

FENSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the full Parish Council

Fenstanton & Hilton Primary School, Fenstanton

Thursday 12 September 2019 @ 19.30 pm

Abbreviations : CCC – Cambridge Country Council; CC- County Council; HDC – Huntingdon District Council; DC – District Council; Cllr – Councillor; FVHT – Fenstanton Village Hall Trust; FPC – Fenstanton Parish Council; PC – Parish Council

Present

Cllr Kent - Chairman
Cllr Ferrier – Vice Chairman
Cllr Collison
Cllr Hayes
Cllr McGee
Cllr Mitchell
Cllr Saunderson
Cllr Turner
Cllr White

In attendance

Cllr Bates - CCC
Annette Eggett - Clerk
2 parishioners

19.246 Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllrs Caswell and Pryke, HDC Cllrs Mead, Dickinson and Davies.

The Chairman began by informing the meeting that Cllr Bob Henderson has tendered his resignation. The work on the cycleway will continue under the Chairman's guidance. Cllr Kent expressed his gratitude towards Cllr Henderson who has been a councillor for many years, chairing committees and he has served the community well. Cllr Henderson had been unwavering in his support including difficult periods when the PC had been without a clerk. His experience has been invaluable and Cllr Henderson had always been open to challenges and debating around the table. The Chairman would miss him as a colleague, friend and councillor and it was hoped contact could be maintained. Cllr Henderson was leaving at a time when the work of the PC moved on at some pace.

19.247 19.247.1

Public Consultation - the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.05

Members of the Glebe allotments group were in attendance. Paul Stone – Chairman – was preparing the case for defence of allotments as these should not be lost. There were two alternative sites but these were unacceptable. They would split the allotment community and access was dangerous. It was feared older holders would abandon their plots. The group had written to the Diocese of Ely and HDC but to no effect. The Chairman confirmed there was a meeting with HDC planning on Monday 16 September and the PC would robustly defend the allotments. This was one issue amongst many. The PC had already made clear that the two alternative plots offered were not suitable and the PC would hold this position as strongly as possible. Cllr Ferrier mentioned Cllr Mead felt there was enough room to accommodate all plots. Cllr White reminded members the PC was only a consultee in the entire process and HDC planning would always make the ultimate decision. Cllr Ferrier stated the PC was not dependent on the Diocese and could approach other landowners. Cllr Kent stated that there was an issue in that the land had been cultivated in a certain way for many years. Cllr Saunderson is a member of the National Allotments Society and offered to seek legal advice however the allotments group would undertake this. The group had its own rules and regulations. There were ten people on the waiting list for an allotment. Cllr Saunderson recommended decent security. Cllr Kent understood the passion for preserving the land and planting and this would be a loss of a community asset. Cllr White pointed out that most people around the table would agree there had been enough development in the village.

The Chairman reopened the meeting at 19.18

19.248 Declarations of interest – there were none



19.249 **To approve the minutes** -11 July 2019 already circulated
These were approved.

Proposed : Cllr Hayes Seconded : Cllr McGee Vote : all in favour

19.250 **Matters arising from the minutes** – for information only

19.250.1 **Scouts land**

Cllrs Kent and Ferrier confirmed HDC were being difficult. They had stated that the PC ownership of the land was contrary to Section 106 (open community access). Cllr Bates would assist if he could. Cllr Ferrier confirmed Kier Living had suggested landscaping the plot but he felt this was inappropriate for use.

19.250.3 **Pitfield Close verge clearance**

Cllr Ferrier had contacted the parishioner with interest in this area but without response. Cllr McGee had however spoken to him and the site had been cleared of weeds and the intention was to seed. Cllr Ferrier reported there was some planting that was not being watered.

19.251 **Meeting with HDC Planning**

This would now take place on Monday 16 September and the allotments and Morris Homes elevation

19.252 **Low Road and other village access closures, diversion, delays**

Cllr White felt all of the recent problems could have been avoided if homework had been done and communications had been better. Cllr Mitchell confirmed he had contact Trio at the time but nothing could be done. Cllr Kent felt this was yet again another communications breakdown and agencies had not been talking to one another. Cllr Bates agreed and felt many lessons could be learned with Highways England having the main responsibility. Cllr Kent asked how things could be improved in the future. Cllr Bates would address the problem. Both wanted to be sure something constructive could be put in place for future. Emergency services were also a crucial part of this problem.

19.253 **Representatives Reports** – depending on attendance

19.253.1 **District Councillors** - none

19.253.2 **County Councillor**

Cllr Bates had already covered major issues. CCC was starting to look at its budget where pressures continued on care for children and vulnerable people. Cllr Collison asked if plans were in place for the Brexit date of 31 October; Cllr Bates confirm that they were.

19.253.3 **Councillors**

19.253.3.1 **LHI bid**

Cllr Saunderson reported he had put in a LHI bid for FPC and Hemingford Grey to reduce the speed on London Road from 40 to 30 MPH but since learned that engineers do not assess or visit sites. Cllr Bates had not seen this bid. He explained that they did not have the resources to visit all proposed bid sites. Cllr Saunderson would email the document to Cllr Bates. Once received the Clerk would circulate the bid paper. Cllr Bates reminded members that the PC had to be prepared to commit to finance. Cllr Kent stated that this would need to be approved and have support from full council.

19.253.3.2 **CAPALC**

Cllr Mitchell reported CAPALC had moved into Somersham premises and changed bank details.

19.254 **Campaign to stop dog fouling (additional bins, increased signage) (see 19.268)**

Cllr Mitchell confirmed literature and notices had been put in Spectrum, on the website and onto Facebook. Chris Behagg would receive an update as he would be happy to leave access to his fields if he could see positive action. Cllr Ferrier would contact.

Cllr McGee and Cllr Mitchell felt a targeted campaign / leaflet drop would be worthwhile and perhaps a handout to dog walkers. More bins were needed (General Purposes) and Cllr Mitchell would report back on this. Cllr Kent suggested a positive spin in Spectrum.



- 19.255 Update on MUGA**
Cllr Mitchell reported on a very positive meeting with the A14 Legacy Fund. No special permissions were required and the fund was looking to carry out the work (not fund but do the work) but could not do specialist surfacing or markings. They would use their supplier base. Cllr Mitchell would try and get a cost split.
- 19.256 Litter picking contract applications (two to date)**
Cllr McGee confirmed he had met with Martin who did not want to continue with the litter picking or bin emptying. Two people had applied for the new litter picking contract. The work would not include the Low Road or Greenfield. Cllr McGee's recommendation was approved.
- 19.257 Grass, hedge and maintenance contracts – to approve**
Cllr McGee confirmed these had been drawn up following meetings with Martin with a view to keeping costs down. There had been no clear former contracts in place. The Clerk would be notified before cuts. The contracts were annual renewable. Cllr White suggested rolling on until either side change position. He also queried if Cllr Pryke – Chairman of GP – was agreeable to these. The Clerk had involved him and he was.
Cllr Ferrier questioned Walnut Tree Crescent; Cllr McGee stated this was Luminus but it might be worth asking if the PC should take this on with Lumunus paying for the work.

Cllr Ferrier also mentioned the top (Clock Tower) end of Chequer Street – Martin would be asked to look at this.

The contracts were approved but not signed.
Proposed : Cllr Mitchell; Seconded : Cllr Ferrier Vote : All in favour
- 19.258 Village clean-up day – Saturday 21 September**
Posters had been displayed around the Parish and plans were going well. This would start at 10 am at the Clock Tower. HDC would be supplying high viz jackets (not gloves and £20 or £30 would be required for other things such as latex gloves and cleaning materials. An article will appear in the Hunts Post next week. Cllr Collison would mention in the school newsletters.
- 19.259 Clock Tower (clear up)**
Cllr McGee reported that space was needed for Speedwatch equipment so he had organised a clear out of the Clock Tower which had been full of stuff belonging to the Village Hall Committee.
- 19.260 VE Day 75 celebrations – update and to discuss draft budget to underwrite elements of the event**
Cllr Mitchell confirmed these were progressing well and costs were being brought together. It was intended to get the community to run its activities. *Help for Heroes* would be the main charity. The event would have its own cost code on the PC financial system. A maximum of £10K was agreed to underwrite this event. Cllr Turner would look into decorations.
Proposed : Cllr Kent Seconded : Cllr McGee Vote : All in favour
- 19.261 Speedwatch (see also Finance)**
Cllr Mitchell confirmed this group had been established and at the moment FPC was borrowing kit from Fen Drayton (which is quite old). He requested FPC buy its own kit to give more flexibility. A sum of £4K was proposed. This would include kit, message sign, posts and high viz jackets. The last F&C committee had recommended this (minutes awaited).
Proposed : Cllr Kent Seconded : Cllr Turner Vote : All in favour.

Cllr Kent congratulated members on an excellent piece of work.
- 19.262 Parish footpaths**
Cllr McGee reported that he and the Clerk had met with Roland Fletcher who look after all the parish footpaths. A map had been circulated after that meeting. Roland works for CCC, HDC, wild life trusts and other parishes. He reported but in the past these had been sent to Philip Blunt (Church Warden and on the foot paths group – disbanded it seems – but this would now come to FPC for circulated.

The Clerk reported a problem with wasps received from a parishioner on one of the footpaths. There was a cost to treat. An amount of £200 was agreed to try and resolve.

Proposed : Cllr Kent

Seconded : Cllr Turner

Vote : All in favour

Cllr McGee made the following points :

- A badger set on one path had been filled in;

- Although he hadn't worked all paths he had managed to see many;
- Path 5 – Cranesbrook to Fen Dayton Greenhouses had been laid to rubble and required no maintenance;
- Path 10 – this was a designated footpath now;
- Paths 6 and 14 – now led to A14;
-

Cllr Mitchel confirmed Chris Behagg was taking responsibility of the path from Hall Green to the river. This was his path and was a permissive path.

The pathway from Pitfield to Cranesbrook is not public – the PC would look into possible adoption of this. All agreed this was a good idea and Hampton Estates should be approached, Cllr McGee confirmed a new parish footpath leaflet would be available and Cllr Mitchell would take to the comms groups.

19.263 Allotment steering group – to discuss seeking legal advice on behalf of the group over Diocese's plan to build on land

Cllr Saunderson felt this was not needed as Mr Stone (chairman of the group) is a member of the National Allotment Association. Cllr Mitchell agreed. Cllr Kent confirmed he would attend the next steering group and keep in touch with Mr Stone to ensure the group gets the correct advice. Cllr Saunderson pointed out the PC was required to provide allotments if they were to be not available. Cllr Kent reiterated this needed to be validated legally. Cllr Saunderson was happy to write an article on this if needed. Cllr Kent welcomed this.

19.264 Parish Office – to discuss move to Fenstanton

Cllr Ferrier reported that this had been a big issue from the focus groups – visibility, accessibility and the PC not fulfilling its duties. Members of the focus groups did not understand why the office is in St Ives. Cllr White pointed out that prior to the office being in St Ives (10 years) the office had always been run from the Clerk's home and he did not consider this view to be accurate. Cllr Ferrier said there was a small office available in the High Street. Cllr White queried if tis was big enough. He also queried whether there was room for meetings – Cllr Ferrier confirm this was not the case. Cllr Saunderson pointed out that the FVHT room should be considered, however this was a long way off. Cllr Ferrier confirmed his proposed property as cheaper than the current office. Cllr White pointed out that the FVHT plan included room hire from the PC.

The following points were made :

- Cllr Turner felt the move was a good idea.
- Cllr McGee asked about opening times to the public currently. The Clerk confirmed the office in St Ives was always open unless a sign was up on the door reporting any closure. The Clerk then declared she would not comment any more.
- Cllr Turner stated a lot of people in the parish did not know what the PC did.
- Cllr White asked if the PC could stop hiring out the school room – Cllr Ferrier said as the High Street premises would be cheaper it would not matter.

Cllr Kent was not convinced the move should be made at this stage and things has moved on since the Focus Group meetings; he added that the vote was however open to the PPC.

Although not a proposal on this agenda a vote was taken around the table :

Against – 3

In favour - 4

Abstentions – 3

Absent – 2 cllrs

19.265 **Finance**
19.265.1 **To approve payment list**
This was approved.

Proposed : Cllr White

Seconded : Cllr McGee

Vote : All in favour

19.265.2 **Report from July F&C meeting** (including purchase of PC Speedwatch equipment as CIL expenditure (see above)/Scribe/GDPR/CCLA investment account/HDC CIL funds)
Cllr Mitchell confirmed there had been a long and lengthy discussion about the role of Clerk and RFO including at meeting of Cllrs White and Mitchell and the Clerk. It had been agreed to split the role and Cllr Mitchell would interim headline RFO duties. Scribe would be used to more effectively report accurate management accounts. The Clerk had expressed at the meeting how complex the budget and finance work was now; Cllr Mitchell acknowledged that the PC was now a bigger and more sophisticated council and processes needed to be in place to accommodate this.

Cllr Mitchell confirmed he would be looking into a new investment account – possibly Cambridge and Counties Bank which was a public sector deposit fund.

Proposed : Cllr Mitchell

Seconded :

Cllr Saunderson

Vote : All in favour

19.266 **Pathway from Pitfield to Cranesbrook** – currently suffering from dog mess and there is a possible issue of the new top road being dangerous – agenda item request from last meeting.
AS ABOVE

19.267 **To accept notices and matters for the next agenda**
19.267.1 **Communications**
Update for website to follow.

19.267 .2 **Children's Christmas Party**
Cllr Turner confirmed she would get ideas and feedback for this for the next meeting.

19.268 **Parish matters to note**

19.269.1 **Hobby Day – Saturday 14 September**
Cllr McGee confirmed he would man a table at this and the Clerk would join to deliver papers.

19.269.2 **Literary Institute**
Cllr Collison confirmed this was closing and the cubs and scouts groups would be homeless as from January 2019. Cllr McGee suggested taking this on as a Parish. Cllr Ferrier confirmed they were not interested in renting or leasing – they simply wanted to sell.

19.269.3 **New benches**
Cllr Collison asked when these would be put in place. A reply from a contractor was awaited however it was decided to get someone else to get this done.

29.269.4 **LHI bid**
Cllr Saunderson reported he had submitted a report on the application for building up of the Wyton Airfield / Ramsey Road. The mayor of the combined authority commented on this with a view to a 'third river crossing. However Cllr Bates confirmed he had not seen this as yet. Cllr Saunderson would recirculate. Cllr Kent pointed out that submissions could not be made without full council approval.

29.269.5 **30 MPH restriction on Dairy Crest Road**
Cllr Ferrier reported he had been chasing CCC about restrictions here.

29.269.6 **BBC Ireland – Ted Hampton**
Cllr White (and the Clerk) reported that they had been approached by BBC Ireland about Ted Hampton. They had confirmed there was no connection, no archives and no help could be given.

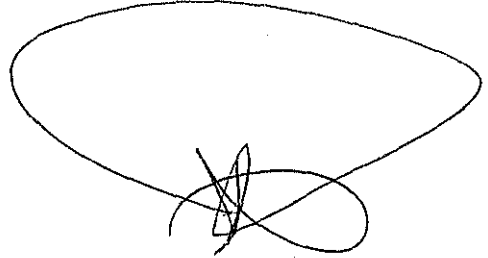
29.269.7 **Village sign at Headlands**
Cllr Turner reported this was in need to correction. Clerk would report (again)

29.269.8 **Fen Road – Cycleway**



Clr Kent reported that of residents canvassed 74% had responded positively. 94% wanted the metalised surface dug up and replaced. The outcome of any vote would be binding and Cllr Kent reminded members that any expenditure may be too expensive.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING ENDED AT 21.25

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