

ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall

Present: Terry Sadler (Chairman), Michael Robinson, Tim Pavelin, Sheila Birch, Lewis Duke, Kern Roberts, Liz Gibson, Sian Wombwell, Jocelyn Flitton (Parish Clerk), Cllr Mick Martin (District) and 1 resident.

220/11 Apologies for absence: Cllr Timothy Stone (County), Liz Goddard

221/11 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2011: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

222/11 Adjournment for questions from members of the public: Mr Julian Owen informed the Parish Council that he had submitted a new application to build a house at the rear of Norman Hall, Church Street. Mr Owen explained the alterations he had made following the refusal of his previous application. The Parish Council will wait to receive the application from SCDC when there will be a possibility of another site visit.

223/11 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 they were now in possession of the grit spreader and salt. They will hopefully be attending a training session organised by CCC Highways before Christmas.

Action: LD

Footpaths – Lewis Duke thought we should review the situation following the salting of Grange Road before committing to the salting of the footpaths. This would be a big and onerous job for volunteers to undertake. If suitable sites could be found to situate Grit bins around the village, the cost of these would be considered.

Action: ALL

078/11 Emergency Plan – This is still ongoing.

Action: LD/Clerk

117/11 Broken seat at Cemetery Corner - C Frankau is in the process of repairing this seat, which he will not be charging the Parish Council for. ___

125/11 Village Information Leaflet – This has now been printed and copies were handed out to Councillors for distribution around the village.

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

Action: Clerk

171/11 Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012 – Nothing further to report.

Action: Clerk

224/11 Youth Representation: None

225/11 Reports from District and County Councillors:

Appendix I - District Councillor's Report

Appendix II - County Councillor's Report

226/11 Correspondence received:

CCC (J Stephens) - Logging Sheet for winter gritting of footpaths

CCC (C Capps) - Street Lighting PFI – Cambridgeshire

CCC (C Howes) - Local Minor Highway Improvements Funding Application

CCC (T Stone) - Broadband / Mini-bus franchise

CCC (C Haggett) - Footpath 8, 4 and 12 – Definitive Map Modification Order 2011

Item to be put on January Agenda **Action: Clerk**

CCC (E Langtham) - £30m for Community Green schemes & Public sector energy

CCC (D Hawtin) - Supplier Record Update

SCDC (S Smart) - Local Government Finance Act 1992 – Parish Precepts

SCDC (P Quigley) - Changes to SCDC Footway Lighting Maintenance Agreement

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| SCDC (J Fletcher) | - | Empty Homes Consultation/Housing Strategy Consultation |
| SCDC (N Blazeby) | - | Parish Council Training & Information Sessions |
| SCDC (L Crown) | - | Christmas waste & recycling collections |
| Charlotte Holding | - | Booking the Recreation Ground |
| Seedlings Children's Centre | - | Programme January and March 2012 |
| D Lilley | - | Definitive Map Modification Order 2011 |
| | - | Public Bus Meeting 07/12/11 at Hinxton |
| CPALC | - | Training Courses 2012/Jubilee in 201/AGM Minutes Newsletter 23 November/VAT & Audit updates |
| Sustainable Options | - | Get Ready for Winter |
| P Owen | - | Re. Planning Application S/0704/11 (2) |
| Journal of Local Planning | - | The Localism Act |
| Various e-mails | - | Circulated/forwarded during the month |
| IWM (K White) | - | Minutes of meeting held 19/10/11 |
| M Rule | - | Cemetery Tree Works/Tylers Yard |
| Luminus | - | Newsletter |
| Cambs. Acre (L Bubb) | - | Community Volunteers/News Digest Dec 11 |
| Veolia Water | - | Draft Drought Management Plan 2011 |
| Essex County Council | - | Consultation ECC & Southend on Sea BC |
| CGM Landscapes | - | Ground Maintenance 2012 |
| Russell Play | - | Play Area |
| Wysing Arts Centre | - | Exhibitions |
| CVSS | - | Funding Alert for Cambridgeshire |
| Cams. Police | - | Update from Cambs. Police Authority |
| NatWest | - | Details of Business deposit accounts |
| LCR | - | Magazine (Winter) |
| Correspondence sent: | | |
| Phillips Memorials | - | Erection of Headstone in Cemetery (M Barber-Lomas) |
| Mr D Isaac | - | Imperial War Museum |

227/11 Reports from Councillors:

Kern Roberts reported that the Allotment Association were interested in Tree Planting.

The Cricket Club had submitted an application to SCDC Community Chest grant.

Michael Robinson reported that on the advice of Cambridgeshire Cricket Board, the cricket pitch would be turned round.

Lewis Duke reported motorbike riding in Coploe pit. Sheila Birch will check and try to ascertain where they are getting into the pit. She will then liaise with Lewis Duke. **Action: SB/LD**

Jocelyn Flitton said a resident had complained of a bonfire in the Frogge Street area. It was agreed to put a note in Icene. **Action: Clerk**

She had also been notified of a fallen tree across Coploe Road (on the bend near the allotments) last week. She wished to thank all those that had moved the tree from the road.

Terry Sadler reported on a meeting that he had attended organised by CPALC – South Cambridgeshire District Association on 22 November 2011. The purpose is to get feedback from Parish Councils, and he felt it would be worth attending in the future.

228/11 Planning application(s) received from SCDC: Declarations of Interest to be declared.

Tim Pavelin declared an interest in the next planning application and did not take part in the discussion.

AMENDMENT – S/1725/11 – Dwelling – Land to the West of Gurner House, 20 Church Street, Ickleton – Heddon Management Ltd. – The comments made and submitted in September (listed below) were to be reiterated with enhanced comments on the fragility of the Flint wall:

- Gross over-development of the site.
- It is in the conservation area and surrounded by 5 listed buildings
- Serious issues about the privacy and amenity in and around the dwelling
- In particular, the amenity of No. 28 Church Street would be very badly affected

- Car Parking next to an Electricity sub-station
- Access onto Church Street
- Massive excavation works would be involved which could have consequences to the surrounding flint walls
- Roof would be visible from Butcher's Hill
- It would be overlooked and overheard.
- 'Bunkerish' impression.

To sum up: By virtue of the scale, design and form of the proposed dwelling the development would intrude upon the open and natural setting of the listed Gurner House, and it would therefore adversely affect the setting of this listed building. In addition it would adversely affect the special character and appearance of the Conservation area..

It was unanimously agreed to recommend Refusal.

Action: Clerk

NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT – S/2313/11 – Non Material Amendment (Change to size & materials of building) – Instrument Kiosk – Gas Compressor Station, Ickleton Road, Duxford, CB22 4RT – National Grid plc – **Revised plans are for information only.**

Application(s) to carry out Tree works subject to a Tree Preservation Order or situated within a Conservation Area: C/11/40/054 – 1) Apple Tree with Mistletoe – Crown reduce by 10-15%, 2) Dying Robinia – Fell, 3) Large Purple Plum – clean out crown & crown thin by 15%, 4) Pleached Hornbeams – wire in and tie to existing wires – 16 Abbey Street – Mrs C Heaney – Approve **Action: Clerk**

229/11 Finance (Bank Balances) including payments to:

Harts (Nov. Icene) - £70.38 CPALC (Stage 2 Training K Roberts) - £35.00
 C Frankau (Maint. Recreation Ground & Play Area) - £2250.00 + Repair of 2 Benches in Rec. Ground – £157.83+ Moving Goal Posts - £267.83 (+ VAT on all amounts)
Cheques received: Ivett & Reed (Monument – David Bradford) - £52.00 Football Club (Use of Pitch) - £20.00 Dignity Funeral Services (Monument – M Barber-Lomax) - £68.00
 Hobs Aerie (N Chrimes)-(Icene Adv.)- £20.00

Bank Balances:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Community Account | - | £1242.56 |
| Business Base Rate Tracker Account | - | £29,855.57 |

Precept discussions/meeting: The Finance Committee will meet on Thursday 12 January at 7.00pm at 1 Abbey Street. **Action: TS/LD/TP/Clerk**

230/11 Recreation Field and Play Area:

Whittlesford Warriors FC – Match Fees – the fees are still outstanding
Broken seat in Play Area – C Frankau is in the process of repairing the seat and will not be making any charge.
Use of Recreation Field – Sunday 24 April 2012 – Charlotte Holding – The e-mail received had been circulated to the Councillors. The Councillors said they would like to know a lot more about the proposed event to be held and the Clerk would send a list of the questions they would like answered. **Action: Clerk**

231/11 Cemetery - Chapel – Condition to be kept under Review

232/11 Churchyard – The Historic Buildings Grant, which is now available from SCDC, might be a possibility for the Churchyard wall. Details will be found on the website and circulated. **Action: Clerk**

233/11 Flooding

Land adj. Stumps Cross – Infilling site Extension application from 30 September 2011 to 30 September 2013 – Essex County Council has granted permission for the development to be extended to 30 September 2013. The Chairman had picked this up from Uttlesford District Council's website. No notification of the

decision (made on 8 November 2011) had been sent to the Parish Council. The conditions requested by Ickleton and Great Chesterford Parish Councils had not been adopted by Essex County Council.

Drain top of Mill Lane – The Clerk had logged this with Network Rail (Ref. No. 2957836) and will continue to call to see if there is any update. **Action: Clerk**

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

234/11 Tree Planting: As previously mentioned, the Allotment Association are interested in this project. It was agreed to meet one Saturday morning after Christmas to stroll around the Recreation Ground especially with a view to tidy up the hedgerow/area adjacent to the field next door. Tim Pavelin felt there were several places around the village where trees could be planted. The Chairman asked him if he would put this in an e-mail before the next meeting. **Action: ALL**

235/11 Footway Lighting Maintenance Agreements: A letter had been received from CCC informing us that orange lights will be replaced with a white light source and there will be a loss of some columns. It was agreed to write to Cllr Tim Stone asking for clarification. SCDC confirmed that they have taken over the maintenance responsibility for footway lighting. Regardless of ownership, all reports of faulty lights should be reported by free phone number: 0800 7838 247 giving the identification number, street name and village together with the fault description. **Action: TS/Clerk**

236/11 Footpaths - Definitive Map & Statement Seminar 7 December 2011: Sheila Birch attended this seminar at which Camilla Haggett (CCC) gave a presentation, followed by three other presentations. Workshops were formed and she had joined 'Research – what documents and where'.

237/11 CCC Parish Council HCV Strategy meeting 29 November 2011: The Chairman attended and reported on this meeting, which was a follow-up to the meeting held in March. CCC is developing a structured approach in their response to complaints about lorries driving through villages.

238/11 CCC Funding for Local Minor Highway Improvements (Applications by 01 February 2012): The date for applications had now been extended from 31 December 2011 to 01 February 2012. The Chairman had in mind the footpath along the end of Frogge Street to Great Chesterford Bridge. The end of the footpath near the bridge was in a poor state. Tim Pavelin supported this suggestion. The Chairman said other ideas would be welcome and will be discussed at the January meeting. **Action: ALL**

239/11 SCDC Housing Strategy Consultation (Response by 31 January 2012: The Chairman and Clerk would look at the document and draft a response. **Action: TS/Clerk**

240/11 Adjournment for questions from members of the public: None

241/11 Date and time of next meeting - 18/01/2012 at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman

Date

At full council on 24 November, SCDC voted by a significant majority to freeze councillors allowances for at least the next year. It was felt very strongly that when all council staff are on a government imposed pay freeze it would be inappropriate to increase allowances.

Central Grant. The grant to SCDC from central government has been set at £5.2m for next financial year. This is a cut of 27% over 2 years but is in line with the senior financial officers predictions. The district council is confident that services can be protected by strict and careful management.

Historic Buildings Grants. The district council may award grants to help cover the cost of special materials or specialist labour costs for certain historic buildings. Details are available on the SCDC web site.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

Important qualifying statements:

- able to accommodate 10 or more dwellings and at least 0.25 hectares; and
- within or adjoining one of the larger better served villages in the district OR a strategic scale of development (e.g. an urban extension to Cambridge or a new Settlement).

A14 additional funding, why does it matter to Duxford and Ickleton?

The development of Northstowe is currently stalled because the government withdrew the planned A14 improvement programme. £120m has been offered by central government and options for private investment are being considered.

If this frees up the Northstowe development, even simply agreeing a start date, it will reduce the likelihood of Hanley Grange.

Merry Christmas to you all.

Buses

The New Cambridgeshire Local minibus scheme was launched last week with a fanfare of non-publicity. The County found it quite impossible to get information into parish magazines and even separate flyers only seem to have been distributed in Fowlmere, Ickleton and Hinxton.

In any event we now have a minibus, which the County bought without any consultation with the operator. It has 12 seats but when equipped to carry a wheelchair can carry only eight passengers. When a wheelchair is actually on board it can only carry five because the wheelchair blocks three seats.

The minibus can be booked at least one day's notice either for individual trips to and from Whittlesford Station in the early morning and later evening or for group trips from 10 am to 3.30 pm. The station trips cost £3 single and the group trips depend on the distance travelled and waiting time. Pampisford Parish Council have already had quotes for trips to Cambridge and Saffron Walden but these came out at £70 and £80.

To begin with the station service will be completely free until 21st December and is being run with NCS Contract Services Ltd.

Anyone wishing to book a journey should contact 0345 045 9090 or for more details go to www.cambridgeshirelocal.co.uk

Meanwhile at last week's full council meeting a Liberal Democrat motion asking the Council to spend the £258,000 it had received from the government for community transport on community transport. The motion was defeated.

Minor Traffic Improvements

Last month I said I was looking for an answer on how bids could possibly be made before the end of November. The County has now postponed the last date for submission of bids until 1st February. That doesn't help with setting the precept but at least it offers time to put in a bid.

Superfast Broadband

I have been making some progress since our last meeting and I have attended a BT presentation at Stansted. I have prepared an article for parish magazines but, before I submit it, I am awaiting confirmation from those who understand better than I do about these things that I haven't made any mistakes.

Cambridgeshire County Council has decided that it is prepared to borrow up to £20 million in order to install superfast broadband across the County. This is in addition to the investment plans of companies such as BT and Virgin. Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), part of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, has also earmarked £6.75 million for investment in broadband in Cambridgeshire.

Before the County can deploy its money it needs to ensure that it gets the BDUK millions. To do that it needs to complete Demand Registration. That is to quantify the economic and social benefit, which will arise by spending the £6.75 million. If the County moves before it gets the BDUK money then any area benefiting from the County's investment will be frozen out of any of the £6.75 million.

Before we see Demand Registration, Cambridgeshire will be consulting every household in the county. This is estimated to take place in early to mid January 2012. It is absolutely crucial that people respond to the consultation. Already we have convinced the County of the pressing needs of our part of South Cambridgeshire and many thanks to all those who have got in touch with me on the subject. Now those needs have to be quantified. This is particularly important because there is currently no statistical evidence of the number of people who work from home and for whom low broadband speeds are a hindrance to their work and therefore to the economic well-being of the county.

The key areas with very poor broadband speeds are Heathfield and part of Whittlesford. But there are very few with the target superfast broadband speed of a minimum of 24Mbps. So we all have something to go for. On the face of it, optic fibre from the Sawston Exchange to cabinets in Whittlesford, Heathfield and Duxford would make a huge difference (and there are no doubt other places, too, which would benefit from optic fibre). BT have no plans to up-grade for these villages.

Once the results of the consultation are in and BDUK are on board, we can start talking about procurement and implementation. The earliest we shall see results on the ground will be in Spring 2013. But, as I have said, it is absolutely essential for people to respond to the consultation so that we are in the front line for an improved service.

Income from developments

You have already received very useful information from South Cambridgeshire about how to spend Section 106 money.

The system will soon include the Community Infrastructure Levy, Section 106 and – for the District and the County – the New Homes Bonus.

At the moment this money is intended to pay for new infrastructure. But under emerging rules it could be applied to paying for old infrastructure, including community buildings, where it is clear from a Parish Plan

that a parish has undertaken development in expectation of a need arising as a result of later house building. To be quite sure of qualifying it is highly desirable that parishes should incorporate into their Parish Plans a clear indication that this is their expectation.

Civil Parking Enforcement

At present it is the police who are responsible for civil parking enforcement. The County already handles parking enforcement in the City, thus relieving pressure on the police. The County has apparently consulted widely to discover if people would like this to be extended to East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire. The issue came up at Cabinet yesterday after several months of delay. There appears to have been no response from any parish council in our area.

Cabinet has agreed to delay seeking implementation of taking over civil parking enforcement but I should like to discover if local parishes were really asked for their views and, if they gave none, why not. I addressed the County's cabinet about its failure to involve people from whom it wants to gather views but was told that my remarks were irrelevant because we should be discussing Civil Parking enforcement, not consultation.

The Communications Team at Shire Hall nevertheless agree with me that as they have the expertise they could helpfully be used rather than expecting operating departments to run their own consultations – with highly variable results.

Protected Road Verges

At full council last week I asked what progress had been made on sorting out protection of our protected verges. I couldn't get a straight answer. I then had a word with the Wildlife Trust. The last meeting was a couple of weeks ago. The Wildlife Trust is still pushing for the County to do the job as the cheapest and most effective option.

The Wildlife Trust's alternative of using volunteers or the probation service has been given up. Some of the protected road verges are on main roads and steep banks, which make them hazardous. And the probation service isn't allowed to use power tools, which makes that solution impossible, as mechanical cutting is the only viable option.

The Wildlife Trust is trying to get a breakdown of the real cost of looking after the protected verges. The £26,000 per year is, they suspect, a back-of-a-fag-packet figure.

Some villages, notably Little Abington and Fowlmere are going ahead to see if they can use their usual village contractor not only to look after the protected road verges in their parishes, but even increase their length to make a bigger impact.

I understand that Ickleton's solution is that Peter Wombwell will do the job, which is extremely kind of him. I should be most grateful if the Parish Council will confirm with Mick Oakman that that is indeed the case. I don't know exactly what is the protocol as the County seems to have abandoned protection of the road verges but I do know that certain rules have to be applied and it would be helpful to ensure that they are.