

ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall.

Present: Terry Sadler (Chairman), Tim Pavelin, Sheila Birch, Jane Hurst, Peter Wombwell, Liz Gibson, Mark Stone-Wigg, Liz Goddard, Jocelyn Flitton (Clerk), Cllr John Williams (District), Cllr Timothy Stone (County) and Mr and Mrs J Bristow

172/10 Apologies for absence: Lewis Duke

173/10 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2010: Under 163/10 after Harts it should read (Aug Icene). Following this amendment, the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

174/10 Adjournment for questions from members of the public: None

The Chairman brought the following item forward on the Agenda:

185/10 Flooding:

Land adj. Stumps Cross – SEEARO Group/Site Visit 10 October 2010 – The Chairman gave an update on the situation following the site meeting (attended by himself, the Clerk, and two Councillors from Gt Chesterford Parish Council). A copy of proposals (which will be circulated) by DL Symes Associates had been obtained from SEEARO. At the moment none of the conditions (attached to the granting of Planning permission) requested by the Environment Agency seems to have been dealt with. The Chairman invited Mr & Mrs Bristow to express their views. They also reported that the Environment Agency wish to visit them to discuss flood maps. The Chairman agreed that the Parish Council should attend as requested by Mr & Mrs Bristow. The Parish Council felt that having lost the battle against the land-raising proposal, the focus now had to be on ensuring the conditions were met as fully as possible. Peter Wombwell raised a concern that as the area is on the border of Essex and Cambridgeshire, it seems to be falling ‘between cracks’. He felt that pressure should be put on the Environment Agency and that the Minister responsible for Flooding should be alerted to the problem. The Councillors also agreed that our concerns should be fed back to the Chairman of Gt Chesterford Parish Council.

Action: TS/LD

Drain top of Mill Lane – there was nothing further to report on this. Mr Bristow commented that major flooding in Mill Lane was attributable to the river and not the drains.

Action: Clerk

Abbey Street opp. Methodist Chapel + copy of correspondence between Mr Cope & Mr Cooper – Lewis Duke had not yet been able to speak to Mr Cope.

Action: LD

Mr & Mrs Bristow left the meeting.

175/10 Matters Arising:

028/07 Tennis Courts – The Clerk had not received a full response from the Valuation Office. Mark Stone-Wigg reported that three more people had expressed their interest, although one has dropped out. He is trying to find someone to move this project forward.

Action: Clerk/MS-W

116/09 Trimming back of trees by Owner Mr A Fleet – CCC Highways has agreed to have another look at this and say they may have to serve the resident a formal notice about trimming back the trees. This process is also likely to take 2-3 months. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the tenant who confirmed that the correspondence we had sent had been forwarded to the owner. The owner had told the tenant that he would contact the Parish Council, but the Chairman now has a telephone number so if necessary will call the owner.

Action: TS

073/10 Gritting of roads – The Environment Services, Huntingdon have sent an e-mail confirming “the details for the two farmers in the Ickleton area who expressed interest in helping with gritting in extreme weather conditions. They have also noted that they have salt storage space available but currently this is still being discussed as an option. We will contact you again when all replies and options have been considered”.

074/10 Adoption of Model Standing Orders for Local Councils – this item to be carried forward until next month.

Action: TS

094/10 Grass cutting protected grass verges – Peter Wombwell said following receipt of an e-mail from CCC answering the questions we had raised, there were still some queries which he would like raised and he will notify those to the Clerk accordingly.

Action: PW

143/10 Repair slats on Picnic bench in Play Area – the bench had now been repaired.

Letter to CCC re. Signage for Allotments – Following a site visit with CCC (David Lines), Jain Livingstone (representing the Allotment Association), the Chairman and Clerk, the CCC have agreed that a sign could be erected but they had no funds to cover the cost. The Allotment Committee has agreed to meet half (£150) of the total cost, which should not exceed £300. It was agreed that the sign should not include the grey backing board. The Councillors agreed to go ahead with ordering this sign.

Action:

Clerk

160/10 Land Registry query – The Clerk reported that the Bus Shelter in Abbey Street had been registered and the documents would be sent to Mr Marris at Adams Harrison. The Village Green, Cemetery, Cople Pit, Recreation Ground and lease of land to the Village Hall had also been registered. Appropriate letters will be sent to Adams Harrison and Land Registry.

Action: Clerk

176/10 Youth Representation: None

177/10 Reports from District and County Councillors:

Appendix I - District Councillor

Appendix II - County Councillor

Tim Stone left the meeting

178/10 Correspondence received:

SCDC (L Browne)	-	Documents Liaison Meeting 18 October 2010
SCDC (H Adams)	-	Survey – Democratic Services
SCDC (GH Jones)	-	Planning and our Parishes
SCDC (H Adams)	-	Election of Parish Council Member to Standards Committee
SCDC (K Miles)	-	SCambs & Cambridge City Council Strategic Flood Risk Ass.
Cllr J Williams (District)	-	Environment Agency long term plans re. River maintenance
CCC (S Willis)	-	Flood Memories
CCC (A Hodges)	-	Public Rights of Way and Access Team
CCC (M Cooper)	-	36 Abbey Street
CCC (A Clarke)	-	Mobile Library Services
CCC/Peterborough CC	-	Cambs. & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Plan
Essex CC (L Stenhouse)	-	Consultation – Essex CC & Southend-on-Sea BC
CPALC	-	Various documents
Imperial War Museum	-	Documents re. Neighbours Forum
Refined Line Web Dev.	-	Local Council Website
CPRE	-	Hedgerows Course
John Broom	-	Locating relatives buried in Cemetery
Luminus Group	-	Headlines Sept. 10
BT (Broadband)	-	Race to Infinity
Society of LCC	-	Non-membership of the Society
Dept. of Transport	-	Reply to letter re. Stansted Airport
S Casement	-	Interment of Ashes area
NHS Pharmaceutical Services	-	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
Cambridge Lawn Tennis Club	-	Subsidised tennis coaching in Cambridge
Cambs. Acre	-	Community Action magazine Autumn 2010
Wicksteed	-	Catalogues

- NALC - LCR Online goes weekly
- Correspondence sent:**
- CCC (M Cooper) - Pothole outside 36 Abbey Street
- M Hall - British Legion Wreath for Remembrance Sunday
- CPRE - Enrol P Wombwell on Hedgerow Course

179/10 Planning application(s) received from SCDC: Declarations of Interest to be declared.
 S/1196/10 – Replacement Conservatory – 60 Frogge Street – Miss J Bloomfield - Approve
 S/1514/10 – Two storey side extension & rear ground floor extension – 26 Frogge Street – Roger Grattidge
 - Approve

180/10 Reports from Councillors:

Liz Gibbon reported that she had attended the first part of her course at CPALC and explained what had been covered.

Sheila Birch reported that the double church gate was difficult to open/close. It was agreed to check who had donated the gates, and if possible contact them with regard to the repair. If this were not possible, the Clerk would contact C Frankau and ask his opinion on the gates. **Action: Clerk**

Terry Sadler had received a review of the proposed revision of NATS airspace re. Stansted, which had been further postponed possibly until 2013/14.

He and the Clerk had attended the Parish Liaison meeting at SCDC on Monday evening. The Chairman said the meeting was very well attended and gave a précis of what was discussed at the meeting. Documents will be circulated.

Jocelyn Flitton asked the District Councillor if he could check how the papers were dealt with during the new Blue Bin collection. **Action: JW**

181/10 Finance (Bank Balances) including payments to:

Harts (Sept Icene) - £68.91	C.D.T. Engineering (Aerial Runway) - £139.83
Ickleton Village Hall (Hire of Hall) - £42.00	Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust (Donation) - £50
JA Flitton (3 mths salary & expenses) - £493.83	HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE) - £87.47
CPRE (Hedgerow Course PW) - £12.00	
Receipts – SCDC (2nd Instalment Precept) - £8,500.	Football Match Fee - £20.00

Telephone Banking – the Clerk reported that she had been unable to transfer more than £4,999.99 in one go between accounts and that in order to transfer more than £5,000 in one go we needed to complete a Registration form for telephone banking. It was agreed this could be completed to allow the Clerk and the Chairman to carry out this procedure. **Action: Clerk**

Six-monthly Review of Precept v Budget – the spreadsheet (showing figures updated to 30/09/10) had been circulated. No comments were raised.

Bank Balances:

Community Account	-	£232.97
Business Base Rate Tracker Account	-	£25,143.88

182/10 Recreation Field and Play Area:

Aerial Runway – the equipment had now been repaired. Mark Stone-Wigg reported that he had received comments that the seat is too low. Peter Wombwell agreed to look at the runway. **Action: PW**

Skate Park - Lewis Duke reported that he had been optimistic regarding a donor to support the skate park but another organisation in the village had ‘pipped’ him to the post. C Frankau has begun to paint the skate park.

183/10 Cemetery - Chapel – Condition to be kept under Review

Quotations to repair roof (£1,240, £2997.00 and £420.00) had been received. Two of the quotations were from the list recommended by SCDC. After discussion, it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Mr M Grainger to discuss his quotation further as the quote received had not been very explicit. At

the moment it was not decided whether or not we should try for a grant from SCDC. **Action: Clerk/TS**

184/10 Churchyard Wall – Replies had been received from Littlebury & Gt Chishill giving details of whom they had used to repair their flint walls. The Chairman said we should look at the walls and report back. He had also asked for a quotation from A Hoare to repair the inside of the churchyard wall, which he had not yet received. **Action: TS**

Quinquennial Inspection Report:

Trees – Report received from SCDC Tree Officer. Roz Richardson reported “that the flowering cherry tree on the left as you walked towards the church was diseased and advised that the tree is felled. The other cherry trees had no significant defects; the usual water shoots from the cherry plums and resin exudates from the cherries. Other plants growing through the Yew hedge should be removed by hand. The two large Limes to the rear do not necessarily require work and have the potential to become large mature specimens”. Quotations will be obtained in the New Year to carry out the relevant work. **Action: Clerk**
Jonas Memorial – this was still outstanding. **Action: Clerk**

186/10 CCC – Review of Closure of Duxford Road – Lewis Duke had reported that this was the largest project in our Parish in recent times and there had been obvious confusion by motorists. The signage was inadequate and confusing all through the project. He felt that traffic lights could have been used and that CCC had underestimated the volume of traffic that passes through our village. The Clerk had had to chase to have a container removed from the road once the work had been completed. It was also felt that the £100,00 cost of the project had to be excessive.

187/10 CCC – Clearance of grips in roads before winter – the Clerk will write to CCC Highways requesting this work to be done. **Action: Clerk**

188/10 Police – Sawston Neighbourhood Watch Panel Meeting 4 October 2010 – Lewis Duke and the Clerk had attended the meeting. They requested that speed checks are continued in Frogge Street now that the ‘rat runners’ are back. The documentation will be circulated.

189/10 Imperial War Museum Liaison Meeting 20 October 2010 – Terry Sadler attended this meeting. The fire that had occurred on Peter Wombwell’s field had been discussed and it was noted that the farmer did an excellent job in containing the fire. Documentation will be circulated.

190/10 Footpath 9 (behind Southfield) – A resident had complained that this footpath had been ploughed up. Karen Champion (CCC Footpaths Co-ordinator) had also rung Sheila Birch. Peter Wombwell reported that they had ploughed the field but disputed that the footpath had disappeared. Peter Wombwell left the meeting.

191/10 Wellcome Trust – items for Liaison meeting 5 November – Planning updates and Flooding re. land adj. to Stumps Cross. **Action: Clerk**

192/10 Quotation for bench (Robin Driver) – a quotation for £470 had been received, with an additional cost of £90 for engraving. Tim Pavelin declared an interest. It was proposed and the Councillors voted unanimously to accept the quotation for the seat and installation. The wording for the engraving to be confirmed. **Action: Clerk**

193/10 Date and time of next meeting - 17 November 2010 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Chairman

Date

Appendix I

**From: John Williams (District Councillor)
October 2010**

To: Ickleton Parish Council

Council housing financing

In June I reported that Governmental changes were being considered by Councils around the country in which the Government (*pre-election*) proposed to transfer its housing debt (£28 billion) to Councils, in return for no longer taking a proportion of Councils' rental income as they do at present.

To remind: At present the Government takes 50% of South Cambs District Council's rental income, and instead it was proposed that SCDC should accept a debt to the Government in the region of £190 million as the quid pro quo. This is a move which would be little different in overall financial effect and the proposal was rejected by full Council – against the wishes of the Portfolio holder and Leader, who had a rebellion by half of the Conservative members as well as the combined opposition of all Lib Dem and Independent members.

This week the new coalition Housing Minister Grant Shapps announced that the Government would move further along the line to give Councils more freedom to meet their local community housing needs and that the quid pro quo for keeping all the rents would not be at a level that was “not sustainable in the long term”. What this will actually amount to for South Cambs remains to be seen, but this statement is a further justification for having voted against housing transfer, and also for not accepting the first idea for replacement that the Government came up with. The local Government Association now says that this is at last a victory for Housing Reform.

Big Society

Tomorrow we shall have digested a bit more of how the axe will fall on local councils. The County believes that clarity will only begin to appear in December. Meanwhile one of the main items of interest until then is David Cameron's continued insistence on The Big Society. Most people don't seem to have much of an idea as to what it means and I've already been sent two surveys to ask my opinion. I don't think I replied to either.

I've attended a conference of Cambridgeshire ACRE, where the Big Society themes seemed to be a right to build, a right to bid and a right to buy. I've also attended a helpful drop-in session at Great Shelford Library, where two county councillors were very pleasant but frankly didn't know much more about the Big Society than I did. We shall see more when the Localism Bill is published later this month. The mood at Cambridgeshire ACRE focused on the fact that all our volunteers are getting old and we needed more of them to get things done in our villages.

One important question is the extent to which parish councils want to have things devolved to them. And if so, what.

Highways and footpaths

I see that you have a couple of issues later in the meeting, which I have been involved in:

Footpath 9. I have a slight problem here because I have no record of which resident of Southfield brought the matter up.

Closure of Duxford Road. Cambridgeshire Highways appreciate that the signage initially left a lot to be desired. They acted with some speed.

Quango fire

The government has announced its intention to scrap a very large number of quangos, ranging from the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal to the

Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee. More recognizable ones include Cycling England.

At the same time the government has abolished National Indicators, which councils use to judge their performance against their peers and Local Area Agreements, which we were getting used to as local authorities try to join up some of their services.

We shall see how many of these will have to be reinvented. It may seem on reflection that quite a few valuable local babies have been thrown out with the national bath water. But at least the cost of any replacement will be placed on local authorities rather than central government. We have some experience of that trend locally with our streetlights.