

ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2012 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall

Present: Terry Sadler (Chairman), Michael Robinson, Lewis Duke, Tim Pavelin, Sian Wombwell, Sheila Birch, Kern Roberts, Liz Gibson, Jocelyn Flitton (Parish Clerk), Cllr Mick Martin (District), Cllr Tim Stone (County), Mr & Mrs S Clew, J Fowler, D Lilley

024/12 Apologies for absence: Liz Goddard

025/12 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2012: The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

026/12 Adjournment for questions from members of the public: Mr Clew, who lives in Abbey Street, had written to the Chairman outlining a proposal to drop the speed limit through the village to 20 mph. He had previously campaigned (and been successful) for a reduction in speed limit in a street in Saffron Walden, and asked the Parish Council to look at the merits of reducing the village speed limit. After discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would seek: 1) Speed/traffic survey data from CCC Highways (Brian Stinton); 2) More detail about elements of the new policy from the same source; 3) The Chairman would also explore the potential for restricting HCV movements. Mr Clew agreed to help in any way he could. **Action: TS**

Mr & Mrs Clew left the meeting.

027/12 Matters Arising:

028/07 Tennis Courts – Lewis Duke reported discussions are continuing.

Action: LD

078/11 Emergency Plan – Lewis Duke and the Clerk had revised the Plan and it had been sent out to everyone who is named on the document asking for feedback. Following more alterations, Lewis Duke and the Clerk will meet again after which the document will be sent to Lawrence Green (SCDC) for comments/approval.

Action: LD/Clerk

168/11 Queen Elizabeth II Fields – The Chairman and Clerk are still looking into the requirements laid out in an e-mail from Mark Healy, Fields in Trust. They will check with P Peacock of Cambs. ACRE if the charity status can be changed at a later date, as the Chairman could not see any benefits at the moment.

Action: TS/Clerk

171/11 Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012 – Liz Gibson said the Jubilee Committee would like to know more about the tree planting. This information will be passed to them as and when decisions have been made. Lewis Duke reported that a Beacon would be sited on Coploe Hill. The exact field is yet to be decided.

Action: Mr/LGibson/Clerk

239/11 SCDC Housing Strategy Consultation (Response by 31 January 2012) – The consultation paper had been completed by the Chairman and sent to SCDC by the required deadline.

008/12 Super fast Broadband – Kern Roberts had made some more enquiries but without much success. It is really frustrating as Virgin cable is in the village but not connected. Cllr Stone's report contains information about this subject.

Action: KR

018/12 Coploe Pit (No Dog sign) – This sign had been purchased and given to C Frankau to fix to the Coploe Pit gate.

020/12 CCC Funding for Local Minor Highway Improvements – The Chairman/Clerk had completed the Funding Application Form, which was e-mailed on 30/01/12.

028/12 Youth Representation: None

029/12 Reports from District and County Councillors:

Appendix I - County Councillor's Report
Appendix II - District Councillor's Report

030/12 Correspondence received:

- SCDC (S Smith) - Parish Planning Forum 22 February 2012 (TS/LD/MR to attend)
- SCDC (T Herod) - SCDC Open Spaces Study (**response by 23/3/12**)
- SCDC (M Martin) - Planning application S/2484/11 – Land rear Norman Hall
- SCDC (A Grimmer) - Community Orchard Workshop 11 March 2012
- Free Tree Planting w/c 19 March 2012
- SCDC (L Browne) - Parish Council Liaison Meeting 29 March 2012 (TS/JAF to attend)
- SCDC (J Gifford) - Section 106 Indemnity for execution – S/2151/08/F
- SCDC (A Holly) - Standards Committee Newsletter inc. changes
- CCC (K Day) - P3 Training Seminar 23 February 2012
- CCC (M Cooper) - Potholes
- CCC (D Marchant) - PRVs
- CCC (C Robson) - Winter Gritting of Footpaths log sheet
- CCC (A Davies) - Local advice & equipment to help with daily living
- CCC (C Haggett) - Definitive Map Modification Order
- D Lilley - Copy of letter to C Haggett re. Definitive Map Modification Order
- AON - Insurance Quotation review
- CPRE - How to shape where you live booklet / Cambridgeshire Voice
- Cambs. Acre - Membership Renewal/Play Inspection Service/The Playing Field
- Faster & Better Broadband for Cambs & Peterborough
- S Chew - Proposal to drop speed limit through the village to 20mph
- Cambs. Age UK - Spring Meeting and Notices
- CAPALC - New Legal Procedures from NALC
- No fees for Street Parties CCC
- Various e-mails - Circulated to Councillors during the month
- Ickleton FC (SJenkins) - Details of matches and match fees
- IFF Research - AON Local Councils & Comm. Buildings Research
- C Driver - Ickleton Society Litter Pick 11 March 2012
- PJ Owen - Planning application S/2484/11 – Land rear Norman Hall
- Various - Quotations for Grass cutting and service of Tractor/Mower/Yew Hedge
- E Maxted - Village maintenance, grounds keeping & odd jobs
- Thriplow - 44th Thriplow Daffodil Weekend
- FLP Sport - Leaflets
- Planet Aid - Leaflet
- Wicksteed - Order Acknowledgement – Annual Inspection of Play Area
- Glasdon - Leaflets
- Various e-mails - Response to SCDC Emergency Plan
- Various (3) - Quotations for Play Bark
- J Duke - Report on Churchyard Wildlife Haven Project
- Wellcome Trust - Minutes of meeting held 27 January 2012
- Uttlesford District - Consultation on development near Gt Chesterford

Correspondence sent:

- Various - Quotations for Grass cutting and service of Tractor/Mower/Yew Hedge
- SCDC - Housing Strategy Consultation
- CCC - Local Minor Highway Improvements Funding Application Form

John Fowler left the meeting.

031/12 Reports from Councillors:

Sian Wombwell reported potholes in Grange Road. The Clerk asked if there were any other potholes to be reported, which were from top of Grange Road towards Gypsy Corner before the dip, Frogge Street (near Boundary sign), Coploe Road and Butcher's Hill. **Action: Clerk**

Lewis Duke said the Parish Council should record a vote of thanks to William and James Wombwell for the gritting of Grange Road and for opening up Coploe Hill, which was blocked by a snowdrift. Sian Wombwell asked Lewis Duke to request more salt.

Working Party 25/26 February to clear area for new tree planting – Councillors will meet **at 9.00 am** to clear the area in preparation for new trees to be planted. Lewis Duke will kindly supply a trailer to remove the rubbish. **Action: ALL**

035/12 Cemetery - Chapel – Check on Chapel condition and Carry out Headstone check – Kern Roberts and the Clerk will carry out the checks. The Clerk will also show Kern Roberts inside the Chapel. **Action: KR/Clerk**

Burial Board charges – The Clerk had circulated the Table of Fees that had been set by the Parish Council last February. The Chairman proposed, Kern Roberts seconded and it was agreed by all that the fees be raised in line with inflation, which would mean a £2 increase on the charges with the exception of Internment of child under 12 years which would be increased by £1. The Clerk will update the Table of Fees and circulate to Councillors and local Funeral Directors. **Action: Clerk**

Rabbits – The Chairman asked the Clerk to obtain quotations for gassing the rabbits and to also speak to Sarah Robinson who owns an adjoining field. **Action: Clerk**

036/12 Churchyard

SCDC Historic Buildings Grant – The Chairman proposed that this should be discussed further when we had inspected the wall, which could be done during the working party on 24 March. **Action: ALL**

Yew Hedge (Quote for cutting)- The Clerk had obtained 3 quotations: 1) £185.00 + VAT, 2) £340.00 + VAT and 3) £475.00 + VAT. Sian Wombwell said the right time to cut this hedge is April/May. The Clerk will pass this onto to the successful contractor. Tim Pavelin proposed, Sian Wombwell seconded and all agreed that contract should be given to the first quotation (submitted by Treetops) for £185.00 + VAT. **Action: Clerk**

Joint Working Party – Saturday 24 March (Refreshments provided) Rosemary McKillen (Churchwarden) had asked if we could have a joint working party again this year, when the Church is spring cleaned inside and the Churchyard is tidied up. **Action: ALL**

Wildlife Garden – Jenny Duke had sent a report on Churchyard Wildlife Haven Project, which had been circulated. The Clerk will be meeting with Jenny Duke, Catherine Cocks and Ron Coulson in the near future to discuss this year's management. The Parish Council continues to support this project. **Action: Clerk**

037/12 Flooding

Land adj. Stumps Cross - Extension granted until 30 September 2013 – Nothing further to report. **Action: TS**

Drain top of Mill Lane – The Clerk had received another call from John Eccles (Network Rail) reconfirming the date of 9 April 2012. **Action: Clerk**

Abbey Street opp. Methodist Chapel – Nothing further to report. **Action: LD**

038/12 Tree Planting: SCDC (A Grimmer) had e-mailed to say following the Clerk's meeting with Roz Richardson, they were to donate free of charge 3 trees for the area in the Recreation Ground that we proposed to clear. Acacia Tree Surgery was planning to carry out the planting w/c 19th March. The Chairman will speak to A Grimmer as he would like someone to be present when the trees were planted and to also ask if there will be any free trees available next year. Sian Wombwell had been looking at oaks to select one to be planted on Jubilee Day. The costs were approximately £35-£58, we would also need to obtain a guard and plaque. Sheila Birch asked if the dead tree (donated by SCDC), which, is near the corner being cleared, could be cut down and removed. The Clerk will ask C Frankau if he is able to water the new trees. **Action: ALL**

Cllr Mick Martin left the meeting.

039/12 Footway Lighting Maintenance Agreements – costing: The Chairman had reviewed the paperwork given to him by the Clerk. We are still due a refund in due course from SCDC/BB. Item will therefore remain on Agenda until refund is received. **Action: Clerk**

040/12 CCC Definitive Map Modification Order 2011 (Footpaths 7, 4 and 12): Lewis Duke left the room whilst this item was discussed. David Lilley had sent copies of a letter and map that he had sent to C

Haggett (CCC). It was agreed that the Parish Council was maintaining its objection as they see no reason to change their minds. **Action: TS**

Lewis Duke rejoined the meeting. David Lilley left the meeting.

041/12 SCDC – Standards Committee – Localism Act 2011 – new arrangements to be in place by 1 July 2012: The Chairman will look at the new arrangements and will liaise with the Clerk in the first instance. **Action: TS/Clerk**

042/12 Wellcome Trust Meeting 27 January: Minutes of the meeting attended by Terry Sadler and Sheila Birch had been circulated. The Chairman explained some of the items more fully. Next meeting Friday 27 April 2012.

043/12 Uttlesford Local Development Framework Consultation: A public exhibition/consultation was on display at the Village Hall, Gt Chesterford on Thursday 9 February 2012. Some members of the Council visited the display. This was the proposal for new homes to be built at Stumps Cross and visitors were asked to put appropriate stickers on the map as to whether or not the new settlement should be built. The Chairman will send comments to Uttlesford District Council, similar to comments sent in 2010.

Action: TS

044/12 2030 Vision Workshop (26 January 2012): Lewis Duke said it was an interesting meeting. There was talk about farming and that suburban areas should have reasonable access to green spaces. On the whole it was slightly disappointing as the content had very little to do with Ickleton.

045/12 Adjournment for questions from members of the public: None

046/12 Date and time of next meeting - 21/03/2012 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm

Chairman

Date

Buses

The Cambridgeshire Local bus replacement project has already cost Cambridgeshire taxpayers £120,000 with another £40,000 committed. After the first seven weeks since the project was launched based on eleven villages, only one passenger has travelled three times between Sawston and Whittlesford Station. The traveller didn't have to buy a ticket, as the route hadn't been registered so the journey was free.

The County's budget for 2012/13 plans for a continuing programme of removing the remaining £2.5 million of bus subsidies and putting in £1.5 million to support community transport. People are still contacting me to say that all bus services have been cancelled. This is not the case. No change will be made to current subsidy arrangements until September. The County will be consulting and considering where cuts will happen from March. Anyone interested in giving their opinion should be encouraged to participate. The initial consultation received 16% of all its responses from our area, which represents just over 1% of the county.

From the outset we have been crying out for proper local consultation and eventually this may happen. I spoke at the last cabinet meeting but I'm not at all sure that anyone was listening. Meanwhile I can remind you that to book a seat for commuting to and from Whittlesford Station in the early morning and evening, people can contact 0345 045 9090 or for more details go to www.cambridgeshirelocal.co.uk The price has now been reduced to £4 return as the original price was higher than the cost of parking at the station.

Minor Traffic Improvements

I have now been appointed to the panel of County Councillors, which will choose which traffic improvements will go ahead in South Cambridgeshire. From the draft budget it seems that the total "pot" will be only £50,000 and it seems certain that the County's contribution to any individual project will be limited to £5,000. The last time I saw it the alternative budget had increased the headline number to £100,000 but that proposal will almost certainly be defeated.

Superfast Broadband

Superfast broadband is getting closer. Both main parties on the county council are committed and the capital expenditure should be passed when the budget goes to full council on 21st February.

The first step is to present a business case to Broadband Development UK to ensure that the earmarked £6.75 million can be drawn down in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The business case is to be submitted by the end of this month. From March to about May the County will be attempting to prioritise roll-out of superfast broadband. This has two main strands: demand stimulation and demand registration. The objective here is firstly to encourage people to want to use superfast broadband. If enough of them can be identified in particular areas then the broadband suppliers may be willing to take a commercial decision to provide it. That saves having to use taxpayers' money. The second leads on from there and is simply to register where there is demand. The County will undertake that exercise and I shall be on the case to ensure that it is done properly. To my mind it is essential to prioritise places where people are currently unable to run businesses or work from home efficiently because of inadequate broadband speeds.

Once that set of objectives has been met the County will meet suppliers to work out procurement, which will involve sequencing areas to receive superfast broadband. Timing of that is not entirely clear but the whole operation is being treated as a priority.

Meanwhile you may have heard that the Sawston exchange is to up-graded in Summer. As I understand it, that may be good news but not cause for too many cheers. In broadband terms the advantages of the up-grade are entirely eroded from about 1 1/2 miles from the exchange.

Just as a reminder, current broadband speeds in each area can be checked by inputting a telephone number and postcode at these websites:
<http://www.samknows.com>

<http://www.thinkbroadband.com>

or BT.Com checker at <http://www.productsandservices.bt.com/consumerProducts/displayTopic.do?topicId=25795>

<http://www.mybroadbandspeed.co.uk>;

There is now also Broadband information the Cambridgeshire County Council website. You can go directly to:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/economicandcommunitydev/ecodevelopment/broadband/default.htm>

You can access the Frequently Asked Questions section there.

Hanley Grange and SHLAA

You will have seen that Hanley Grange is back on the map for the District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Although the County has much less input into planning than it did, it is still a statutory consultee and has a wealth of experience. Talking to officers, they see no reason why the County would not continue to oppose the new Hanley Grange, should it get over the first set of hurdles placed by the District Council.

Your Chairman has alerted me to another similar threat in Uttlesford, where a 6,400 house site is proposed for Stump Cross. District Planners are obliged to place these sites on their list if they fit government imposed criteria. The concern about the Great Chesterford development is that it is supported by a pressure group from Saffron Walden' which forms part of the Saffron Walden Neighbourhood Planning Group.

I attended an exhibition at Great Chesterford last week. Visitors were asked to put green or red stickers on a map of possible local developments. The Stump Cross development was a sea of red.

I have warned the County Council of this threat and they are now in contact with Uttlesford District Council. My understanding is that South Cambridgeshire District Council is also talking to them.

COUNCIL TAX FROZEN AGAIN AS SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE BUDGET ANNOUNCED FOR 2012/13

Plans to build hundreds of new Council-owned homes, a boost for businesses and the local economy and a freeze on council tax have been announced today as part of South Cambridgeshire District Council spending plans for 2012/13.

Council bosses have said that accepting a one-off grant from Government and setting no increase on the share of council tax paid to South Cambridgeshire District Council was the right decision for communities who are tightening their belts during tough economic times.

A freeze on Council tax will mean £450,000 of savings will be needed in 15 months' time but senior councillors have pledged to build on successes of driving efficiencies – which has already saved around £4 million over the last three years – to protect front line services.

The largest programme of building new Council-owned homes in South Cambridgeshire since the 1950s has also been announced, and within the next ten years up to £30 million of investment is planned to provide hundreds of much-needed new homes for people on the housing waiting list and future generations. A further £30 million from rent collected from Council-owned homes will be reinvested over the next five years, which will update and maintain properties as well slashing fuel bills on the oldest properties by making them some of the most environmentally friendly in the country.

A recent bid for EU funding will also see £100,000 of cash invested in making homes warmer and cheaper to run for tenants.

An additional investment of £20,000 in next year's budget will also provide South Cambridgeshire businesses with better support and advice and a new one-stop shop business website will be launched to help existing businesses, as well as encouraging more to move to the area.

Plans for next financial year include measures to make sure rural communities do not become isolated, with extra funds being put aside to build on existing and well-used community transport projects by beginning schemes in areas where none currently exist.

To promote growth in South Cambridgeshire and create new jobs for residents, a further £50,000 has been allocated to support a County Council initiative that aims to extend superfast broadband across Cambridgeshire.

Grants made available to parish councils, community and voluntary groups in South Cambridgeshire in 2012/13 will also be maintained at 2011/12 levels which saw half a million pounds invested.

Residents were asked for their views on Council priorities ahead of the budget being set for 2012/13 – including specific work to gather the views of young people – and there was support for plans to focus on housing, transport and creating jobs.

Cllr Ray Manning, Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, said: “This is a budget that has been proposed by listening to our communities and understanding their wishes and future aspirations. Although South Cambridgeshire is consistently recognised as one of the best places to live and work in the country with a thriving economy, we understand many residents are still struggling to make ends meet due to the national downturn and the right decision for us was to freeze council tax for a second year running.

“It is fantastic to be able to announce the biggest investment in new council-owned homes since the 1950s as it will provide local homes for future generations in South Cambridgeshire that are affordable for all.”

Cllr Simon Edwards, South Cambridgeshire District Council’s Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, said: “This decision does mean we will need to find further savings in just over a year’s time, and although we are already a very lean council, with one of the lowest council tax rates in the country, we have a proven track record of good financial management and will continue to squeeze every penny out of the taxpayers’ pound for our residents.

“Councillors of all parties already took a decision last year to once again freeze the allowances we receive for the role we play in representing our communities, and it is decisions such as this that makes sure we can put forward a budget that commits to protecting front line services for our residents.”

South Cambridgeshire District Council’s Cabinet will consider the proposed budget at a meeting on Thursday 9 February before it is presented to Full Council on Thursday 23 February.

Note to editors:

For more information contact Gareth Bell in the communications team on 01954 713289, or email gareth.bell@scambs.gov.uk.

The main areas of spend announced in the 2012/13 are:

Finance and staffing - £3.9m

Environment services – 5.9m

Housing (general fund) - £1.3m

Sustainability, planning and climate change – £2.3m

New communities – £1.7m