

FEN DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th October 2009 at the Recreation Ground Pavilion

Present:

Chairman: B. Felstead
Councillors: P. Snellgrove Hawkins, C. Jones, L. Woolfenden
Parish Clerk: M. Starkie

Absent Councillor A. Cram, District Councillor Robert Turner

Open Forum

During the open forum a parishioner stated that several members of the public would be upset if the Parish Council relinquished any land by the barn. The chairman replied that the Parish Council's position has not changed since the last meeting and the land was the subject of Agenda item 768. ii. The parishioner suggested that it was appropriate for the Parish Council to cut back weeds on this land as necessary to maintain it in a reasonable condition.

Two parishioners from Stanbury Close attended to hear the outcome of the review of the Cemetery tree overhanging a garden.

Linda Browne, SCDC Liaison Officer for Parish Plans, joined the Open Forum to introduce herself.

Alex Alexander, CCC engineer, attended the meeting to give an update on the proposed Cycle Path.

Alan Alderson, Tree Warden, also attended the meeting.

765. Apologies were received from County Councillor Nick Clarke

766. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1st September 2009 were agreed.

767. No interests were declared.

768. Matters Arising

- i. **Fen Ditton to Horningsea Cycle Path.** Alex Alexander reported that the Public Consultation had been completed by the third week in September. He displayed a chart of the proposed route and explained the engineering restrictions and requirements. Alex Alexander has discussed the route with FD Primary School Head. Councillors Snellgrove Hawkins and Jones expressed concern over the route crossing the A14 slip road and asked why it could not be routed along the eastern side of the road, which would be safer. This is not possible because the verge width there is less than the required 3 metres and the bank shelves steeply. It was suggested that the balustrade could be increased in height but this would mean closure of the A14 and re-routing traffic with consequent expensive traffic management. A different route is not possible because Quy Estate is not willing to sell land by Biggin Lane. However, there may be the possibility of compulsory purchase. The proposed route is also narrow by the cemetery and cannot be widened because it involves consecrated land. The County Council has the authority to go ahead with the proposal having had meetings with stakeholders, Parish Councils and interested bodies. Alex Alexander will negotiate with the Highways Agency for the possibility of a path over the A14 slip roads and will give more detailed plans before Christmas.
- ii. **Land by the Barn.** The Chairman's meeting with the council's solicitors, Hewitons, has been held over until November
- iii. **Church Wall.** Councillor Woolfenden reported that a volunteer party had done some clearing work on the wall and the Chairman expressed the thanks of the council to those involved. Councillor Woolfenden is hoping to organise another clearing party some time after 10th October and will raise this with the vicar.

- iv. **Gypsy and Traveller Sites Consultation.** The Chairman expressed thanks to Councillor Woolfenden and everyone who had been involved in drafting the response, the closing date for which is 9th October. The opinions expressed have had much support, including that of Jim Paice, MP. Councillor Woolfenden will send the formal response (as circulated) to SCDC.
- v. **Newsletter.** The Chairman reported that this was in progress and would be available in about two weeks
- vi. **Indemnity Agreements for Open Space Contributions.** The Chairman and Councillor Jones supplied specimen signatures to be sent to SCDC.
- vii. **Firework Night 6th November.** The Chairman proposed spending £600 for fireworks and refreshments to be held in the Recreation Ground. This was seconded by Councillor Snellgrove Hawkins and was voted unanimously; a cheque will be raised before the event. Set up will start at 18.00; first fireworks at 19.30. The Chairman will arrange the pyrotechnics and safety with the firemen who are also first-aiders. Notices will be displayed in the Parish Council notice boards; wood for the bon-fire can be left in the Recreation Ground.

769. County and District Reports

County Councillor N. Clarke and District Councillor R. Turner were unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Clarke's report was summarised by Councillor Felstead and is attached in Appendix 1. The main points of the report were:

- i. Draft orders for the A14 scheme published by the Highways Agency
- ii. Neighbourhood panels
- iii. Transport plans
- iv. Cycle Way Horningsea to Fen Ditton

770. Conservation

- i **Planting by Number 1 Stanbury Close** (held over from June) Tree was removed and bushes left to maintain as a shrubby bush. There is a problem with bindweed which the Tree Warden advised to leave as it will die back in winter. He suggested some replacement beech might be planted
- ii. **Tree works application** – Tree pruning as lime tree overshadows lamp-post
Recommendation - No comment
- iii. **Report from tree surgeon**
Mult-stemmed sycamore – the tree surgeon reported that the tree is safe but recommended raising the tree crown and removing a large central rubbing stem with the installation of two non-invasive cables to provide stability. He also suggested thinning a mult-stemmed ash tree.
Ash trees opposite 27 Green End. - he recommended removal of large branches overhanging the road and those leaning on the telephone lines lightened or cut back. Ivy at the base should be cut and left to die. He can arrange the necessary power shut down, for a short period, with EDF.
The council agreed to the cost of this work.
Permission from SCDC Tree Officer Ros Richardson will be needed for Green End; Parish Clerk will e-mail her.
The Parish Clerk is to inform the complainant of action to be taken.

771. Recreation Ground

i **Appointment of Recreation Ground Trust Chairman**

At its meeting in September Councillor Charles Jones was elected Chairman of the Trust. The council congratulated him and thanked Alan Alderson, the outgoing chairman, for his work. Councillor Jones reported that, having recovered from his long illness, the Vicar hopes to be more involved in the Trust activities. Councillor Jones also reported on insurance, i.e., that the Pavilion is insured by the Recreation Trust.

Councillor Snellgrove Hawkins reported that there was a crack in the Flying Fox' and Councillor Jones will investigate.

772. Highways

i. **Lighting on Wadloes Footpath**

This was discussed out of order to take advantage of advice from the CCC engineer, Alex Alexander. Councillor Jones had reported that two members of the Parish had suggested some form of lighting as the path is very dark in winter. Simple stud reflectors have been suggested. Alex Alexander reported that there are no guidelines on studs but referred to the use of LED studs at Girton. Costing may possibly be met by Cycling England. Councillor Jones will contact Mr. Alexander for more information. The Parish Clerk will forward Councillor Jones's e-mail to Linda Browne.

ii. **Required repairs**

It was reported that the tarmac outside 31 Green End is cracked and that the pavement outside the Kings Head needs repairing. The Parish Clerk will contact Keith Fauch at CCC.

773. Cemetery

i **Maintenance**

Councillor Woolfenden reported that the volunteers who previously worked to tidy the cemetery would like to do so again. The large bin has been removed and a refund received from SCDC. It was reported that the bins are used by people other than those tending the graves.

ii **Tree complaint**

See tree surgeon's report in 770, iii. Conservation

iii. **Cemetery map**

The Parish Clerk reported that the cemetery map was very old and fragile; she will bring it to next meeting for consideration on how to preserve it.

774. Planning

i. **Decisions made due to deadlines**

i. S/1240/09/F – resurfacing of and extension to customers' car park, car display area and internal roadway, at Marshall Used Car Centre, Newmarket Road. Recommended 'No Recommendation'

ii. **Applications to consider**

i. S/0970/05/F Retrospective Amendment at Home Farm House, High Ditch Road. This was for information only and required no action.

775. Accounts

i. The following invoices were agreed:

i.	Laura Marshall – Salary and expenses for September:	£259.10
ii.	C. G. M. – Cut grass July, August and September:	£1,262.13
iii.	OCS – Bus Shelter Cleaning:	£78.80
iv.	Moore Stephens - Audit Annual Return:	£155.25
v.	Ace Glass Repairs – Replacement glass for Pavilion:	£1,656.00
vi.	Kevin Bennett – install benches:	£220.00
vii.	Margaret Starkie – Salary and expenses for September:	£220.00
viii.	Mr. Pinner – Tree for Cemetery:	£25.00

ii The following monies have been received:

i.	SCDC - refund to trade refuse (reduction cemetery bin size)	£33.33
ii.	SCDC – October Precept:	£6,772.70

776. Correspondence

- i. CPRE – Invitation to Hedgerows Course
- ii. Cambridge Autumn Regatta – Letter re Regatta on 13th September 2009
- iii. Letter to Mr. and Mrs Oliver re their correspondence

777. Any Other Business

- i. St. Bede’s Church School has requested use of the Pavilion during their sponsored walk and this has been agreed.
- ii. Two additional sets of Pavilion keys are needed; a set each to be held by the chairman, Councillor Snellgrove Hawkins and the Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk will arrange copies.
- iii. The Council appreciated the very good organisation of the Dragon Boats event; The Parish Clerk will write to the organisers.
- iv. The Parish Clerk is to arrange notices to recruit more Parish Councillors
- v. Councillor Woolfenden asked if the money raised from Bumps Day parking is in the Recreation Ground Trust Funds. The Parish clerk reported that the Minutes of the Recreation Ground Trust recorded the amount as £1,225.00.

778. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 3rd November 2009

The public is welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council

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Parish Clerk

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Appendix 1 County Councillor's Report

FULBOURN DIVISION COMMUNITY NEWS OCTOBER 2009

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Parish Council report from County Councillor Nick Clarke

A14 DRAFT ORDERS FOR THE A14 SCHEME

The Highways Agency has today published the draft Orders for the A14 scheme, which is the largest single scheme in the Trunk Road Programme. The orders when / if ultimately approved by the Secretary of State will give the legal powers to acquire the land, construct the scheme including new lengths of County road, and de-trunk lengths of superseded A14. Other minor orders involving drainage and traffic regulation will need to follow separately. We now have a thirteen week period for objections to be lodged. The final date for this will be January 6, 2010.

The Highways Agency has deposited for public inspection, copies of the draft Orders in most branch libraries along the route. Additional copies have been lodged with Huntingdonshire DC, South Cambridgeshire DC, Cambridge City and ourselves at Shire Hall reception.

Also, the Agency is arranging two Public Information Exhibitions about the scheme details. The first is to run from Friday 9th October (2-8pm), Saturday 10th (10am - 8pm), Sunday 11th (10am - 6pm) to Monday 12th (10am- 8pm) at Huntingdon Race Course with a courtesy hourly bus, beginning at 11am from Huntingdon Bus Station. The second exhibition will run from Thursday 15th October (10am -8pm), Friday 16th (10am-8pm), Saturday 17th (10am -8pm) to Sunday 18th (10am- 6pm) at The University Arms in Regent Street in Cambridge.

Members with a Divisional / Portfolio interest are also invited to a press/ VIP preview of the exhibition on the morning of the Friday 9th.

In terms of process for the County Council, it will mean that Cabinet at its 15th December meeting will need to consider the Council's position on all aspects of the scheme, and this will form the basis of the Council's stance at the almost inevitable Public Inquiry.

To lead up to that Cabinet meeting, we are trying to organise a special Member Briefing for Friday morning 30th October at Shire Hall (Ramparts Room) when Members with a Divisional / Portfolio interest will be able to come and discuss at 9.00 on a one to one basis if necessary, their Divisional interest and then at 10.00 receive a presentation with questions from the Highways Agency. This would be followed by a Member discussion with Lead Members to help formulate the Council's response.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS

Councillor Clarke requested that consideration be given to holding these panels in Horningsea on a rotation basis with Linton and Fulbourn.

Councillor Clarke has had a number of exchanges with the deputy chief constable over the matter of crime statistics being removed from ecops. Despite his initial response not being favourable he has now agreed with Councillor Clarke's position and has tasked someone to look into the matter county-wide.

TRANSPORT PLANS

The difficult issue of keeping the traffic flowing was debated again at Cabinet. Whilst everyone agrees that infrastructure improvements are vital there is little support for a congestion charge. The cabinet paper will be debated at full council on October 13th. Councillor Clarke remains opposed to congestion charging, as a matter of principle, but sees merit in the approach outlined in the paper. In short, all the infrastructure improvements need to be put in place first, then congestion

will be measured and only then, if congestion reaches a certain level will charging be brought in. This seems sensible and hopefully will mean congestion charging will never be needed. He added that of course the devil will be in the detail as always.

CYCLE WAY HORNINGSEA TO FEN DITTON

At the previous day's cabinet meeting Councillor Clarke spoke in support of agenda item 16, which detailed the planned cycling town infrastructure improvements. In particular he was able to give the cabinet some idea of the passion felt by our parishes for the cycle ways.

Interestingly, the same paper was opposed from the people of Milton, in the form of a petition, as they were very concerned about losing the school bus as a result of a cycle way. Their view seemed to be if it was not all perfect then they did not want any of it. Councillor Clarke is much more pragmatic. Getting a cycle way in will be great for the villages. If this creates other issues sometime down the road then we will deal with them. All cycle ways generate an automatic school bus review 12 months after the cycle way has been created. There will be full consultation, at that point, and there is an appeal process. He is optimistic that the A14 junction will remain dangerous enough to cross to retain the school bus.

The paper was approved by cabinet which means there is the go ahead for the schemes to be developed further and implemented. There will now be meetings with council officers to hammer out the details of the cycle way and then it should be full speed ahead to build it.