

Minutes of a Meeting of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held in The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn on Wednesday, 12th March 2014.

Present: Councillor Drage (Chairman) and Councillors Dawson, Farmer, Hardwick, Lacey (from Item 157), Mair, Patten, Rickett (from Item 155), Scarr (and District), Stalley, Thorn, Williams (County and District) and the Clerk and 8 Parishioners.

152 To accept apologies for absence. Cllrs Bullen and Newell; Lateness from Cllr Rickett.

153 To notify the clerk of any declarations of interest that will be declared by members for any item to be discussed.

Cllr Lacey – Personal Item 164.4

154 Police and Local Panel Meeting Reports.

Cllrs Patten and Ward attended the Local Panel Meeting on 13/2/14 and issued a brief report. PCSO Julie Harjedini advised there had been 11 crimes this month; The PCSO review has been completed and Julie is staying. A Senior Fraud Protection event has been arranged for 26/3/14.

155 PPG (Patient Participation Group) – Graham Snelling, Chairman.

Mr Snelling introduced himself and explained the PPG was a representation of patients listening to feedback on what they need. They worked to protect keeping the weekly Physiotherapist which was about to be lost. Mr Snelling said Fulbourn was the second largest parish in the area and resident numbers were increasing. The PPG were trying to draw attention to the building which requires a lot of work. Ian Burns, Strategic Leader of the Health Service and National Health England wish to push for a new building, reading an extract from a report supporting this. Cllr Williams asked if it would help if the Parish Council wrote in support to Cornford House. Mr Snelling agreed this would.

156 Dogs on Leads on Recreation Ground Control Order for Resolution.

Members had read correspondence relating to the above and following discussion Cllr Ward proposed applying for the Dogs on Leads on the Recreation Ground Dog Control Order, proposal seconded by Cllr Farmer. With 7 votes in favour and 5 against the motion was passed. Cllr Drage then proposed deferring action on this motion until a new Council has been elected in June for them to take this forward, proposal seconded by Cllr Scarr and agreed by a majority.

This Item was taken next: -

162 Ida Darwin Update.

Following the meeting with SCDC Planners and the Ida Darwin Working Party, Peter Godber wrote to the SCDC Head of Planning. Their reply said that although SCDC were departing from the Local Plan Policy, they are still going ahead. SCDC are using the same Development Brief and are leaving it to the Secretary of State to decide whether or not to call it in. The Parish Council needs to show the Secretary of State the reply Mr Godber received and point out the plans for a 3 storey Extra Care Home when at present the buildings are single storey. Cllr Farmer suggested asking Cllr Williams and David Cottee to liaise with a response.

Cllr Farmer had also noticed an application for a 75 bed Extra Care Home at Girton.

157 Fulbourn Primary School Report.

Head teachers Claire Pickard and Fiona Thorpe submitted a report which included; The Government is introducing a revised National Curriculum from September 2014 which has resulted in the School consulting Staff, Governors, Children and Parents to produce a revised Vision Statement, Values and Aims of the School.

Public & Press - You are invited to attend the whole meeting and are welcome to speak at our Open Forum at the beginning of the meeting.

Dr Roberts said she felt aggrieved that the Council had given no reasons for not agreeing to a Dog Area on the recreation ground and personally felt disappointed that after 12 months of discussion no compromise had been reached. She had been in discussion with the Dogs Trust who have an interest

where they feel local authorities are being restrictive and are not acting within the spirit of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9. Mr Jones agreed with Dr Roberts and pointed out that there were designated areas for the MUGA, tennis and bowls. He would be interested to see what the new Council does and hopes it works for all users of the recreation ground.

158 To approve the minutes of the last meeting.

The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

159 Matters arising from the last meeting.

159.1 Cemetery. An article will be included in the next edition of The Village Pump reminding parishioners it is a lawn cemetery and tributes should be placed only at headstones.

159.2 Commemorate the Great War. The Parish Council has been asked by the Royal British Legion to join a small Working Party. Cllr Scarr is interested and Cllr Bullen will be asked.

159.3 Lime Trees, Greater Foxes. Maintenance is required this year as previously agreed.

160 To consider planning applications.

New Applications: - S/0193/14/FL, Fleam Dyke Pumping Station, Balsham Road – Erection of Nitrate Removal Plant Building, Four Tanks, Bund and Hardstanding;

Recommend approval.

S/0240/14/FL, 50 Cambridge Road – Single Storey & Two Storey Extension.

Recommend approval.

S/0257/14/FL, 16 Bird Farm Road – Two Storey Side and Rear Extension replacing existing Single Storey Flat Roof Side and Rear element. Recommend approval.

S/0415/14/FL, 56 Pierce Lane – Single Storey Side Extension and Replacement Timber Cladding to Front Elevation. Recommend approval.

S/2763/13/FL, Mill Road, Great Wilbraham – Solar Farm and Associated Development.

We recommend refusal of the above application for the following reasons:

Having looked at the website of Inazin Power (the developer) their site-finding policy is given, which states that they seek to use low-grade agricultural land, with 1km of a sub-station.

This application meets neither of those criteria. The accompanying documentation states that the land is Grade 3 agricultural land, though they are unsure whether Grade 3A or 3B. Enquiries locally state that this land is Grade 2 and therefore certainly not low grade. It is also stated that at the time of the survey the land was under intense cultivation. To take this land out of cultivation for a thirty year period would mean the loss of approx 13000 tons of grain, which would be unacceptable.

Secondly, the development is certainly not within 1km of a substation, and the proposed routing to a substation in Yarrow Road, Fulbourn, following village roads would lead to large-scale disruption.

If using this substation the obvious route would be to follow the railway line, which passes this substation. There are also substations at the Fleam Dyke pumping station and very nearby at the Wadlow Wind Farm. Presumably either of these could be upgraded to meet the needs of this development, should it be passed.

Alternatively, like the Wadlow Wind Farm application some years ago, building a dedicated sub-station could be made a condition of acceptance.

S/1066/13/OL, Ida Darwin Hospital, Fulbourn Old Drift –

Approval is sought for a) A Development Brief for the Fulbourn and Ida Darwin Hospital sites

b) Outline Planning Permission for the redevelopment of the Ida Darwin site with up to 180 dwellings including Affordable Housing, a 70 unit Extra Care facility with access and associated works, Open Space and Landscaping following demolition of existing buildings on the site.

Permission: S/2524/13/FL, 18 Geoffrey Bishop Avenue – Single Storey and Rear Extension and Conversion of Garage.

Refusal: S/2747/13/FL, Land to Rear of 12-18 Teversham Road – Erection of Six Dwellings and Associated Infrastructure Works.

161 Youth Building Update.

This was deferred until the April meeting.

162 Ida Darwin Update. Taken after Item 156.

163 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

163.1 County Councillor Williams, 163.2 District Councillor Scarr and 163.3 District Councillor Williams issued the attached reports which were all accepted en bloc.

164 Correspondence.

164.1 **UK Power Networks** – Update on severe weather conditions.

164.2 **SCDC** – Confirmation of intention to re-seed and plant wild flowers in the central area of St Vigor’s Road subject to agreement from the residents.

164.3 **V Edwards** – Query regarding daytime bonfires. The Clerk has replied.

164.4 **SCDC** – Highlighting problems being experienced by the chain of Punch Taverns in the region. Should the financial climate mean the Six Bells in the High Street is put on the Open Market the community would have the right to bid potentially bringing it into community ownership.

164.5 **Fulbourn Forum** – Diary of future events including litter pick and community market. Request to site Herb Box in Caraway Road; they have support from some residents. Agreed.

164.6 **SCDC** – Litter-bin re-installed in Lucerne Close. Thanks to Cllr Williams.

164.7 **CCC** – Information regarding assessing Adult Social Care Services in Cambridgeshire.

164.8 **Friends of the Roman Road** – February 2014 newsletter & AGM 12/3/14

9 **SCDC** – Parish Liaison Meeting, Thursday, 27/2/14 6.30pm at Cambourne.

164.10 **Clerks & Councils Direct** – March 2014 magazine.

164.11 **D Rayner** – Request Council considers replacing the bus shelter along Fulbourn Road. Cllr Williams will be asked to investigate this.

164.12 **Fulbourn Feast** – Request to use the recreation ground on Sunday, 29th June. Agreed.

164.13 **J Deacon** – Query over damage to property possibly caused by redevelopment of The Swifts estate. Contact details at SCDC will be given to assist Mrs Deacon.

164. 4 **R Lacey** – Request to use the recreation ground for the annual Prostate Cancer charity football tournament on Saturday, 7th June 2014. Agreed.

164.15 **Fulbourn PCC** – Thank you for the donation towards churchyard maintenance and electricity.

165 To resolve the accounts for the month.

Wages: Pavilion Cleaner.....138.60R	Friends of Roman Road: Subscription.....20.00
B’s Travel: Shopper Bus.....220.00R	Townley: Quarterly Hall hire.....74.25
Chic: Patio door repair.....314.24C	FPCC: Electricity & Maintenance.....400.00R
Barclays: Monthly Fees.....21.13R	Petty Cash: Stamps & Admin.....15.55R
CCC: Street Lighting.....516.14	SCDC: Trade Waste, Rec Ground.....777.40
Suffolk Acre: Pavilion Insurance.....696.46	SCDC: Trade Waste, Cemetery.....388.70
Grant Roofing: Repairs.....460.00C	Wages: Clerk + expenses.....

Cllr Ward proposed accepting the accounts, proposal seconded by Cllr Hardwick and agreed.

166 Additional Lighting – Recreation Ground for Resolution.

Two quotes had been received. Cllr Ward proposed accepting the one from PA Collacott, proposal seconded by Cllr Scarr and subject to Cllr Mair speaking to the contractor regarding the required works, this was agreed by the Council.

167 Impett’s Lane – Emergency Access Barrier for Resolution.

One quote had been received despite trying other companies. Cllr Ward proposed accepting the quote from Echo Fabrication, proposal seconded by Cllr Stalley and agreed by the Council.

168 Swifts Meeting Rooms – Letter regarding S106 monies for Resolution.

From the recommendation from the Finance Committee it was agreed to contact SCDC S106 Officer, James Fisher for clarification and to get a definitive answer on this matter. Cllr Thorn said this had been discussed by the Swifts User Group who would want something in writing from the Parish Council that should any maintenance or the boiler need replacing, this would be honoured.

Council agreed to write to Mr Fisher in the first instance although as the contract drawn up between SCDC and Accent Nene there was every chance it would not be changed.

169 Council Committees.

Swifts User Group Meeting.

Minutes a meeting held on 26/2/14 were issued.

170 To receive items for inclusion on the next Agenda for decision and/or action.

Pavilion, Youth, Allotments and Fulbourn Day Centre.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Additional reports: -

Item 163.1**My County report to the March 2014 meeting of Fulbourn PC**

1. On Tuesday, 18 February the full meeting of Cambridgeshire County Council agreed the budget for 2014/15.

The budget involves the huge savings required for 2014/15 and the following years and many services will need to be cut or reduced even though the Council has already saved £128 million in the last three years. This is because the government has cut its funding to the council and as a result of previous decisions it has a huge debt of hundreds of millions of pounds which is costing the council £ 6 million a year in loan repayments.

As a result it has to increase Council Tax by 1.99 per cent to help protect frontline services.

Nevertheless due to a Lib Dem suggestion to recognise slippage in the capital programme around an extra £1.4 million has been found to offset some of cuts in transport improvements, children's centres, mental health services, adult social care and winter gritting.

Cambridgeshire is one of the hardest hit authorities in the country and has had a reduction in the Government's Settlement Funding Assessment of 20.9 per cent (£29.9m) over the next two financial years. The County is also the lowest funded for education in the UK and has the fastest growing population. This means the Council is seeing more and more demands on its services – especially for those who are the most vulnerable - as more people need them or are living longer and require more expensive care services. Increased population puts a £9 million strain on the Council's budget every year while inflation also annually adds extra pressure on decreasing funds.

Cambridgeshire County Council is expected to make savings over the next year (2014/2015) of around £38 million. This is following savings of £42 million last year (2012/2013), and a further £32 million this current financial year (2013/2014).

I voted against the budget as selling off the county farms and Shire Hall would have largely written off the debt and enabled the council to avoid cutting transport (particularly subsidised bus services), children's centres, mental health services and adult social care.

2. From Tuesday 4 March to Monday 7 April Cambridgeshire County Council will be launching a consultation on the proposals which are part of a £4.1 million investment in cycling in and around the city.

The Council wants to make it safer to cycle along these routes and encourage people to commute to work, college and school by bike. It is planning to create wider and safer cycleways, which could be segregated from other traffic as well as introducing a new type of bus stop to the city for the first time. On Hills Road a new cycle lane is proposed on both sides of the road between the junctions with Long Road and Cherry Hinton Road.

3. The council is considering increasing on street parking charges in Cambridge changes are following informal consultation and a review of current usage and charging including charges on Sundays. If the changes are supported formal orders will be published and residents and businesses will be consulted.
4. If you are a sole trader, run a small or medium-sized business or a business from home you could access a Connectivity Voucher worth between £250-£3000 to help you upgrade your internet connection. You would need to be able to indicate how the upgrade would benefit your business. To find out more about business upgrades please visit www.destinationdigital.info.
5. I have asked county highway officers to consider the implications of the solar park proposal to ensure that this is taken into account in determining the application. I understand that the financial viability of the scheme depends upon the developer being able to run the cable under the public highway to the Cherry Hinton sub-station.
6. Further to investigating the responsibility for the Beechwoods and Foxgloves boundary fences with the county and district officers concerned, it is clear that the maintenance of these fences rests with land owners and I have asked the parishes of Fulbourn and Teversham to put something to this effect in their newsletters. The county will remove broken fences where they overhang the public highway, but not replace them.

John Williams

Item 163.2

District Councillor's Report for March 2014

As I mentioned last month, I wrote to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire (Sir Graham Bright) enquiring about grants that he might be able to make regarding activities for youth. I have now received a very nice reply from the Commissioner to the effect that grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 are available to help with projects designed to keep young people occupied and learning life skills as an alternative to possibly drifting into trouble.

Whilst these are not large sums of money, I reckon that a grant from the Commissioner would add a fair bit of "prestige" to any project, and would help with obtaining grants from South Cambs, among others.

Sir Graham was (back in the 1980s) MP for Luton South – a seat which included rural (parished) areas as well as half the town, and has a good deal of time for parish councils. This being the case, if any Fulbourn

club or organisation were to apply for a grant to help young people keep occupied (and learn some “life skills”) then Sir Graham would be very interested in helping. Especially if the Parish Council were to help out as well, no doubt! I can forward the letter to our clerk if the Council wishes to look into this.

I also attended the budget meeting of the district council at the end of last month. The district council element of the council tax is to increase by 1.99% (equivalent to £2.40 for a Band D house), in order to keep the increase below the level which would trigger a referendum. All groups on the council seemed to agree that spending taxpayers’ money on a referendum would not be a good idea, especially at a time when the majority of our constituents will not have seen their incomes increase. Although I think that it was the right decision, the council will be facing another difficult year: this is due in large measure to another hefty reduction in grant from central government. This gives a considerable significance to the decision taken late last year to establish a property company as a trading venture, since money from the rents will be used to offset in part the reduction in grant, as well as providing “affordable” housing, although not at a “social housing” rent level.

At the budget meeting, the council also considered and passed the Corporate Plan, which sets out the priorities for the year ahead. Whilst some of it may seem like “motherhood and apple pie” it is probably worth the parish council keeping a copy, as we can boost things that we ask for by showing how well they fit in with the plan. I am pleased to note that building council houses remains a top priority, along with “working with parish councils to keep existing villages vibrant”. We certainly should be able to quote this latter phrase in support of Fulbourn grant applications!

Neil Scarr

Item 163.3

My report to the March 2014 meeting of Fulbourn Parish Council

1. You will know that South Cambridgeshire District Council is raising its element of council tax this year by 1.99%. The council has based its budget on the possibility that government funding could cease from 2019 and that housing growth will be in line with that predicted in the proposed Local Plan. Council tenants will also find their rents increased by above inflation. I am very wary of these assumptions. I said the council could regret budgeting for zero funding – and getting what it wished for; giving the government the ammunition to divert funds from South Cambs to other councils. So I voted against the budget.
2. I also had to oppose the South Cambs corporate plan. In meetings with officers over the setting up of a private company to buy and rent houses on the open market I had been told that the sole intention is for the company to deliver an income for the council to offset the loss of government grant (see above). Yet the corporate plan I was asked to endorse at the full council meeting said that the private company would provide “affordable housing” itself. Of course being a private company it cannot offer rents at social rent levels and could this be privatisation of the management of South Cambs’ housing stock by the back door contrary to the wishes of the tenants? With cabinet members being unwilling to explain what this meant I could not support it.
3. You will have heard that South Cambs is considering stopping the green bin collection in winter months. The first opposition councillors knew about this was when it was reported in the Cambridge News! There will be consultation later this year, but I suspect like many other things minds have already been made up.

4. After months of waiting, following a further moan by me to South Cambs environmental health about the missing parish council litter bin in Lucerne Close it has been re-instated by South Cambs.
5. I have been in touch with Tesco about the appalling amount of litter in the landscaping around the Fulbourn store car park and they have assured me that a litter pick is in hand.
6. I am very concerned that South Cambs has admitted that the proposed planning brief for the Ida Darwin hospital redevelopment is a departure from Green Belt planning policy – driven by its interest in the extra care unit facility. I fully support the parish council in its opposition to the redevelopment as currently proposed.
7. South Cambs councillors meet tomorrow (March 13) to vote on the Local Plan submission. There is wide spread concern that local members and the public's views have been ignored by planning officers and the cabinet.

John Williams