

FEN DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd November 2009 at the Recreation Ground Pavilion

Present:

Chairman: B. Felstead
Councillors: P. Snellgrove Hawkins, C. Jones, L. Woolfenden, A. Cram
Parish Clerk: M. Starkie
District Councillor: R. Turner

Open Forum

Three members of the public attended the Open Forum; one to hear the outcome of request for tree work at the cemetery boundary and one for interest in the land by the Barn.

Mr. Ian Ritchie expressed the Parochial Church Council's appreciation for the continued work of volunteers on the Church Wall. He also presented a letter, attached in Appendix 1, which he has sent to the A14 team. He expressed concern over problems with white lines and road edging maintenance on High Ditch Road. This was discussed further in Agenda item 785.i. He also presented a copy of his letter to the Highways Department about the A14 plans. This was discussed further under Agenda item 785.ii

778. **Apologies** were received from County Councillor Nick Clarke

779. **The minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting of 6th October 2009 were agreed.

780. **No interests** were declared.

781. **Matters Arising**

- i. Land by the Barn - Clr. Felstead reported that he had been unable to make an appointment with Hewitsons and, due to work commitments, was unlikely to in the future. Other councillors being similarly busy, were unable to have direct meetings but Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins suggested he might be able to communicate by letter. The Parish Clerk was asked to prepare a summary and draft a letter to be discussed at the next meeting.
- ii. Newsletter - Clr. Felstead reported no further progress and Clr. Woolfenden offered to produce a draft for consideration at the next meeting
- iii. Firework Night - Clr. Felstead reported that he had bought the fireworks, organised the display and distributed notices around the village. Hot food would be available at the pavilion. Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins' wife had offered to produce hot drinks. Clr Snellgrove Hawkins and the Parish Clerk would collect contributions from the public.
- iv. Lighting on Wadloes Footpath - Nothing has been received from Alex Alexander

782. **To receive reports from County and District Councillors**

- i. **Clr. Clarke's report** is attached in App. 2; Clr. Felstead summarised main points:
 - a. Guided Bus - The Council plans to open the route on Sunday 29 November.
 - b. Housing & Development in Cambridgeshire - The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) is consulting on four scenarios for

growth and development in Cambridgeshire including possible new settlements.

ii. Clr. Turner:

- a. Thanked Fen Ditton residents and Clr. Woolfenden for their work on the Gypsy and Travellers Consultation. This is now complete but yet to be reported.
- b. The Chairman's Delegation was scrapped at the Planning Meeting and a new procedure will be instigated from January 2010. Other councils have asked how Planning Applications are to be handled within the timeframe of 21 days. The legal advice from SCDC is that all planning applications and TPOs should be considered at public meetings which means the Council cannot meet the 21 day target. Clr. Turner will seek further legal advice.

783. Conservation

- i. Tree surgery has been arranged at the parish boundary and Green End for 10th December. The tree surgeon, Peter Oakes, will organise temporary electricity cut off with EDF and notification to residents. SCDC Tree Officer has e-mailed that she has no objections.
- ii. TPO reference C/11/40/27 - application to remove branches from willow and plum trees at the Boat House, 43 Green End was considered and agreed without comment.

784. Recreation Ground

- i. Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins reported that some children had dug up a section of the recreation ground to build a bike ramp. Ian Winchester, one of the trustees, had told Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins that the provision of a bike/skateboard ramp has been discussed with the Parish Council in the past. Clrs. Cram and Woolfenden expressed some concern at the provision of such a ramp and asked that the council consider the possible effect on the neighbourhood, where it would be sited to meet health and safety requirements and need for maintenance. Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins suggested that there might be grants for the work and maintenance. Clr. Jones, as Chairman of the Recreation Ground Trust will investigate further and report to the PC and the Parish Clerk will investigate grants.

785. Highways

- i. Repairs requested at Green End and outside Kings Head PH. The Parish Clerk had e-mailed the Highways Supervisor who had noted the request but said there was no money for work this year. The councillors expressed disappointment and concern for safety. The Parish Clerk will write again, copying in Clrs Clarke and Turner, to point out the concerns for safety and to include the issues highlighted by Mr. Ritchie.
- ii. Information had been sent to the councillors on the speed limit review of the A1303. All councillors expressed agreement with the speed restrictions to be introduced.
- iii. A14 Consultation. The plans were shown; these are very large and it is not possible to have them easily on display. The Parish Clerk will make them available by appointment and put a notice on the village boards. Clrs Jones and Snellgrove Hawkins had attended a meeting at Girton but had not received answers to their questions. Parish Clerk to request a response. Mr. Ritchie was thanked for expressing his views directly to the Highways Agency and for giving a copy to the council. The councillors will consider other ways to make the villagers aware of the consultation, which ends 6th January 2010.

786. Cemetery

- i. Maintenance - Clr Woolfenden reported that a group of volunteers would work in the cemetery on Saturday 14th November; the aim was to clear bindweed from the new beech trees, remove brambles and generally tidy hedges. A Japanese Cherry will be planted in the future where the large bin was after the area has been cleared.
- ii. Cemetery map - Clr. Jones has copied the map and scanned it so that an electronic copy is available as the original copy is very fragile. Clr Woolfenden suggested that the map may not be accurate

787. Planning

- i. High Ditch Road Development - SCDC's document had been distributed; this listed matters which were still outstanding on the application which had been granted. This was for information only.

788. Accounts

- i. The following invoices were agreed:

a. K Bennet – grave preparation	£210.00
b. *Camgas - bonfire night fireworks	£614.45
c. Margaret Starkie – Salary and expenses for Oct. 09	£357.85
d. CPALC – Clerk's Intensive Training	£200.00
e. DRE Pest Control Ltd. Control of Wasp's Nest	£ 51.75
f. Three Counties Fire Prevention – Inspection	£ 34.79
g. Bruce Felstead – posters for Bonfire Night	£ 50.00

In addition to those on the agenda the following were agreed

h. Donation to present for Lollipop lady	£ 30.00
i. Contribution to Royal British Legion wreath	£ 40.00

* The agenda showed this invoice to B Felstead but it was directly to Camgas

- ii. The following monies have been received:
 - a. £50.00 – Co-operative Funeral Care – Burial of ashes
 - b. £430.00 – Richard Stebbings Funeral Directors – Burial
- iii. The account balances are (with the above, including additional, invoices paid):
 - a. Current Account: £ 4,357.83
 - b. High Interest Account: £18,982.18

789. Correspondence

- i. Invitation to meet with Council's Cabinet - the Parish Clerk will attend
- ii. CPALC AGM - Saturday 21st November - no Councillors able to attend
- iii. Primary School – donation to present for lollipop lady. Donation of £30.00 proposed by Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins, seconded by Clr. Jones and carried unanimously.
- iv. Offer of donation of oak tree. This was accepted with thanks. Parish Clerk to ask Tree Warden to suggest best position and write to donor.
- v. Request from Comberton Parish Council re Planning Delegation in Controversial Cases - this was discussed during Clr. Turner's report on scrapping Chairman's delegation - no action to be taken.
- vi. BT invitation to adopt telephone kiosk - discussed; no action to be taken at this time.

- vii. HCV issues - councillors are aware of these and felt the issue was covered by Lorry Watch.

790. Any Other Business

- i. Recruitment of councillors to Parish Council - Clr. Woolfenden has provided a draft poster. The Parish Clerk will adapt this and post it to the notice boards
- ii. Bank mandate signatures to enable the Parish Clerk to manage the accounts - signed by Clrs. Felstead and Jones
- iii. Donation to the Royal British Legion for wreath on Remembrance Sunday – donation of £40.00 proposed by Clr. Snellgrove Hawkins, seconded by Clr. Jones and carried unanimously.

791. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 1st December 2009

The public is welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council

Margaret Starkie
Parish Clerk
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A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Team
Highways Agency
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Manton Industrial Estate
Bedford
MK41 7LW

21st October 2009

Dear Sirs

A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton

I wish to object to the scheme.

In particular I am concerned about the effect the scheme will have on traffic through Fen Ditton. At present Fen Ditton suffers badly from the effect of traffic to & from the A14 through Horningsea Road, Ditton Lane & High Ditch Road.

These roads are very narrow & there is a large Primary school on Horningsea Road. Apart from a short part of Horningsea Road there is no grass verge between the footpath & the road. The roads are single carriageway & there is an ever present danger to pedestrians from wide vehicles & wing mirrors.

Traffic is dense on all these roads throughout the day. Early morning & evening rush hours are particularly bad with traffic reduced to a crawl, but throughout the day traffic is consistently heavy. If the A14 is widened as far as Fen Ditton & combined with the effect of the Cambridge East development, it can be expected that large numbers of vehicles will leave the A14 where it narrows, & at the same time many will be attracted to join it there to travel West.

I attended your exhibition last week-end & noted that your display showed that with the introduction of the scheme, traffic was expected to double through the village.

This is ridiculous as traffic would appear to be at saturation point already, & there is no way of widening the road.

I believe that the widening should end at Milton, where there is a large round about & major roads to take the traffic. This would result in cost saving & avoid the need to enlarge the bridge over the River Cam, which must be a major expense.

If the A14 must be widened to Fen Ditton steps must be taken to ensure the village is protected, perhaps a bypass could be included as part of the plan.!

Yours sincerely

Ian Ritchie

Appendix 2

FULBOURN DIVISION COMMUNITY NEWS November 2009

10 Peacock Drive
Bottisham
Cambridge
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Parish Council report from County Councillor Nick Clarke

GRITTING - UPDATE

This summer we reviewed all our routes Countywide.

We highlighted the ones that do not fit in to our current objectives for Winter Maintenance precautionary salting.

That is we give priority to :

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

We also try to salt all bus routes where possible.

All three of these route will be on our list of Secondary Routes.

It was also recommended to the same meeting that our policy regarding the treatment of these Secondary Routes was amended. 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 have been assured this is likely to mean far more treatments to the secondary routes than previously.

COST OF LIVING PAY FREEZE FOR COUNCIL MANAGERS

Cambridgeshire County Council has frozen the cost of living payments for managers as part of the authority's drive to reduce costs. Major political parties have indicated cuts in public spending are on the way and forecasts show that Cambridgeshire County Council will be £113 million worse off in five years time than it is now.

As a part of tightening its belt councillors have agreed that managers, from the Chief Executive down, will not receive an increase in the so called annual cost of living award. Frontline staff, who are usually the most lowest paid and work with some of the most vulnerable people, will receive the nationally agreed 1 per cent rise - equating to around an extra £2 for many workers a week. Some staff may also receive a rise to reward exceptional performance.

Staff were notified in September of the new pay arrangements. Cambridgeshire County Council is one of the top authorities for its use of resources, being awarded four stars (the highest award) by the Audit Commission.

TRANSPORT INNOVATION FUND

At Full council the county council response to the report of the Cambridgeshire transport commission was debated and voted on. This paper seeks to put in place the infrastructure, agree congestion targets and then implement a congestion charge if the targets are exceeded. I believe that the link to congestion charging is too great so was one of only 7 councillors to vote against the package. Many opponents of congestion charging voted for this paper as a tactic as they do not believe that the full package will be approved but may result in a new train station at Chesterton. I have campaigned for many years against the congestion charge in principle and expect to continue the fight.

GUIDED BUS

Bus operators have registered new Busway services ready for the route from St Ives to Cambridge to open by the end of November. This will mean passengers will be able to travel between St Ives and the Science Park in Cambridge in just 20 minutes avoiding the frequent long queues on the congested A14. Busway contractor BAM Nuttall say they are confident that they will be able to hand over the completed northern section of The Busway by the end of October, and all the necessary construction certificates will be in place by opening. The Council plans to open the route on Sunday 29 November.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

A consultation about the future of Cambridgeshire is giving residents the chance to say what levels of new development they want to see in the county over the next two decades. The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) is consulting on four scenarios for growth and development in Cambridgeshire including possible new settlements. Residents and businesses are asked to give their views on which option is best for Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire County Council and other local authorities are clear that a growth scenario similar to EERA Option 1 would be the right one for the county. This option proposes the lowest number of dwellings of any of the four options (3600 per year to 2031). It would basically continue with the rates of growth seen in Cambridgeshire through the buoyant property prices prior to the recession.

Local authority leaders believe Cambridgeshire can't sustain building levels above this and certainly not large new settlements such as Alconbury, Mereham and Hanley Grange. Now residents are urged to examine all four options and tell EERA what they think at www.eera.co.uk

The consultation closes in November. EERA will be looking at the comments they receive before preparing a draft plan for submission to the Government next March. It is intended that the proposals would be subject to a Public Examination later in 2010.

MEMBER LED REVIEW – PROCUREMENT

I have been asked to chair a member led review to look at the procurement activities of the county council. The county council spends upwards of £300m a year so any improvements that the review can identify are likely to have