

# ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 November 2011 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall

**Present:** Terry Sadler (Chairman), Sheila Birch, Lewis Duke, Michael Robinson, Tim Pavelin, Sian Wombwell, Liz Goddard, Kern Roberts, Jocelyn Flitton (Parish Clerk), Cllr Mick Martin (District), A resident, Cllr Tim Stone (County)

**199/11 Apologies for absence:** Liz Gibson

**200/11 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2011:** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**201/11 Adjournment for questions from members of the public:** None

## **202/11 Matters Arising:**

028/07 Tennis Courts – The situation is still on going.

**Action: LD**

028/11 CCC Winter Snow Clearance – Grange Road – Lewis Duke reported that Peter Wombwell had ordered the gritter with 20% funding coming from CCC Highways. Further funding is being found by an application for a SCDC Community Chest grant, £1000 donation from a local business, plus contributions from the two local farmers. They should be operational by next month. It is noted that the gritting is not being done on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Action: LD**

Protected Road Verges – Cllr Stone had sent an e-mail outlining the current situation. As CCC have no effective policy in place, the verges have deteriorated over the years. Peter & Sian Wombwell have agreed to maintain the grass verges in Grange Road.

069/11 Training Courses (CPALC Stage 2 10 November 2011) – Kern Roberts attended the course, which he had enjoyed and found very useful.

078/11 Emergency Plan – This is still ongoing.

**Action: LD/Clerk**

Cllr Tim Stone joined the meeting.

100/11 Broadband – Kern Roberts had reported that he had managed to get through to the Area Manager of Virgin. We do not have access to Virgin's Superfast Broadband, the nearest connection being Duxford. Lewis Duke will speak to the occupants of Abbey Barns to see if there is any significant business interest in acquiring Superfast Broadband.

117/11 Broken seat at Cemetery Corner – Charlie Frankau has said this will be repaired next week.

**Action: Clerk**

125/11 Village Information Leaflet – The Clerk had circulated the latest version, which is more or less ready to go to the printers. 500 copies will be ordered.

**Action: Clerk**

161/11 Pedestrian Gatepost at Mill Lane Railway Crossing – John Eccles of Network Rail had rang the Clerk on November 8<sup>th</sup> to confirm the post had been repaired before 31 October and they had signed it off.

168/11 Queen Elizabeth II Fields – Nothing further to report.

**Action: Clerk**

171/11 Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012 – Nothing further had been heard from the Committee. The Clerk was asked to feed into them the possibility of a Bonfire.

**Action: Clerk**

182/11 Village Notice board – The Clerk had tidied up the board and will keep a check on it.

Manhole cover o/s 33 Abbey Street – This was quickly resolved following it being reported to M Cooper (CCC Highways).

Potholes in Grange Road – These had been added to the list by M Cooper (CCC Highways).

SCDC Water Management Briefing (15/11/11) – Despite the Clerk notifying SCDC that Lewis Duke would be attending, he was told there were no vacancies. The Clerk has obtained copies of the presentation, which will be circulated.

195/11 Grips clearance – roadside verges – M Cooper (CCC Highways) had noted the clearance but could not say when.

**203/11 Youth Representation:** None

**204/11 Reports from District and County Councillors:**

Appendix I - County Councillor's report  
Kern Roberts joined the meeting. One resident left the meeting  
Appendix II - District Councillor's report

**205/11 Correspondence received:**

CCC (Cllr T Stone) - Mini-bus franchise  
- Protected Road Verges  
CCC (C Tucker) - P3 Parish & Volunteers' Definitive Map Seminar 8 December  
CCC (A Jones) - New Community Pathways Website  
CCC (E Fitch) - Minerals & Waste Site Specific Proposals plan  
CCC (D Evans) - 2012 Small grants for celebrations & events  
CCC (M Oakman) - Parish Gritting Grange Road, Ickleton  
SCDC (N Blazeby) - Parish Council Training & Information Sessions  
SCDC (P Sewell) - 2012 Small Grants for celebrations and events  
SCDC - Planning Policy Monthly Update Nov 11  
SCDC (L Browne) - BT Openreach booklet & Police Authority Links  
- Subsidised Bus Service Review Survey  
SCDC (C Swain) - Callout arrangements over Bank Holidays & Weekends  
CPALC - South Cambs District Committee/Localism Bill update Oct. 11  
NALC - The Localism Bill update  
Balfour Beatty - Christmas Decoration Attachments  
Cambs. Acre - Opportunities for community volunteers/News Digest Nov 2011  
- The Playing Field  
Came & Co. - Parish Matters Autumn 2011  
CPRE - Countryside Voice Winter 2011  
MD Landscapes - Offer Landscapes & Ground Maintenance 2012  
D Isaac - Aircraft Noise  
Clerks & Councils - November Newsletter  
Anglian H&S - Grit Bin promotion  
SG Baker Ltd - Cold Weather preparation  
Jigsaw Cambridgeshire - Oxford Archaeology East  
SMP Playgrounds - Autumn deals on supply-only play equipment

Cllr Tim Stone left the meeting.

**206/11 Planning application(s) received from SCDC: None**      Declarations of Interest to be declared.

**Application(s) to carry out Tree works subject to a Tree Preservation Order or situated within a Conservation Area:** C/11/40/054 – Fell large diseased Horse Chestnut Tree - Mr J Owen, Norman Hall, 21 Church Street – Approve      **Action: Clerk**

**207/11 Reports from Councillors:**

Michael Robinson said the Race Night, held on 12 November for Ickleton Cricket Club, had raised £954.00. A Committee had now been formed.

Lewis Duke said he had received a letter from Camilla Haggett (CCC) which stated the proposed changes to the Definitive Map and to which objections may be made. They had pointed out that the gate, by the level crossing, was not compliant. It is hoped to be ratified in the New Year, if there are no substantial objections.

Kern Robert s – reiterated his comments on the Training Session and would give the file and booklets to the Clerk to be circulated.

Tim Pavelin said the ‘gutter’ running cross Brookhampton Street was dangerous, but noted the Clerk had already reported this to CCC Highways. He wished to congratulate Wellcome Trust on once again putting on such a splendid Firework Display and the facilities they provided.

Jocelyn Flitton reported that the police had visited her in the afternoon as there had been two break-ins at the Riverside Barns. They also asked if they could be e-mailed a copy of our village bulletin (Icene) as they would find this useful. The Councillors thought this was a good idea and the Clerk will liaise with the Editors to send this to the Sawston office. **Action: Clerk**

**208/11 Finance (Bank Balances) including payments to:**

Harts (Sept Icene - £70.38	R Coulson (Grass Cutting/Bins 2011) - £2060.00
M Robinson (Materials for Play Area) - £78.77	LCR (Subscription) - £15.50
Royal British Legion (Wreath + delivery = £17) + donation = £67.00	
<b>Money Received:</b> DK Till & Partner (Icene Adv.) - £70.00	R Skeates (Burial D Bradford) - £68.00

**Bank Balances:**

Community Account	-	£898.74
Business Base Rate Tracker Account	-	£33,355.57

**209/11 Recreation Field and Play Area:**

Whittlesford Warriors FC – Match Fees – the fees are still outstanding

Broken seat in Play Area – Charles Frankau said he would repair the seat next week. **Action: Clerk**

**210/11 Cemetery - Chapel** – Condition to be kept under Review

**211/11 Churchyard**

Ivett & Reed - Application for additional inscription on grave for David Bradford (Row E8) – The Councillors had no objections to this.

**212/11 Flooding**

Land adj. Stumps Cross – Infilling site Extension application from 30 September 2011 to 30 September 2013 – The Chairman had looked on both Essex and Uttlesford websites and nothing had been reported on either site.

Cllr Mick Martin left the meeting.

Drain top of Mill Lane – Network Rail are not responding to e-mails. The Clerk will try a different approach and log it on their database. **Action: Clerk**

Abbey Street opp. Methodist Chapel – Nothing further to report.

**213/11 Footway Lighting Maintenance Agreements:** The situation still seems far from clear. A letter had been received from CCC saying they would be invoicing us for Energy & Maintenance. The Clerk had tried contacting Balfour Beatty but to no avail. **Action: TS/Clerk**

**214/11 East Anglian Region Tree Warden Forum 8 October 2011:** Sian Wombwell said there were many people at the Forum and she felt it was a worthwhile day with good information. They discussed the Big Tree Plant (Defra) and how you could tap into grants. The Chairman asked Councillors to consider Tree planting for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee especially in the Recreation Ground and alongside the Allotments. Tree planting will be put on the next Agenda. **Action: Clerk**

**215/11 Footpaths** – Sheila Birch had attended the P3 meeting last week, which had 10 attendees. She learnt that Contractors cut Byway 7 (Grassy Lane to the bridge over the river) and not Wellcome Trust as was thought. Random surveys of footpaths are carried out in May and November. The next meeting will be in February.

**Definitive Map & Statement Seminar 8 December 2011:** Sheila Birch will attend this Seminar at Anglesey Abbey and will attend the ‘Research – what documents and where’ session. **Action: SB**

**216/11 CPALC District Committee:** The Chairman will attend this meeting on Tuesday 25 November as it was felt worthwhile to hear other opinions. **Action: TS**

**217/11 CCC Parish Council HCV Strategy meeting 29 November 2011:** The Chairman is attending this meeting. **Action: TS**

**218/11 Adjournment for questions from members of the public:** None

**219/11 Date and time of next meeting - 14/12/2011 at 7.30 pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.32pm

**Chairman**

**Date**

## **Appendix I**

County Councillor's report to Ickleton Parish Council

16th November 2011

### **Buses**

County officers have been told that they must get a franchise up and running locally by 5<sup>th</sup> December. I am very unhappy with the way they are being developed so far and this morning met senior officers to help resolve some of the issues.

The County's franchise proposals are designed to attract budding entrepreneurs. The County nevertheless wishes to control fares. The idea is that the County will give a 12-seat minibus to an entrepreneur who, from next February, will pick up pupils with Special Educational needs and transport them to and from the Granta School at Linton. This would occupy the minibus from 7.00 to 9.30 in the morning and from 3.30 to 6.30 in the evening. Before and after these times in the early morning and later evening the franchisee might like to take people to and from Whittlesford station. During the middle of the day possible routes would be to supermarkets or, say, Trumpington Park & Ride if that can be arranged. In the very late evening the minibus could be used for bringing people back from Cambridge.

One difficulty is that the proposed franchise cannot replicate a commercial service. It is illegal to have a subsidised bus route competing with a commercial one. Having a subsidised transport franchise competing with a subsidised bus route would make a lawyer's Christmas. So whatever is proposed is not something that could take over the Citi 7 or the 101 if and when the current operators decide to pull out.

I remain very much in favour of widening and improving public transport locally and shall continue to work with anyone on a solution which stands a chance of being beneficial and durable. The Ickleton consultation should prove very valuable as it is the only village-based consultation of which I am aware.

Another issue is that this is all supposed to be going on with consultation with parish councils. No parish council had been contacted until the weak message last week. I found it less than helpful and have therefore arranged a meeting at the Whittlesford Highways depot at 9.30 am on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November so that County Officers can explain themselves. I have sent your clerk an invitation for one of your parish councillors to attend.

I have asked that the County to print a flyer, which can be given to all the parish magazine editors in the seven villages concerned. It can then go out with the December issue of their magazines.

This is not a public meeting and I have been told that the number of people using the room has to be restricted to no more than 16.

There will also be a public meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at Hinxton village hall. It would be nice if people could get there and home by bus so the start time is 5 pm.

### **Minor Traffic Improvements and Area Joint Committees**

The County has now cleared up the muddle around Traffic management Area Joint Committees and Minor Highways Improvements – with one exception, which I shall mention later. The new rules are:

1. Every year there will be a single annual process by which, in each District, a decision is taken as to which minor highways improvements are to be done/funded.
2. Each scheme will cost no more than £10,000.
3. The bidder (e.g. a Parish Council) will be expected to pay 10% of the cost.
- 4a There will be a deadline (in November in 2011) for bids from Parish Councils and anyone else for some such improvement to be done in their patch.

4b In January, for each District, a group of 4-6 county members from that district will meet in public (with officer support) to assess the bids from their district and will choose how to allocate the up-to-£50k earmarked per District.

5 Political groups will appoint members to the panels of 4-6 "on a proportionate representative basis for that district." Local district and parish councillors would be consulted on the bids relevant to them.

6 There needs to be more detail around timetable etc. The report merely says:

"Bids would be invited in November, with Member panels sitting in early January. Parish councils or other bidders could set their precept/budget to reflect their contribution to the successful bid. The opportunity to borrow funds from the council and repay over a period of time could also be highlighted at this time."

The exception is that if bids are to be invited in November, then what has happened this year? I have been told that invitations to bid are to be sent out this week: too late to meet the deadlines proposed.

### **Superfast Broadband**

Cambridgeshire County Council is intending to borrow up to £20 million to help install Superfast broadband across the county. This will be helped by government grants and the development plans of broadband providers.

In our part of the county there are many people who work from home. They are the key to the knowledge-based economy. Erratic broadband speeds hamper their work. In one village next-door houses may have quite different broadband speeds. And the farther a computer is from the exchange in general the lower the speed.

The County will have to decide where to start with spending its broadband money. It is reasonable to expect that it will go first to those places that BT regard as of a low priority. Having met BT this evening it is clear that their priorities are dense housing. The County could follow the example of Cornwall and Northern Ireland, where an effort was made to identify clusters of people using the Internet at home to make a living. If the County put its money in those places then that would help its aspiration to be "open for business."

In order to gather evidence to show that our need is important, I am collecting details of the real speeds, which people are getting. I should be very glad to receive them at [timothy.stone1@virgin.net](mailto:timothy.stone1@virgin.net).

The most reliable source of information is at <http://speedtester.bt.com/>. There are four figures of importance: The actual (download) speed when you test, the download and upload speeds and the IP Profile, which is the download limit which BT has set for your computer. It is the actual download speed in which I am most interested.

### **Street Lighting**

Excellent news from the District Council on taking over Parish Council lights. At last week's In Your Patch meeting at Shire Hall it was quite clear that County officers were well out of touch and I vigorously seconded the proposal of the District's responsible Cabinet member that the item should not be discussed. However if there are any further concerns you may have about Balfour Beatty and maintenance I shall be glad to take them up.

### **Protected Road Verges**

I have e-mailed all parish councils with Protected Road Verges within their boundaries to ask if they would be interested in setting up a consortium to have their Protected Road Verges cut according to the protocol which already exists between the County and the Wildlife Trust. The cost would be pro rated according to the length of the verges but by joining together the theory is that a better price can be achieved than if all parishes go it alone.

**Grants and how to get them.**

There is a dedicated grants officer on the SCDC staff, Joseph Minitolo. He will advise the group or individual seeking a grant in order to maximise the chances of success. He will also direct the applicants to the form on the SCDC website that needs to be used.

Supporting comment from the PC can be attached or sent to Joseph. He will then advise me of the application and request my views.

In essence, the best that can be expected is matched funds and a PC contribution is looked on very favourably.

**Solar Power and Feed in Tariffs.**

SCDC had planned to install solar panels on 2500 houses to reduce the energy costs to residents, the revenue from the feed in tariffs (sale of surplus energy back to the energy companies) would then be used to provide panels for SCDC's remaining housing stock.

Central Government has changed the policy twice in recent months, firstly the FiT was reduced from 32.9p per KWh to 15.2p per KWh this to be effective in April 2012. The most recent change is to bring forward the date of the change to 12 December this year, by which time the installations must be complete and the flow of power back to the National Grid confirmed. Clearly these timescales are not achievable and the contractor has withdrawn.

**Gipsy and Traveller sites.**

SCDC and Cambridge City Council are working on a joint solution to meet the requirements.

**SCDC 5 year plan.**

Available to view on SCDC website, will be asking for comment after 21 November.