

Minutes of the meeting of Fen Ditton Parish Council held on Tuesday, 6th February, 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in the Recreation Ground Pavilion.

Present: Cllrs. Bennée; Collett; Devine (following co-option); Conroy; Easterfield; Farrah (Chairman); Suess;

In attendance: Cty.Cllr Bradnam; the clerk and three residents

2017/180 To receive apologies

Cllr. Bush(work) and Jones(out of the country)

2017/181 Open Forum for members of the public

A member of the public raised concerns about the overhanging vegetation in High Ditch Road on the approach to the old railway bridge. Councillors informed the parishioner that this had been reported to Cambs. County Council and encouraged anyone with issues regarding highways to act in the same way as it was the most effective way of reporting problems to alert CCC of required action.

A member of the public requested that in future the grass bank on Ditton Lane and High Ditch Road was cut at the same time as the green. It was explained that the annual grass cutting contract had not yet commenced and that when it does all the areas cutting of all the areas is programmed for the same time.

A member of the public, representing six other residents of High Ditch Road, presented suggestions to mitigate the proposed order for double yellow lines at the cross road junction of High Ditch Road and along stretches of High Ditch Road. It was agreed that the highways representatives on the council would investigate the suggestions and the matter discussed further at the March meeting.

2017/182 To approve the Minutes of the Monthly meeting held on 2nd January, 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd January, 2018 were approved.

2017/183 To receive declarations from Councillors as to the disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary in relation to any agenda item

Cllr. Easterfield declared a non-pecuniary interest being a neighbour of the property subject of planning application S/0071/18/TC

Cllr Bennée declared a non-pecuniary interest as knowing the applicant of planning application S/0128/18/FL

2017/184 Clerk's report and matters arising

- i. Cemetery extension – application for tree works to remove trees in railings on northern boundary applied for
- ii. Noticeboards – noticeboard for outside recreation gates to be installed on 19th February.
- iii. Church Wall survey – faculty awaited
- iv. Telephone box – British Telecommunication have advised that the structure is sound and safe and requires no work. The process to adopt would be re-visited.

2017/185 To approve payments made during the month and accounts for payment:

With exception of cheque number 101499 and 101505 it was agreed that the accounts be paid. It was noted that a meeting with CGM had not yet taken place to discuss the invoice for work in the churchyard and that it was considered that the invoice for the recreation ground hedge from CGM may be a duplicate. In the event that it was not a duplicate payment of cheque 101505 was approved.

	Cheq. No	Amnt
British Telecommunications	DD	30.62
e.on-	DD	20.22
CGM – churchyard	101499	2394.00
Fen Ditton Baby & Toddler Group	101503	50.00
Hayden Woodruff – bus shelter cleaning	101504	15.00
CGM – recreation ground hedge	101505	498.00
Balfour Beatty – street light	101506	1415.96
TH Tree Surgery – recreation ground hedge restoration	101507	504.00

Wendy Martin – noticeboard header carving	101508	2260.00
Sarah Smart – January salary	101509	544.27
S. Collett – refreshments for fireworks event and carol singing	101510	55.40

2017/186 To note money received:

None

2017/187 To receive report from County Councillor Bradman

See appendix 1

2017/188 To receive reports from District Councillor Turner

No report received

2017/189 To consider following planning applications and tree works:

S/0046//18/FL	68		Side & rear roof extension and first floor side extension
	Horningsea Road		No recommendation
S/0129/18/LB	23	High Ditch Road	The proposed widening of a gateway with new timber gates, the construction of a new pedestrian entrance gate onto High Ditch Road and the construction of a new summer house to the rear of the property Refused for the following reasons: Reference is made in the Fen Ditton Conservation Area Policy adopted by SCDC in 2005 to the brick wall to the garden of 23 High Ditch Road. The replacing of the open iron works with a solid wooden gate which is increased in size by the widening of the gateway and the addition of a pedestrian gateway would have a significant impact on the Conservation Area and would not be in keeping with the character of the buildings as mentioned in the Conservation Policy. Furthermore the Council object to the recommendation of the Highways authority that the gates should be set back by 5 metres considering that this would have further detrimental impact on the conservation area and against the Policy as stated above and would not be in keeping with the character, and street scene.
S/0128/18/FL	23	High Ditch Road	The proposed widening of a gateway with new timber gates, the construction of a new pedestrian entrance gate onto High Ditch Road and the construction of a new summer house to the rear of the property Refused - see reasons above for application S/0129/LB
S/0071/18/TC	The Ancient Shepherds		Fell 1 eucalyptus to give nearby walnut room to grow Approved.

2017/190 Planning responses:

Approved: none received

2017/191 To consider application for co-option to Council

Item taken after 2017/181. It was agreed that George Devine be co-opted to the Council. Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and witnessed and a register of interest form provided for completion and return to the clerk.

2017/192 To receive and consider the following financial documents:

- i. Quarterly figures to 30th December, 2017
The figures as circulated were considered. It was explained that the £1500 allocated to street furniture rather than s.106 public art was correct and took account of the £1500 grant received from SCDC Community Chest for the noticeboards.
- ii. Bank reconciliation to 30th December, 2017
The bank reconciliation was noted and checked and signed by Cllr Bennée.

2017/193 To consider budget for 2018/19 and to agree the precept

The budget as circulate was considered. Cllr. Bennée agreed to submit a proposal for the March meeting to set aside allocations for the future significant spends of the Council. It was agreed that a precept of £25,000 be requested from SCDC for 2018/19.

2017/194 To consider District Councillor engagement after May elections

In response to the request of SCDC for ways in which District Councillors, with multiple parishes in their wards after the elections, could communicate with the parishes they represent it was agreed that a response be sent to SCDC stating that there is no substitute for face to face discussion and representation at meetings and that district councillors need to regularly attend meetings and not rely on the web site.

2017/195 To receive correspondence:

SCDC – Councillor engagement

Application for glass headstone and kerb surround in cemetery – this application was noted and the decision of the chairman and councillors with responsibility for the cemetery and conservation endorsed that the request does not meet the requirements set out in the cemetery regulations and should not be permitted.

2017/196 To accept notices and matters for the next agenda

Proposal to mitigate order for double yellow lines in High Ditch Road.
Proposal for allocated reserves.

Chairman Date

Appendix 1

Cty Cllr Bradnam's report

Council Tax

For several years the County Council has refused to increase its proportion of council tax, despite objections from opposition parties, which has meant there has been little money for road repairs and has necessitated major revisions in library services and a programme of closure and reduction in children's centres.

At a meeting on 6th February the County Council announced they plan to increase their proportion of council tax by 2.99% on top of the planned 2% increase for adult social care. This has been driven by the need to plug a budget gap of £4.3 million in their spending plans. Over this time the opposition has pointed out that increasing council tax is the only way to protect services for local residents. Meantime the government has massively reduced its funding to councils. The cumulative effect means that the funding crisis is greater than it might have been.

So now the question is what will be done with the 2.99% (7.969 million) extra raised.

Most of it, of course, will be used to shore up that £4.3 million funding gap but different parties are suggesting different ways of using the remainder. The leading party propose putting all of the remainder into a 'smoothing reserve' to help sort out financial problems in three years' time

Waterbeach New Town - Supplementary Planning Document - Joint Parishes Meeting. RLW gave a presentation to Horningsea parish council on 10 January. The meeting planned for 7th February has been cancelled – a new date is to be agreed

Amey's Waste Recovery Facility (incinerator) application

There has been considerable disquiet in Waterbeach in the last month, since Amey submitted this application. Despite bringing their proposals to the Community Liaison Group and to public exhibitions during the summer, residents feel ill-informed and the statutory timeframe allows limited time to consider the numerous documents. Cllr Ingrid Tregoing arranged a public meeting on 29th January and obtained an extension of time from County Planning to give more time for consultation. Residents are urged to look at the application online and submit their comments, so that their views can be taken into account when drawing up the report for planning committee. The application can be found at

<http://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/swift/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display>, planning reference S/3372/17/CW.

The consultation ended on 5th February

Abbey-Chesterton Bridge and the Chisholm Trail

At the Local Liaison Forum the most recent details of the plans were presented by County Officers and the primary contractor, Carillion. The project has been approved so it is to be hoped that a new contractor will be found after the collapse of Carillion. It is proposed building the bridge on the Fen Road side of the river, then lifting it into place. This will require closure of the railway for a time because the two bridge are so close and considerable negotiation with Network Rail. In addition a new boardwalk will be built under the bridges for which the path will be closed for 3 months. County Councillors, myself included, continue to work with officers to seek ways to reduce the 'down-time' at the Fen Road level crossing in Chesterton and to seek an alternative pedestrian route.

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