

ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2017 at 19h.30 in the Gordon Woolhouse Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall.

Present: Terry Sadler (Chairman), Jess Bloomfield, Owen McGuire, Tim Pavelin, Michael Robinson, Sian Wombwell, Peta Stevens (Parish Clerk), Cllr. Peter Topping, and David Lilley.

21/17 Apologies for absence Simon Cheney, Lucy Davidson, Lewis Duke, and Cllr Mick Martin.

22/17 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017. The minutes were approved and accordingly signed by the Chairman.

23/17 Adjournment for questions from the public. David Lilley enquired about the wildlife section in the Churchyard. The Chairman advised continuation of the project was currently unlikely but the position would be evaluated during the Churchyard clean up. **Action: TS, Clerk**

24/17 Matters arising.

026/12 20mph Speed Limit / HCVs and issues with the local road network.

Cllr. Topping had been unable temporarily to arrange a meeting with Bob Menzies of CCC Highways, to find out what improvements to the local road network might be in the offing including the possibility of improvements at Junction 9 on the M11. **Action: TS, Cllr Topping**

169/14 Ickleton Information Guide. The Chairman was working on this. **Action: TS**

045/15 Token of appreciation for former Clerk. The Parish Council expressed its appreciation to Derek Rule who had helped Simon Cheney attach the plaque to the bench in the play area.

086/15 Landscaping project: Boundaries of Howey's Yard. This item to be removed from the agenda.

094/15 Local Government Transparency Code. Work was ongoing. **Action: TS, Clerk**

144/15 Resolution of an SCDC Planning decision concerning Permitted Development. In the absence of Cllr. Martin this item was held over to next month. **Action: TS, Cllr. Martin**

181/15 Uttlesford Planning Policy Working Group: Proposed sites for new developments. UDC options for development sites will be the subject of fresh public consultations during the summer. It appeared that representations made by, and on behalf of, South Cambs and the County had persuaded UDC of the need to undertake further modelling to assess the effect on our roads. This would lead to further delay in the progress of UDC's Local Plan. **Action: TS**

193/15 Bid for an agri-tech hub at Hinxton. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman had attended a meeting at Hinxton on 19 January at which SmithsonHill had provided an update on its plans. The details were now available on its website. Public exhibitions were also to be held over the summer. The area to be developed bore a much closer resemblance to a standard business park compared with previous portrayals. This would be accessed off the A1301 via a new roundabout, although the proposals emphasised the use of public transport and cycling. Opinion was divided as to whether it would now be appropriate to invite SmithsonHill to give a presentation in Ickleton. It was therefore agreed to resume discussion when more Councillors would be present. **Action: Clerk**

201/15 Project priority list for highways improvements. Nothing to report. **Action: All**

205/15 Local Highway Improvement Scheme 2016-17.

i. Village Speedwatch Team. The Chairman had finally heard from the Police Liaison Officer. It appeared that formal health and safety risk assessment of sites was now required, and he had formally requested this some two weeks previously but had yet to receive a response. **Action: TS**

ii. Vehicle-activated speed sign This remained work in progress. **Action: TS, Lewis D, Clerk**

218/15 Availability of super-fast broadband within the Village. No developments. **Action: TS, Clerk**

239/15 Wellcome Genome Campus (WGC): Expansion Plans. The Chairman reported that a 2017 timetable had not yet been issued for Ickleton's regular liaison meetings with the Campus. Information from other local Parish Councillors suggested that the Project Director would not be engaging with local communities until March at the earliest. **Action: TS**

269/15 Grass Verges in Abbey Street. Dominic Pallett had reported that repair the verges could only be undertaken when the weather was more suitable. The Clerk would monitor this. **Action: Clerk**

37/16 Emergency Plan/Risk Assessment. This work was ongoing. **Action: Lewis D**

127/16 Conversion of certain street lights to LED. The Chairman had not heard from Paul Quigley

(SCDC) who was considering the potential cost savings.

Action: TS

129/16 State of Village Footpaths. Dominic Pallett had been reminded to cut back vegetation, particularly in Tin Alley which was rather overgrown. The surface of the footpath between Back Lane and Abbey Street, was also deteriorating. Sian Wombwell offered to see whether she had any road planings to spread on the part with no tarmac.

Action: SW, MR, Clerk

129/16 Parish Notice Board Charles Frankau had installed the new 3-door oak cabinet, which was in use. The Chairman and Clerk would consider what Parish Council information should be displayed. This item would be removed from the agenda

Action: TS, Clerk

149/16 Biofuel heap The heap remained. It was not smelly in the cold weather. There was no evidence of rodent infestation. It was hoped it would be removed soon.

Action: TS, SW

166/16 Potholes on Brookhampton Street Potholes had appeared alongside recent repair work along the roadside edge opposite Ickleton Place. These would again be reported.

Action: Clerk

175/16 Flood Awareness and Preparedness Questionnaire. Nothing to report.

Action: Lewis D

176/16 Purchase of Telephone Kiosk The Clerk continued to pursue this.

Action: Clerk

178/16 Local Highways Improvement Initiative 2017-18 See Minute 04/17 (26/12) above.

190/16(i) Community Highways Volunteering Scheme The Chairman had yet to discuss the scheme with the second person who had expressed an interest in doing some voluntary tasks.

Action: TS, Clerk

196/16 South Cambridgeshire Community Awards Scheme The Chairman had been nominated in the Parish Councillor of the Year category in recognition of his hard work to introduce a 20mph limit throughout the Village.

197/16 Ickleton Annual Awards Scheme. The Clerk had now received a reasonable number of nominations and would produce the necessary documentation for consideration by the Awards Committee. This would need to meet during March to determine this year's winners. It was agreed that the three Parish Councillors who were presently members of the Committee would oversee arrangements for this year's Committee.

Action: OM, TP, MR, Clerk

234/16 Coploe Pit Maintenance Sian Wombwell reported that she advised Gerry Birch that it was not possible to place sheep in the Pit at present due to the absence of vegetation for grazing. She would continue to liaise with him.

Action: SW

234/16 Electronic Bus sign After three month's lobbying by David Lilley, and latterly the Clerk, it was a relief to note that the Saffron Walden facing sign was at long last functioning again.

235/16 Proposal for motorway services off Junction 10 of the M11. The Chairman had written to Cllr. Martin to seek his views. MOTO was sending representatives to Whittlesford Parish Council's meeting on 14 March prior to holding public exhibitions during the summer. It was agreed the Clerk would circulate an e-mail to ask who might represent Ickleton Parish Council at the Whittlesford meeting.

Concern was expressed about potential impact on Duxford School.

Action: Clerk

18/17 Defibrillator Training Michael Robinson reported that Pam Fearn and Lewis Duke were arranging for first-aid training, which would also include defibrillator usage, to be held in the Village Hall in the near future. The date would be publicised in Icene.

Action: PF, Lewis D, Clerk

25/17 Youth Representation: None.

26/17 Reports from District and County Councillors. No report was received in the absence of Cllr Martin. Cllr Topping's report is attached as Appendix A. In addition to items reported elsewhere in these Minutes, Cllr. Topping commented particularly on the serious and wide-spread problem of hare coursing which was putting the limited police resources under considerable strain and therefore Sian Wombwell's experience was unfortunately not unique. It was agreed that it would be helpful if members of the public could be encouraged to ring the police to report any suspicious activities but on no account should they attempt to engage with them. An item to this effect would be included in Icene and Cllr Topping would report back on this conversation to his police contacts.

Action: PT, Clerk.

27/17 Correspondence received

SCDC (P Adams)

Agenda for Weekly Bulletin.

SCDC-LDF

Hearings Programme update.

Planning Policy monthly update February 2017.

SCDC (G Bell)

January parish e-bulletin.

SCDC (J. Cox)	Notice of simultaneous election of all Parish Councillors in 2018 and every 4th year thereafter.
CCC (Jane Cantwell)	5th issue of CCC's Parish Newsletter.
CCC (Transport)	Notices giving various bus timetables.
CCC (Assets & Commissioning)	Updated inventory of Ickleton streetlights and invoice.
CCC (CAMQUIT)	Notice of non-smoking day on 8 March.
CAPALC (T Webb)	Transforming Lives Briefing. Chief Executive's February 2017 Briefing. Locality: "How to keep it local" guide. The Plunkett Foundation Rural Campaign: Call to Action. Lobby Day 28 March 2017. UDC Local Plan- Evidence to date.
Neil Gregory (Chair, Great Chesterford Parish Council). Engagement (NHS)	Various e-newsletters including notice of a consultation on a model for an integrated out-of-hours base at Addenbrooke's.
Rural Services Network	Weekly e-mail digests. Rural opportunities bulletin. Rural spotlight on the heart of the Village.
Rural Vulnerability Service	Fuel Poverty- January 2017. Rural Housing Spotlight.
Highways England Cambridgeshire ACRE	Latest A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon newsletter. Survey of Cambridgeshire Town and Parish Councillors. February Funding update.
Stop Stansted Expansion Groundwork East Fields in Trust Support Cambridgeshire	Stansted Night Flights Consultation. Impact Report 2016-17. Parliamentary enquiry reveals parks at "tipping point". Newsletter.
Mrs L Hynard Cantilena Singers Mr T Bristowe Mr M Young	Progress towards resolution of the Village Hall deed issue. Promoting a concert to be held on 18 March in Newmarket. Enquiry concerning tree works. 100 Parishes initiative.
Public Sector Executive on-line e-Cops Other various e-mails HM Revenue & Customs	Regular email digests. Daily updates. Circulated to Councillors during the month. Various e-mails.

In connection with the communication from Mr Young regarding the 100 Parishes initiative, it was agreed to invite him to give a brief talk at the beginning of the next meeting on March 15 **28/17 Planning applications received from SCDC:** Declarations of Interest to be declared.

i. S/0450/FL and S/0451/ LB. 9, Abbey Street. (Greene King plc) Construct disabled toilet and rear porch. Block up 2 internal doors. Relocate smoking shelter. **Unanimous recommendation: Support**

ii. Decision received

S/2219/16/FL & S/2220/16/LB, Harlequin House, Abbey Street. (Peter MacDonald) **Approved.**

Councillors were disappointed that their attempt to preserve the character of Back Lane had been unsuccessful, and felt their views had not been given sufficient weight. Under the new SCDC planning procedures, the decision on the application had been made without referral to the full Planning Committee. There would be a significant adverse impact on this part of the Village. It was noted that there was no right of appeal. Cllr. Topping offered to see whether anything could be done. The Clerk would forward the relevant documentation to him.

Action: PT, Clerk

iii. Notification of Tree works subject to a tree preservation order or situated within a conservation area.

S/0452/17/TPO Chapel House, Frogge Street. (Mrs Laura Barbrook). Proposals: Ash near House: up to 2m crown reduction; remove ivy; clear building by 2m; 5 m crown lift. Other ash: Up to 2m crown reduction and 5m crown lift. Prunus x 18 & hawthorn: Crown reduction by 1-2 m; 2m crown lift; remove damaged branches. **Agreed unanimously to offer no comment**

29/17 Reports from Councillors

Sian Wombwell reported that the protected road verge along part of Grange Road, which her family maintained at no cost to the County Council, had been ruined by Openreach contractors. This was despite her best efforts to prevent this since the contractors had no instructions as to the status of the verge. Cllr. Topping agreed to write to BT on behalf of Ickleton Parish Council, if Sian provided him with details, but it was recognised that it would take years for the verge to be returned to its previous state.

Action: PT, SW

30/17 Finance

i. Payments made to:

Harts (January Icene) **£110.40** A Pavelin (Litter Bins) **£80**; CCC (Grass cutting) **£600.89**.

ii. Receipts

Peasgood and Skeates (memorial tablet; Dr Jenny Pell) **£73**, Barclays (Interest on Business account) **£3.22**
Icene advertising income: Mr M Hall **£110**

iii. Bank Balances as at 31 January 2017.

Community Account	£26,854.00
Business Premium Account	£25,856.19

iv. Precept recommendation for 2017-18. The Parish Council's recommendation that the precept remain at £24,000 for the 2017-18 financial year had been accepted by SCDC.

31/17 Cemetery/Chapel

- i. Chapel repairs. Nothing further had been heard from the specialist roofer. **Action: TS, Clerk**
- ii. Fallen tree and leaning tree by cemetery wall. The contractor starts work this week. **Action: Clerk**
- iii Rabbit Cull. It was agreed not to pursue this at present.

32/17 Recreation Field and Play Area:

- i. Update on play area refurbishment project. Lucy Davidson had sent a report advising that three grant applications had been submitted and the outcome of one should be known next week. She would begin work shortly on assessing applications for outdoor sports equipment. **Action: Lucy D, Clerk**
- ii. Maintenance of football pitches, Charles Frankau had rolled the pitches once. This had improved the surface but a second session was needed. The Clerk would contact him. **Action: Clerk**
- iii. Weeds in bark on playground area. Nothing to report.
- iv. Grass cutting quotes The Clerk had written to seek quotes for the forthcoming year and these would be brought to next month's meeting. **Action: Clerk**

33/17 Churchyard.

- i. Tree in poor condition. This should be sorted out this week. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. Annual headstone check. David Lilley was thanked for undertaking this inspection. He reported one headstone in the churchyard as a potential hazard. This was a long-standing problem. It would be inspected during the annual churchyard tidy-up. **Action: TS, Lewis D**
- iii. Molehills in the Churchyard Simon Cheney had offered to tackle the problem. While it was recognised that the moles needed to be removed to enable the grass to be cut, the question was raised as to whether a humane method would be used. After discussion a vote was taken with three voting against a cull, two in favour, with one abstention. The Chairman would speak to Simon Cheney. **Action: TS**

34/17 Affordable Housing. This was on hold until Government released further information.

35/17 Annual review of Funeral Directors' conditions and Ickleton Burial Board Charges. Last year's paperwork had been circulated and it was noted that Burial Board charges had remained unchanged for several years. The Chairman proposing, it was agreed unanimously to increase the various charges by reference to the current CPI inflation rate 1.8%. It was agreed also to leave the Funeral Directors' Conditions unchanged. **Action: Clerk**

36/17 Request from the Great Chesterford and District Gardening Society. A letter from the Chair of

the Society had been circulated which sought permission to plant a small tree in the Village in memory of Mrs Cynthia Rule who had been Secretary of the Society for about twenty years. This was approved unanimously and Councillors would think about an appropriate site. **Action: Clerk**

37/17 Annual Litter Pick Permission was given for this to take place on March 12th. **Action: Clerk**

38/17 Ickleton Church Spring Clean This would take place on Saturday 25 March, and Councillors were asked to note that the Churchyard tidy up would take place on the same day.

39/17 Stansted Night Flights: Consultation The Chairman reminded Councillors that SSE had been lobbying for a long time for the cessation of night flights. They were also seeking a restriction in the number of hours at night when planes could take off or land. The Chairman would make a submission on the Council's behalf. On the Chairman's suggestion, it was also agreed to make a donation of £30 to SSE to support its work. **Action: TS, Clerk**

40/17 Sawston Police Panel Meeting. The next meeting would take place on 23 February.

41/17 Adjournment for questions from members of the public. None.

42/17 Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7.30pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.05pm.

Chairman

Date

County Councillor Report to Ickleton Parish Council

February 2017

From Councillor Peter Topping

07825876582 peterwwtopping@gmail.com

County budget Yesterday saw the annual budget setting debate at the county council which was long, lasting from 10.30 through to 5.30, though not as long as last year which finished at 10.30pm.

There was agreement that the council tax should go up by 2% to fund adult social care which is under huge strain, partly because of the costs and difficulties in recruiting careworkers. There was deadlock on whether the rest of the council budget should go up, and after a lot of arguing, the budget for the rest of the council has been frozen. However, the County has said that road improvements including pothole filling and verge cutting will have more money spent on them.

Housing White Paper – the housing white paper proposes giving councils some powers that have been pressing for such as reducing the time allowed between the grant of planning application and when the first houses have to be built on a site, from 3 to 2 years. It also would allow planning fees to be increased to enable planning departments to cope with the quick processing of planning applications. It signals some fresh approaches by government, including the possibility of councils being allowed to build houses, modular housebuilding and self-build, and encouraging smaller developers into the market. Whether it is enough to stop the landbanking of land by developers to keep prices high is another matter.

City Deal The issue of congestion in Cambridge was debated at South Cambs District Council and a motion carried rejecting proposals for a congestion charge.

Closer to home

Cross border issues The Uttlesford Council Local Plan is likely to start going out for consultation in the summer and the issue of proposals for a major housing development at Great Chesterford is still live. The issue for the area north of the county boundary is the infrastructure challenge in that many of the people who would live there would be travelling north to work either in Cambridge or in the science parks between here and Cambridge. This is the point that we have made to Uttlesford: that their modelling of the traffic impacts has to be improved.

I have met with the Highways team at the depot in Whittlesford. They acknowledge the points made to them by the chair of Ickleton Parish Council but do not think they can offer a solution regarding the road bridge safety issue. Now that the county budget setting meeting is completed, I should be able to get a more senior county highways officer to come out for a discussion.

The flooding issues on the A505 as it runs between the M11 and the Sawston roundabout have been fixed by the county council.

The proposals for a motorway level petrol station and facilities off the M11 at Duxford are likely to come forward in the second half of the year.

At the beginning of the financial year would be a good time to put in some requests for minor improvements such as white lines reprinting etc, and also if there are any things that the council wants to fund itself, but wants the county to carry out, we should discuss that with the depot team.

I have had a meeting with the Cambridgeshire police rural crime unit inspector following a significant increase in hare coursing in the area, and related rural crime. I am arranging for our PCSO to have some training with the unit and would also encourage the reporting of suspicious activity to the police such as vans and cars parked up in fields, or lights seen in fields at night, using 999. The police are very keen to re-iterate that rural crime is higher on their agenda than perhaps it was some years ago.

Peter Topping