

# FEN DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 at the Recreation Ground Pavilion

### Present:

Councillors: A. Cramm, C. Jones, P. Snellgrove Hawkins, L. Woolfenden,  
Parish Clerk: M. Starkie  
District Councillor: R. Turner  
County Councillor: N. Clarke

### 792. Election of Chairman for the meeting

Following the resignation of the Chairman, Clr. B Felstead, Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins proposed that Clr. Jones should chair the meeting. This was seconded by Clr. Woolfenden and carried unanimously.

### Open Forum

Four members of the public and PCSO James Lynch attended the meeting and spoke during the Open Forum

- One member of the public referred to cars parked opposite Wright's Close on the bend of Green End, sometimes on the pavement. These impede the flow of traffic, cause danger to pedestrians and hinder the 'bus turning. She felt that proposed building work at No. 27 is likely to cause even more congestion. Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins proposed that the Council should write to residents in that area reminding them to keep the area safe; this was seconded by Clr. Jones. There had also been reports of cars parked badly outside the Recreation Ground in the afternoons. PCSO James Lynch said he would patrol the areas at various times and advise residents as necessary.
- One member of the public referred to the planning application for new property to the south of No. 27 Green End, which allows for two parking spaces on the property, and pointed out that this is on a blind corner and that additional parking in the road would be a safety hazard. This was referred to Section 803 of the agenda.
- One member of the public referred to the Land by the Barn where the area to the side of No. 3 Green End is heavily overgrown with Russian Ivy. He expressed concern that the Deed of Grant to Mr. Gough Goodman in 2004 is not being followed; this required him to maintain the land as it was then although the member claimed that Mr. Gough Goodman had removed a tree and replaced it with another. This was referred to Section 797 of the agenda.
- The Chairman of the Governors of Fen Ditton Primary School asked the Council to support the school in asking the District Council to restrict parking outside the school to 45 minutes. The Governors have funding for the work involved. Clr. Jones proposed that the clerk should write to SCDC; this was seconded by Clr. Woolfenden and carried unanimously. The Chairman of the Governors also pointed out that there was a vacancy for a Community Governor and that a representative from the Parish Council would be ideal but understood that, with only four councillors, this would be difficult.
- PCSO James Lynch introduced himself as replacement for PCSO Julie Abbott who now deals only with Fulbourn. He reported that burglaries have been alleged in Green End Road, Fen Ditton and Church Street, Teversham and are being investigated. He will undertake foot patrols in Fen Ditton. PC Alex Rendell will attend the next PC meeting.

793. **Election of Chairman of the Council** The resignation of the Chairman, Clr. B Felstead was accepted. Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins proposed that Clr. Jones should chair the Council. This was seconded by Clr. Woolfenden and carried unanimously. Clr. Jones accepted the role and expressed the council's thanks to Mr. Felstead for his work on the council and his support of the village and especially his work for the Fireworks evening Councillors Turner and Clarke added their thanks. The Parish Clerk to write to Mr. Felstead.  
Clr. Jones expressed concern that there were now only four councillors and that the work of the

council might need to be taken over by the District Council if no more councillors were elected or co-opted. A formal notice of vacancy has been posted on the council notice boards; if there are no requests for an election by ten members of the public by 17<sup>th</sup> December, councillors can be co-opted. The Clerk was asked to explore with CPALC how the DC would handle the bank account and financial powers currently held by the Parish Council. The PC would also need solicitors' advice and advice from Jenny Clarke of SCDC on the Recreation Ground Deed of Trust if the DC took over from the PC. Clr. Turner added that there were some big issues involved if the District Council took over the powers of the Parish Council and that every effort should be made to keep these powers among people who know the village

Two signatories are needed on council cheques; currently B Felstead and C Jones are the only signatories. In order for invoices to be paid until new bank mandates could be set up, Clr. Jones proposed that he and Mr. Felstead should continue to sign cheques but only when the invoices, cheques and counterfoils had been checked and initialed by another Councillor. He proposed this should be Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins and that Clr. Cramm should set up a mandate so she could also be a signatory. This was seconded by Clr. Woolfenden and carried unanimously.

**794. Apologies** There were no apologies

**795. Minutes of the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009** were agreed

**796. Interest** - Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins expressed an interest in the Planning Application S/1612/09/F 31A Green End and left the meeting when it was discussed

**797. Matters arising**

- i. Land by the Barn – the Parish Clerk summarised some of the issues from previous minutes and correspondence, i.e. maintenance of area to 2004 standard, ivy growing over BT line at No.3, possible Deed of Grant at No. 3, access to turning space. It was agreed that Clrs. Cramm and Woolfenden should review the documents with the Parish Clerk and report back to the next meeting.
- ii. Newsletter – Clr. Woolfenden had drafted an outline. It was agreed to look at this in more detail early in 2010
- iii. Firework Night – Despite really bad weather, many villagers attended the evening and enjoyed the refreshments provided by Mr. Felstead and Mrs Snellgrove Hawkins, although the rain had prevented the fireworks performing well. Clr. Jones thanked Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins and the Parish Clerk for collecting contributions from the public; these, with contributions for refreshments, totaled £131. Parish Clerk to write to Mrs Snellgrove Hawkins and Mr. Felstead.
- iv. Recruitment of councillors to Parish Council – the official notice has been posted in the village. Councillors will approach people who may be interested. Volunteers are needed for a leaflet drop to raise awareness of the seriousness of the situation
- v. Donation of tree – Parish Clerk has not yet heard from Tree Warden on the exact position.

**798. Reports from County and District Councillors**

These reports are attached in Appendices 1 and 2

**799. Conservation**

- i. **TPO Ref C/11/40/027** 16, High Ditch Road, CB5 8TE to fell a laburnum tree was considered and no comment made.
- ii. **Requests for help with Church Wall maintenance.** Clr. Woolfenden reported that she had met with the Church Architect, John Drake, and the Vicar, Rev. Bowers. Their understanding was that in 1994 it was agreed that it was the joint responsibility of the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and the Diocese. The wall is considered of architectural benefit in a conservation area. A survey of the wall would be costly and the PCC has no money. Clr. Jones proposed that the Parish Council should contribute up to £150 towards the cost of a survey. This was seconded by Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins and carried unanimously. Parish Clerk to

contact structural engineers for costing; she has found several grant-giving groups.

#### 800. Recreation Ground

- i. **Bike/skate ramp.** As no comments have been received this will be carried over to the next meeting.
- ii. **Possible grants for bike/skate ramp** – the Parish Clerk has received information from several grant-giving groups.

#### 801. Highways

- i. **A14 widening scheme.** Notices have been posted in the village on how to make representation. Clr Woolfenden will hold an informal meeting with some villagers to consider the plans. The plans will also be available at a Coffee Pot Meeting in the Pavilion later in December. Clrs. Jones and Snellgrove Hawkins will write on the council's behalf indicating the effect the scheme will have on the village in relation to increased traffic.
- ii. **HCV draft map** – the Parish clerk to ask for more details as map legend incomplete
- iii. **Cambridge Core Traffic Scheme - stage 4** - The website link had been sent to the councillors Comments had to be received by 11 December. The council had no comments.

#### 802. Cemetery

- i. Clr Woolfenden reported that a group of volunteers had tidied the cemetery, removing bindweed & brambles. Clr Jones thanked Clr Woolfenden and the volunteers commenting that it was a great improvement. Parish Clerk to write to M. Woolfenden thanking him for planting new tree.

#### 803. Planning

- i. **Planning Applications:**
  - a) **S/1504/09/F Land to the south of 27 Green End** – construction of a new dwelling. There was some discussion on possible parking and congestion issues. Approved with comment on congestion and need to allow access for buses and emergency vehicles. An open space contribution under S106 and a Highways contribution for resurfacing were requested.
  - b) **S/1612/09/F 31A Green End** – extension and alterations to chalet style bungalow. No recommendation. Comment on traffic access and parking.

#### 804. Accounts

- i. The following invoices were received

a) CGM (Herald) - Roadside verges 29 <sup>th</sup> October	253.00
b) CGM (Herald) - Prune hedges Recreation Ground	74.75
c) Parish Clerk – Salary & expenses for November	
- ii. The following monies have been received

a) Personal donation towards replacement bench at Green End	120.00
b) Bonfire night public contributions	131.00
- iii. Bank mandates were given to Clrs Cramm, Jones and Snellgrove Hawkins to provide signatories for PC cheques following resignation of B. Felstead
- iv. Request by the Parish Clerk to manage transfer of money between savings and current account through internet and telephone banking was considered and agreed – proposed by Clr Snellgrove Hawkins and seconded by Clr Cramm and carried unanimously.

## **805. Correspondence**

- i. Letter to Mrs Nunn regarding access to Pavilion for possible pre-school provision inspection
- ii. Parish Path Partnership (P3) – applications for 2010/2011 – held over to next meeting
- iii. Review of Allotment provision – no Council owned allotments. Parish clerk to reply
- iv. SCDC – Graffiti removal service requested by Parish Clerk for bus shelter, Horningsea Road.

## **806. SCDC Cabinet Liaison Meeting on 25 November 2009**

The Parish Clerk attended the meeting which discussed Section 106 Agreements for recreation spaces, a review of Housing Services, Refuse & recycling services, the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Update and Financial Update. The SCDC must identify about 13% savings to balance the books and there may be further cuts in its income.

## **807. Any other business – there was no other business**

808. **Date of next meeting and dates of meetings in 2010** – the next meeting will take place at the Recreation Ground Pavilion at 7.30pm, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Meetings will be scheduled for the first Tuesday in each month, except August, throughout 2010.

The meeting finished at 10.00pm

**The public is welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council**

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Report of District Councillor Robert Turner**

#### **WADLOW WIND FARM PLAN – GOING AHEAD**

Plans for a wind farm at Wadlow Farm, between Balsham and West Wrating, were approved by the Secretary of State John Denham on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November. John Denham's decision was based on the greater priority of meeting national objectives on climate change and energy supply and these outweighed any objections presented by local planning policies. The decision over-ruled a three year campaign by Robert Barlow of Stop Wadlow Windfarm. The turbines will be 120m tall, higher than St Paul's Cathedral or the London Eye and are expected to provide power for 16,700 homes.

#### **BUDGET CUTS AT SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been forced to slash next year's budget by £2.2 million, about 13% of the general budget of £16 million, due to shortages in funding caused by low Government support, poor returns on savings, and falling revenues from developers. A total of £10 million savings are needed over the next five years. Some of the savings are expected to be made by cutting 19 posts in the housing department, 10.5 posts in planning, 10 in back office duties and 8.5 in new communities. The savings plan will be put before the full council for approval.

#### **EXTRA BIN FOR RECYCLING**

To enable greater compliance with recycling household waste, a third wheelie bin is to be delivered to all households from October 2010. The blue bins will replace the two plastic boxes currently used to collect plastic bottles and metal and a removable caddy is available for collecting paper. It is hoped that the new bin will boost recycling levels to 65% by 2012 and save about £425,000 a year after the third year of operation. The recycling plan will be put before the full council for approval.

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## **Appendix 2**

### **Report from County Councillor Nick Clarke**

#### **Cycleway to Fen Ditton**

At a recent members A14 improvement seminar he was able to raise the issue of crossing the A14 and our new cycleway. His suggestion that the highways agency might want to engineer the problem away, when the A14 widening takes place, has now made it into the cabinet paper that will become the counties formal response to the A14 widening scheme. No promises that it will be carried out but at least it is now "officially" on the projects list of things to consider. He was pleased to see the road surveyors out and about last week preparing for the cycle way.

#### **Gritting changes proposed to help cyclists**

A range of trial improvements to the gritting service are to be piloted in Cambridgeshire over the coming months following the very hard winter last year. The initial proposals, which include trialling the gritting of major cycle bridges in Cambridge and treating of so called secondary routes earlier will inform the major in-depth review, the results of which will be implemented next year. Cambridgeshire already treats more than 40 per cent of its roads using

a fleet of high-tech gritters. Government does not give extra money for gritting roads, paths or cycleways. Last year saw the fleet of 38 gritters go out around 85 times, using some 15,000 tonnes of rocksalt, costing about £1.8 million. This initial review followed requests for better gritting of cycling facilities and last year's record cold that this winter, 11 bridges will be gritted at the same time as the main roads are gritted. A special, less corrosive rocksalt, will be used to grit the bridges to reduce harm to the bridge structures.

Talks will also begin with District and City Council partners to see if they have any staff, such as road sweepers, who cannot carry out their normal work when snow and ice forms who could be used to put rocksalt from the County Council stocks on paths.

Cambridgeshire County Council already uses more affective and environmentally friendly forms of gritting, as used in Scandinavian countries. Gritting is a vital part of road safety strategy but we do not get extra funds from Government to do it. Government must do its bit, especially in the light of the national salt shortage, to make sure highway authorities have the resources and funding they need.

Winter Maintenance precautionary salting priorities are:

- Roads that carry the heaviest early morning traffic
- Roads linking centres of population
- B roads and busy roads adjacent to fen roads
- Roads that link salted route with those of other adjoining counties
- Making sure all road users live within a reasonable distance of a salted route

They also try to salt all bus routes where possible.

The County will now treat the secondary network when 5 days of freezing conditions are forecast, rather than after 5 days of freezing conditions have occurred. I am sure this will mean far more treatments to the secondary routes than previously.

### **Tough times ahead for public finances – Council warns.**

Dire warnings from the main UK political parties on reductions in the money given to councils and public bodies means the way services are delivered is due for a complete re-think. Forecasts suggest Cambridgeshire County Council, which has strong rating for use of resources, could be around £113 million worse off in five year's time than it is now. Under a new scheme – Making Cambridgeshire Count - communities will be put in the driving seat of what services they want and how they are delivered. At the same time Cambridgeshire public bodies and the County's most influential organisations will look at ways of reducing duplication of resources and redesigning services to be more effective and focused. Council chiefs say that it is right that authorities tighten their belts at this time but 'salami-slicing' from services public bodies deliver will neither provide the savings needed nor the services Cambridgeshire wants and deserves. Although over the next five years funding will stay relatively the same, the Council will have to find an extra £47 million to cover inflation and a predicted £55 million is needed for the increased demand for services.

### **Adequate and good outcomes in Children's Services**

An inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services at the council has assessed the services as adequate overall with some good features. A team from OfSTED - the Office for Standards in Education - rated 26 of the inspected areas in the 'adequate' category and 8 as 'good'. The inspection was one of the first carried out using the new OfSTED inspection methodology. Inspectors said the overall effectiveness of the safeguarding services was adequate, with statutory requirements being met, adding that improvements in services were taking place and that there is an accelerating pace of change. They emphasised that the commitment of partner agencies to the joint safeguarding and child protection agenda was strong. Inspectors praised the 'considerable efforts' made towards establishing a clear vision, structures and detailed operational arrangements for its services. The inspectors remarked on the high morale of the children's social care workforce.

### **Cambridge City Archives - keeping it in the family!**

The County Council's Archives Service is about to start work on a mammoth project to catalogue and preserve thousands of records which record the history of Cambridge City. The Cambridgeshire Family History Society (CFHS) has provided a £45,000 grant which will fund an archivist for two years to catalogue the records of the Municipal Borough of Cambridge after 1835 and some earlier records deposited at Cambridgeshire Archives by the City Council.

The City of Cambridge archives occupy more than 150 metres of shelving with records covering a period from the 13th to 21st century. They include records of meetings, title deeds, rate books and valuations, engineer's reports, court books, treasurer's accounts, architects' plans and drawings. Whilst a multitude of lists exist, there is no modern archive catalogue, so information about the contents of the archive is anecdotal and access difficult. The archivist will also work with the CFHS volunteer group and other volunteers to produce a detailed transcription and indexes of records of special interest and at the same time conservation staff will systematically clean and package documents to ensure the entire archive can be used without risk of damage and to ensure long-term preservation for future generations.

### **World's oldest university printer presents collection to Cambridgeshire's newest Library.**

The world's oldest University printer and publisher - Cambridge University Press, has boosted the stock of Cambridgeshire's newest Library. A team from Cambridge University Press presented the books, which cover a wide range of subjects from evolution to climate change, to Cambridge Central Library. The books boosted the Central Library collection which includes more than 100,000 items for loan to the public. The Library re-opened to the public on September 29, after an extensive rebuild and refurbishment programme and welcomed more than 17,000 visitors during its first week of operation.

### **Drumming up excitement for real time at Cambridge bus station.**

The County Council has nearly completed work on installing a new Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) display at Cambridge's Drummer Street bus station. The displays will give passengers an exact waiting time, much like the overhead signs at train stations or on the Underground. Currently 12 of the 31 services that use Drummer Street are equipped to deliver real time information for passengers, while a proposal for a further five services to be kitted out is underway. Two summary boards will display the information in the centre of the station, so that passengers can see exactly how long they have to wait for the next bus.

### **A £42 million recycling plant, which will put Cambridgeshire at the forefront of waste management in the UK, opened.**

The Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) Plant is the first of its kind in the country and will sort and recycle much of the waste that normally ends up in landfill from people's "black bag" rubbish.

Rubbish collected from households across the County will be sorted at the plant which is off the A10 near Waterbeach, and run by local family firm Donarbon Waste Management Limited in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council. The massive, hi-tech treatment plant, built by BAM Nuttall which is the length of three football pitches, houses giant shredding machines called Terminators, and the latest mechanical sorting equipment, provided by Kelagh and Komptech, which removes material for recycling before turning the rest of the waste into compost like material for use on non-food crops or a fuel.

An education centre will also be developed at the site so people can learn more about the facility and why it is so important to recycle. Waste which is normally not recycled will be sorted at the facility. At the moment just over half of the County's domestic waste is recycled or composted. But this new facility, combined with improved recycling centres, will mean Cambridgeshire will massively reduce the tonnes of rubbish that ends up in landfill. Landfilling rubbish is not only bad for the environment but Government taxes every tonne of waste that ends up in the ground. This tax is currently £40 a tonne and will increase by £8 a tonne year on year.

Cambridgeshire is not only at the forefront of recycling and composting, but, thanks to this new plant, we now lead the way in treating waste that would otherwise be landfilled. The County Council is investing millions of pounds in providing better facilities to reduce, re-use and recycle our rubbish as part of our commitment to reducing our impact on climate change and getting value for money for our taxpayers. This new plant, together with the new recycling centres we are building, will reduce the amount of money spent on throwing rubbish into landfill and reduce the impact of waste on the environment. Cambridgeshire leads the country in using this technology and with the County's population expected to grow by 100,000 by 2021, we need to stay ahead in dealing with our waste. We are confident that the investment in new waste treatment facilities, which includes over £10 million in two new waste transfer stations at Alconbury and March and a new in-vessel composting plant at Waterbeach on top of this fantastic new MBT plant, will ensure that all councils in Cambridgeshire meet, and exceed their targets. We are also proud to say we will be employing local labour to operate the new sites.