

ICKLETON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 23 May 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Number Present: The Chairman, Parish Clerk, Cllr Topping (County), Cllr. McDonald (District Councillor) and 32 members of the public (including 4 Parish Councillors).

Apologies: None.

1. Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Presentation by Colin Hayes, Janitor of St Mary Magdalene, Ickleton Parish Church. Colin talked about of the discovery following a fire in 1979 of ancient wall paintings that had been covered by limewash for over 300 years. As set out in the May Icene, these were in need of restoration to address damage from both damp and bat droppings. The estimated cost was over £100,000 to restore Church fabric and conserve the paintings. They were of great importance, given their age and rarity, and in addition, brought many visitors to the Church. A three year project was to be launched, with weather proofing the west wall being of critical importance. Lewis Duke had agreed to lead the fund raising campaign and, as the Church was an integral part of Ickleton life, it was hoped that residents would respond generously.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council (including Financial Report): The Chairman gave his annual report, which is set out in a separate document.

4. Reports from:

- Village Hall Management Committee and
- Theatre Group. Pam Fearn commented.
- Froglets.
- Football Clubs –delivered by Steve Jenkins
- Ickleton Society – delivered by Rachel Radford
- Allotment Association – delivered by Ray Szajewski
- Ickleton Cricket Club –Michael Robinson commented
- Neighbourhood Watch – submitted by Glynis Hammond
- Sawston Village College -submitted by Mr Culpin
- Peter Topping, County Councillor-delivered in person
- Tony Orgee, retiring District Councillor-delivered in person
- Peter McDonald, our new District Councillor- delivered in person.

Copies of all reports received are available upon request from the Parish Clerk.

5. Updates on:

i. Introduction of 20mph speed limit and traffic management generally At last year's APM, the rapid deterioration of the newly painted 20 mph roundels in the Village had been noted. CCC Highways had yet to repair these. This would be brought up as one of several issues for discussion on 25 May at a meeting of Councillors with our Highways District Manager. Peter McDonald would also attend, diary permitting. It was also disappointing to report that Highways had not been willing to consider a request for a 50mph speed limit on unclassified rural roads serving the Village since this might have led to a reduction in rat-running. Meanwhile, on a more positive note, the vehicle-activated mobile interactive speed camera which the Parish Council had purchased should come into operation in the near future. This would collect data to support bids for funds for further traffic control measures. There was now a very active Community Speedwatch team and the Parish Council was grateful to Little Abington Parish Council for allowing us to hire their equipment. Apart from acting as a

deterrent, this would also be used to collect data on vehicle speeds and volumes. After a slow start, the team was now well established and, to date, had recorded 677 speeding vehicles, which had been reported to the Police, who issued warning letters. It was distressing to note that at midday 50% of the traffic using Abbey Street was recorded as exceeding the 20mph limit. At peak times however, the traffic volume did have the advantage of reducing vehicle speed. In view of these, and other traffic-related issues brought to the Parish Council's attention, a Traffic Working Party had been set up, not least because of the very serious traffic issues that would accompany the proposed major developments in the area.

ii. Wellcome Trust Genome Campus It now seemed certain that the Wellcome Trust intended to go ahead with its proposed expansion and would be holding briefing events at the end of June. Of considerable concern was Wellcome's intention to build 1,500 dwellings. This was 50% higher than initially indicated. A positive point was Wellcome's awareness of the potential traffic gridlock on the A505 if the various proposed developments went ahead. Wellcome, at least, were investigating ways of transporting staff and visitors from Whittlesford Parkway to the Campus.

iii. Agri-tech Hub SmithsonHill's initial Planning Application had been rejected unanimously by the SCDC Planning Committee but an appeal was inevitable. Peter McDonald advised that none of the major organisations approached had expressed an interest in participating in the scheme as presently proposed. In his view, this was entirely the wrong site for this type of development which should be sited closer to existing sites of expertise such as the John Innes Institute in Norwich.

iv. Proposals for a MOTO service station at Junction 10 of the M11 Gonville and Caius College owned the site. No planning application had been submitted to date.

vi. Uttlesford proposal for a Garden Village near Great Chesterford. This was the scheme of greatest concern with worries about landscape impact, light pollution and water supplies being secondary only to traffic concerns. Peter Topping advised that the County Council was very clear that the proposals with regard to traffic mitigation were unacceptable. There was general agreement that the site, right on the SCDC boundary, was unsuitable. Peter Topping pointed out that Uttlesford might well be taking advantage of this area becoming one of significant economic importance for its biotech activities. It was noted that Uttlesford's Local Plan would go before Cabinet very shortly. This would be followed by statutory consultation procedures and, although there was a duty of cooperation on the Uttlesford and Cambridgeshire Councils, any outstanding tensions could only be resolved by the Planning Inspector.

vii. Interaction with neighbouring Parish Councils In view of the above items, the Chairman continued to attend meetings with representatives from neighbouring Parish Councils. Close liaison was also being maintained with both our District and County Councillors.

viii. Footway Lights. Peter Topping was thanked for his support in the selection of Ickleton as a pilot site for the LED streetlights programme. This was almost complete and was expected to cut our electricity bill by up to 70%. A resident also expressed thanks for the improved lighting in Birds Close.

6. Open Forum:

This session was dominated by traffic concerns and, in particular, by the situation on Abbey Street. This was a matter of constant concern to the Parish Council as well as to the District and County Councils. Improving the A505 at the MacDonald's roundabout might reduce the immediate problems caused by rat- running through the Village. But these benefits would be very quickly eroded if the proposed developments discussed earlier went ahead. Although current Wellcome Genome Campus thinking seemed to have taken traffic volume and congestion on board, the same could not be said of SmithsonHill.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.