.

j) Letter sent to Tees Law requesting they investigate getting the April 2019 agreement amended to allow the Institute to spend funds on structural repairs. **Action: Clerk** to forward a copy of the email to Tees Law to Bernie Talbot.

**Jill Carter and Tony Orgee declared an interest in item 96 as both were volunteers on the Love Abington Group, and they did not participate in the discussion.**

**96. Actions due to the Pandemic**

a) Any action required to assist people/volunteer groups? Activities to support local households continued and the Love Abington Group had funds to cover their work.

b) Little Abington Parish Council had decided not to help fund the hall hire to provide a weekly 'mental health support group' for up to 13 residents in the villages at a cost of £144. Only four sessions took place so the cost would be less than expected to this Council.

97. Items raised by Councillors

a) Council taking responsibility for village verge cutting. Dennis Vacher had been emailed but no response had been received. **Action: Bernie Talbot and Jane Bowen** to add this to the letter to be written to the District Council.

b) Request that SCDC seek to obtain a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to purchase the land required to create the safer new junction/crossing at A1307/Pampisford Road/Beech Row. Tony Orgee highlighted that it was important that Councilors attend the Local Forum meeting on 26th January to encourage the use of a CPO to buy the land required for the pedestrian crossing on the A1307.

c) Parishioners on the former LSA Estate complained about people walking their dogs off the lead on North, South and Chalky Roads. Action: Emma Pery to put an item in the newsletter about keeping dogs on leads on these roads. Action: Jane Bowen to email the Roads Management Committee suggesting that signs be erected to encourage owner to keep dogs on leads.

d) Funding Village Directory. Bernie Talbot was working with Tony Collet, Richard Smith, and Gaynor Farrant to update the 2016 directory. Bernie Talbot proposed the Council help fund the cost of printing the directory up to a cost of £450 with Little Abington ,with a 60:40 split, which was seconded by Tony Orgee, with the support of all Councillors.

98. Report from the Recreation Ground Committee

The outdoor gym and multi-sport areas had to be closed again for the lockdown after Christmas. The plans for the pump track were on the website for all to view, an application for funding from British Cycling was to be submitted. Alan Cook was writing a letter to request further funding from other bodies. A policy to safeguard vulnerable children had been created. Quotes were being sought for a zipwire.

The Cricket Club had asked if the third team (based at Granta Park) could use the Recreation Ground, which would be infrequently but could require artificial grass. Bernie Talbot suggested that the Recreation Ground was not a good place for cricket with so many other activities happening in the same area.

99. Report from the Liaison Committee - no meeting held since last report

**100. Correspondence**

a)Emails from Park Farm landowner about staff being verbally abused by Land Rover driver. The landowner had not replied to Bernie Talbot’s request for more details to enable to Council to express concern at the lack of action by the Police.

b) Update on request for replacement ‘No ball games’ sign in Mortlock Gardens. The sign should be installed soon.

#### c) SCDC – Climate and Environment Project Officer had emailed to request that the Council return the e-bike grant to SCDC to pay for Cambridge Electric Transport for the Phase 2 e-bike scheme. Bernie Talbot proposed that the Council transfer the funds of £3,050.00 back to South Cambs. District Council, which was seconded by Emma Pery with the support of all Councillors.

#### 101. Next meeting’s agenda on 15th March 2021.

Use of a Survey Monkey link in village Facebook or the Abington website to find out how Parishioners would like the future Section 106 funds over the next 5 years.

Policies

**Meeting closed at 8.53pm**

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. 20/04660/FUL - 44C North Road - Erection of new detached dwelling to replace existing barn (has class Q prior approval- S/0843/19/PA)
Parish Council recommended refusal on 04.01.21.

Ref. 20/05001/HFUL – 23 Magna Close - two storey front extension and single and double storey rear extension

Parish Council recommended approval on 04.01.21.

Ref. 20/04441/HFUL - 42A North Road, Paddock Cottage - Erection of detached garage.

Parish Council recommended approval on 01.12.20.

Ref. 20/04402/HFUL - 97 High Street - Single storey rear extension.
Parish Council recommended approval on 01.12.20.

Ref. 20/04104/FUL - 19 South Road - Erection of 1No. 2 storey dwelling house. Resubmission of 20/033 Land Adj. 19 South Road 62/FUL. Amendment - Reduction in gross internal floor area and clarification of ridge height compared to the existing dwelling

Parish Council recommended refusal on 01.12.20.

**District Council decisions:**

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

Parish Council recommended approval on 09/11/2020.

District Council granted 07/12/2020

S/4423/19/FL, 36 South Road – demolish piggery and the change of use and erection of a log cabin (Resubmission of S/3515//19/FL)

Parish Council recommended approval on 20/01/20

District Council refused 08/12/2020

Ref. 20/04104/FUL - 19 South Road - Erection of 1No. 2 storey dwelling house. Resubmission of 20/033 Land Adj. 19 South Road 62/FUL. Amendment - Reduction in gross internal floor area and clarification of ridge height compared to the existing dwelling

Parish Council recommended refusal on 01.12.20.

District Council granted 15/12/2020

Ref. 20/04402/HFUL, 97 High Street, Single storey rear extension.

Parish Council recommended approval on 01.12.20

District Council granted 30/12/2020

Ref. 20/04441/HFUL, 42a North Road, Erection of detached garage.

Parish Council recommended approval on 01.12.20.

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| District Council granted 05/01/2021 |  |  |  |
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