



FENSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes Parish Council Ordinary Meeting
Zoom Video Conference on Thursday, 8th April 2021
at 19.00

Present: Cllr S Collinson, Cllr N Ferrier (Vice Chair), Cllr P Kent (Chair), Cllr R Mcgee, Cllr J Middleton, Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr S Polhill, Cllr G Pryke, Cllr A Puntambekar, Cllr J Schonfeldt and Cllr C White

In attendance: J Perez (Clerk), District Councillor David Mead, County Councillor Ian Bates and 3 Parishioners

21/22- 01 **To receive any apologies of absence and to receive any declarations of interest.**

Apologies received from Cllr P. Hayes as no internet access, St Ives Town Councillor Angie Dickinson attending Funeral.

Cllr P Kent (Chairman) took this opportunity to say a few words following the sad news of the passing of St Ives Town Councillor John Davies. Today his Funeral was held.

John was first elected to the District Council in 1992 and was one of the longest serving District Councillors. John lived and worked in St Ives for more than 40 years, he dedicated nearly three decades to the Huntingdonshire community through his service on the District Council and was a most well respected and well-liked councillor. He was well known across the district for his desire to engage with his community at every opportunity, to make a difference to the people and communities of our district. His loss will be deeply felt by many across Huntingdonshire.

Comments and observations from members of the public (NB comments should be relevant to items on this agenda only)

Item 21/22-08 Parishioner will comment/give background if required when discussing this item.

21/22- 02 **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th March 2021.**

Cllr R McGee asked that an amendment be made to item 4.3 last paragraph, this should read: Cllr R McGee explained that there had been consideration for an HGV group but after the opening of the new A14 the



issue had decreased and therefore there was no requirement. **The Clerk will amend accordingly.** Cllr G Pryke proposed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2021 were a true record of the meeting, **Cllr R McGee 2nd, All Cllrs were in favour.**

- 21/22- 03 **To give thanks to County Councillor Ian Bates following notice of his retirement.**
Cllr P Kent thanked County Councillor for all his hard work and support to Fenstanton Parish Council over all the years he has been County Councillor from 2001 when he became County Councillor to now. He talked about how Cllr Bates was instrumental in many projects, such as the implementation of the Guided Busway, establishment of new towns of Cambourne, Northstowe and Alconbury Weald, implementation of the new A14 and roll out of broadband across Cambridgeshire. He also talked about Ian's contribution towards the improvement of our parish, including his support with the Fen Bridleway, Village Hall CCC grant application, Flood Working Party, Fenstanton Drain Clearance Initiative and Fenstanton Public Footpath Working Party, to mention but a few. Cllr Kent went on to say Cllr Bates will be sorely missed and wished him every success, good health and happiness in his well-earned retirement with wife Doreen and family.
- 21/22- 04 **To receive reports from the County and District Council**
District Cllr D Mead has met with Cllrs P Kent and Cllr K Mitchell regarding Cambridge Road improvements and he will leave for them update the PC. 19.24 District Councillor D Mead left the meeting.
- 21/22- 05 **To discuss and decide on co-option of a new Councillor.**
The Clerk received an application for co-option, all Cllrs have seen the application. **Cllr P Kent proposed** that Mark Richardson be co-opted onto the Parish Council, **Cllr R McGee 2nd, All Cllrs were in favour.** The Clerk will send all the relevant paperwork for completion.
- 21/22- 06 **Flood working group - updates.**
The Flood working group continues to work to gain more evidence. They have received a positive response from Paul Burrows from the EA. There has yet been no response from HDC or Morris Homes. Cllr K Mitchell is doing a great job with the online mapping. They continue to chase AW for maps. The group are meeting regularly and moving forward.



21/22- 07 **Discuss and decide if Parish Councillors want to use a uniformed Parish Councillor signature for PC emails.**

Cllr N Ferrier suggested it would be nice for all PC Emails have the same email signature. **Cllr N Ferrier proposed** that all Parish Councillors adopt a uniformed signature, **Cllr P Kent 2nd, All Cllrs were in favour.** Cllr N Ferrier is happy to help any Councillors that need assistance to set this up.

21/22- 08 **Discuss and decide on request to cut verge/hedge Chequer Street/Huntingdon Road**

Cllr R McGee met with Parishioner to discuss and understand the issue. Over a number of years, the bramble has been getting bigger as the verge has not been cut back as far as it should. The verge is the responsibility of CCC highways but despite requests in the past to cut this area back, they have not. The Parishioner feels that the verge looks untidy and spoils the area, especially with the work being carried out on the Clock Tower and Pond to improve the surrounding area. Cllr R McGee and the Clerk will liaise with County Councillor Bates to see if he can engage with CCC Highways to get the area cut back. **Cllr C White proposed** that if CCC are unwilling to cut back the verge, that the PC will cut back in September when the Birds have finished nesting, **Cllr P Kent 2nd, All Cllrs were in favour.**

21/22- 09 **Discuss request from Parishioner for a Crossing to be installed on the High Street.**

The Clerk has received emails from some Parishioners requesting that a Crossing is considered on the High Street. This has been discussed in the past but due to the criteria and the loss of parking on the High Street it has not been pursued. However, now there is more housing in the Village and Children needing to cross the High Street, Cllrs feel that further investigation should take place. **Cllr N Ferrier proposed** that the Parish Council actively investigate the installation of a crossing with the relevant bodies, **Cllr J Schonfeldt 2nd, all Cllrs were in favour.** Cllr R McGee will take the lead on this.



21/22-10 **Discuss and decide on any action to address the issue of parking on High Street and around the Clock Tower**

Cllr R McGee advised the PC that he had been made aware that HDC have applied to get parking de-criminalised and that it would become a civil enforcement issue. County councillor Ian Bates advised that HDC would have to approach CCC about Civil Enforcement and he was not aware of this. Cllr R McGee will speak to C Cllr Ian Bates further.

Cllr s Polhill has shared with the PC the costings for Restricted Parking Signs for the area surrounding the Clock Tower and Pond safety sign, **Cllr S Polhill proposed** that the Parish Council purchase the signs at a cost of £565.80 in VAT, **Cllr G Pryke 2nd, All Cllrs were in favour.**

21/22-11 **LHI Application for Chequer Street parking bays – discuss and approve additional funding £9,790.07, £5,000 previously approved plus 10% contingency.**

Cllr R McGee updated the PC, the LHI application has been approved subject to the committee endorsing. CCC will contribute £15,000 to the project, this will leave £14,790.07 plus 10% contingency that the Parish Council will pay towards the cost of the project. **Cllr R McGee proposed** that the PC approve the spend of £14,790.07 plus 10% contingency, **Cllr K Mitchell 2nd, 2 Cllrs abstained, All other Cllrs were in favour.**

21/22-12 **A1307 Cambridge Road Slip Road Initiatives & Upgrade**

Cllrs P Kent and K Mitchell met with District Councillor D Mead to discuss the original proposal. One of the issues with the original proposal was that it was not clear if there was support from CCC. Cllr P Kent has now written to CCC to request their support for the project. It is likely to be a further 2 years before the A14/A1307 is handed over from Highways England to CCC. Cllr K Mitchell is working on a new proposal which will focus on the health and safety of Parishioner, once the draft is complete, he and Cllr P Kent will speak with Ryan Fuller from HDC. Cllr J Middleton enquired when the application would need to be re-submitted, this would be the end of May 2021. Cllr R McGee reported that speeding has decreased according to the latest data. The 'No Entry' signs have been removed from Crest Drive, the Clerk has informed CCC and asked that they be re-instated as a matter of urgency. Cllr I Bates has also spoken to Robin Hobbs at CCC to expedite this, the Clerk will chase Robin for an update.



The new Village Hall will have approximately 8 parking spaces, but it was mentioned that the office block next door may have further spaces that can be utilised by the VH when offices not in use.

20.15 County Councillor I Bates left the meeting.

21/22-13 **Committee Updates: - Planning, General Purposes, Finance and Constitution & Burial - Information Only – no discussion or decisions can be made.**

Cllr N Ferrier updated the PC on the recent planning applications, noting that the Planning Committee had recommended for refusal an application at 6 Church Lane, due to the lack of parking.

Cllr G Pryke informed the PC that the special offer on benches is due to end, Cllr P Kent advised that a decision had already been made on the purchase of benches.

Cllr R McGee advised that there will be a litter pick on the 6th June as part of 'The Keep Britain Tidy' Campaign.

Cllr K Mitchell advised that the accounts are almost complete, the internal auditor has been engaged. He is still waiting for the invoice for bin emptying from HDC, if not received it will be included in next year's accounts. He advised that a Finance meeting will need to be scheduled to approve accounts.

Cllr K Mitchell advised that the Burial Board are due to meet on the 20th April.

21/22-14 **Approve Payment Schedule**

Payment has been made to Barr Ellison to cover the legal fees for the transfer of The Orchard land. 25% deposit has been paid for the MUGA, but this money will be paid back by CCC at the end of the project. Due to the PC not being able to meet virtually after the 6th May, Cllr K Mitchell advised that he has transferred £10,000 to the current account in order to cover any spend required. **Cllr N Ferrier proposed** that all payments be approved, **Cllr R McGee 2nd, All Cllrs were in favour.**

21/22-15 **Councillors items – information only. No discussion and no decisions can be made.**

Cllr N Ferrier advised that the streetlight near the Butchers is covered by overhanging tree. Cllr A Puntambekar advised that he thinks that there are not many HGVs using the Village but there are some large lorries/vans under 7.5 tonne limit.

Cllr K Mitchell advise that Spectrum deadline was approaching. Cllr P Kent asked the Clerk to send all new Cllrs a link to the 'Good Councillor Guide' and reminded all Cllrs to treat each other with respect in dealings with each other. The Clerk will send the new Councillor Mark Richardson all relevant paperwork to be completed.

Meeting closed 20.32.