

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

Present: Cllrs. Bennée; Bush; Collett; Conroy; Devine; Easterfield; Farrar (Chairman); Jones; Suess;

In attendance: Cty.Cllr Bradnam; Dist Cllr. Turner; 16 members of the public; the clerk

2017/197 To receive apologies

None

2017/198 Open Forum for members of the public

Residents expressed concern that Whippet may no longer be providing a bus route along Green End. Cty Cllr Bradnam agreed to investigate.

Residents of High Ditch Road made enquiries of progress with their suggestions for mitigating the proposals, now agreed, for double yellow lines in High Ditch Road.

A resident expressed concern regarding the reduction in child care provision following the decision by Cambs. County Council (CCC) to cut funding

Residents asked questions of Rev. Alun Ford regarding the closing of the Church Community Hall.

2017/199 To approve the Minutes of the Monthly meeting held on 5th February, 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February, 2018 were approved and signed

2017/200 To receive declarations from Councillors as to the disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary in relation to any agenda item

Cllr Easterfield declared a pecuniary interest, as a recipient of funds, listed at agenda item 202 and did not take part in discussion or decision making; Cllr Collett declared a non-pecuniary interest, as a neighbour, in planning application S/0317/18/FL listed at agenda item 206; Cllr Farrar a pecuniary interest, as an owner of a plot, in agenda item 211 and did not take part in discussion or decision making.

2017/201 Clerk's report and matters arising

- i. Cemetery extension
- ii. Noticeboards – the final noticeboard is in place near the recreation ground gate It is to be used by recreation ground users, the parish council and a section left for general use.
- iii. Church Wall survey – the faculty has been granted with conditions to inform the diocese. The structural engineers have been informed
- iv. Telephone box – no further progress
- v. High Ditch Road – dyl mitigation. – councillors have met with CCC officer to discuss the suggestions made by residents of High Ditch Road to mitigate the proposed, now agreed, double yellow lines in High Ditch Road
- vi. May meeting – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – it was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday, 8th May, 2018

2017/202 To approve payments made during the month and accounts for payment:

It was agreed that the following payments be made:

| | Cheq. No | Amnt |
|--|----------|---------|
| British Telecommunications | DD | 29.87 |
| e.on- | DD | 18.20 |
| Hayden Woodruff – bus shelter cleaning | 101511 | 15.00 |
| CGM – churchyard | 101499 | 2394.00 |
| Mark Easterfield – electrical plug repairs | 101512 | 4.50 |
| Arbantia Ltd – installation of noticeboards | 101513 | 420.00 |
| LCPAS - subscription | 101514 | 100.00 |
| Parish Websites Ltd – November 2014 – November 2018 | 101515 | 300.00 |
| Sarah Smart – February salary (£544.27) & expenses (£374.58) | 101516 | 918.85 |
| Sarah Smart - expenses | 101517 | 80.64 |

2017/203 To note money received:

£35 - boules

2017/204 To receive report from County Councillor Bradman

Council Tax - the County Council has voted to increase Council Tax by 2.99% on top of the 2% increase for Adult Social Care raising nearly £8 million. It was agreed that the first £4.3 million should be used to plug the budget gap. It would mean cuts to Libraries and Children's Centres and bus passes for 16-18 year olds.

Amey's application for an Energy from Waste plant (incinerator) – a public meeting attended by representatives from Amey, County Council Planning Minerals and Waste, an independent air quality consultant, the Environment Agency, a representative of Public Health England, and members of the County Planning Committee had been held in Waterbeach on 29th January. Amey Cespa have been asked to undertake a further consultation.

The £1 parking fee at the Park and Ride sites is to be abolished from 1st April.

High Ditch Road – the proposals for the double yellow lines have been passed and will be implemented with the city cycle route.

Cllr Bradnam agreed to report on the consultations for the Greenways.

2017/205 To receive reports from District Councillor Turner

Local Plan – the representations received by SCDC are available on the SCDC website along with the Statement of Conclusion. The representations have been submitted to the Inspector who will decide if further hearings are needed or issues re-visited. The Inspectors will issue their final conclusions in a report which, if consider the local plan to be sound will allow the Council to proceed to adoption subject to making the modifications identified by the Inspectors.

Determination of planning applications – SCDC have taken legal advice to determine if any material consideration can be given to prematurity of the un-adopted local plan. The advice given is that it may be applied but that it will not reasonably apply to all such plans currently before the Council.

Planning Delivery Fund – SCDC have been successful in its bid to the Fund for £130,000.

Community Energy Grant - £55,000 is available for bids from charities, voluntary groups, parish councils and non profit organisations to fund energy efficiency and power reduction initiatives. The maximum grant is £3000.

SCDC corporate plan – the plan has been agreed and is on SCDC website.

2017/206 To consider following planning applications and tree works:

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-------|---|
| S/0530/18/FL | 1 Horningsea Rd | | Change of use of dwelling with bed & breakfast with 2 storey extension to rear of building to create additional bedroom and more living space for owner of single dwelling. Agreed |
| S/0479/18/AD | 1 x internally illuminated fascia | | 699 Newmarket Road. Noted |
| S/0317/18/FL | 2 Bakery Close | | Proposed 2 storey side extension and alterations to existing property. Agreed |
| S/0730/18/TC | 11 Church Street | | Poplar-Re-shape the pollard by lowering the pollard points on 4 or 5 stems by between 2 and 3 metres Agreed. |
| C/5007/16/CC/C6 | Chisholm footbridge | Trail | Comments to queries raised by FDPC Cllr Jones would circulate a response for submission. |
| C/5005/16/CC/C11 | Chisholm footbridge | Trail | Condition 13; 19 and 22 Cllr Jones would circulate a response for submission. |
| S/0791/18/FL | Land between Cody Road and the railway, Waterbeach | | New railway station, car park etc. Cllr Jones would circulate a response for submission. |

2017/207 Planning responses:

Refusal

S/0046/18/FL 68 Horningsea Rd Side and rear roof extension and first floor side extension

Approval

S/0415/18/TC Cemetery Remove hawthorn and elder from railings on north side

2017/208 To review

- i. effectiveness of internal audit

The effectiveness was reviewed and noted.

- ii. risk assessment

The risk assessment was reviewed. It was noted that the management of the cemetery had changed with the retirement of the gravedigger. Councillors with responsibilities for the cemetery, in liaison with the clerk to agree and mark lots for interments. It was further noted that following a review of available grave spaces with the gravedigger that there is grave space provision for three to four years.

- iii. Financial Regulations

The Regulations were reviewed and no changes made

2017/209 To consider proposal to allocate reserves to both maintenance of church wall and pavilion redevelopment

It was agreed that £15,000 be allocated to Pavilion re-development in line with the commitment made to financially support the project(2017/142ii) and that £10,000 be allocated to churchyard wall repairs under the Council's undertaking under LGA 1972s215

2017/210 Report by Rev. Alun Ford on future plans for the Church Community Hall.

See appendix 1

2017/211 To consider proposal for managing requests for surrender of reserved grave plots

It was agreed that:

1. at the discretion of the Parish Council, Grant of Exclusive Right may legitimately be rescinded and a sum returned of the Grantee which is the amount which they had paid in advance minus a 10% administrative fee.
2. where the amount paid is difficult to establish grants made before February 2016 would be assumed to have cost no more than £510 or £750 for non-residents and for grants made after September 2017 this reduces to £200 and £400 for non-residents
3. the Grant of Exclusive Right to Burial document is augmented to address 1 and 2 above.

2017/212 To agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting would be Tuesday, 1st May, 2018

2017/213 To receive correspondence:

None

Chairman Date

Appendix 1

On the 30th of December last year, the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church decided in principle that the Hall for which it is responsible might be sold and the proceeds used to remodel the inside of the church. The purpose of the sale would be better fulfil the charitable purposes of the Hall-which in the words of its governing document are 'meetings and other purposes conducive to the moral physical social intellectual and spiritual interests of the inhabitants of the parish of Fen Ditton in connection with the Church of England'-through a renewed, multi-purpose church building with facilities for community use. This is a big decision in the life of this village and parish, and the PCC hasn't made it lightly. It comes at not inconsiderable cost to some of the members of the church who have worked so very hard to maintain, develop and improve the existing facilities over the last three or so years. I would like to put on record my personal thanks to them and the thanks of the PCC and the Hall Trustees, of which bodies I am chair. I

would also like to acknowledge and thank those members of the village who have, over the years and particularly in the last couple of years, contributed to fundraising and other activities to renovate the hall, or contributed practically to help improve the quality of the existing facilities there. Those who worked to maintain the hall have given generously for the common life of our village in a spirit which gives Fen Ditton so much of its character.

It is regrettable that certain structural issues in the Hall building mean that it is unlikely ever to be able to brought to the standards that modern users rightly expect: it is a single-skin brick structure built without the foundations that a building of this sort would now require, so it will always suffer from the cold and from damp. Be that as it may, the function of the hall is vital to the life of this place: by selling the current Hall

building, we would not be losing the *function* of the Hall, which is so Significant in our common life-rather, we would be relinquishing it in one form to reinvigorate it in another. In the light of this decision, we-that is, we together in Fen Ditton village-have the opportunity to develop a plan for community space across the village which, perhaps, we haven't had before. The Wing development will bring new people to our community

and new community spaces to serve them. With the sale of the Hall, the Pavilion and the Recreation Ground Trust now have-if I may be forgiven for putting it this way- no direct competitor for funding in a crowded funding market. There is no shortage of organisations looking for money. With this advantage, the Pavilion renovation project can reconsider its scope strategically and advantageously. The competing Hall and

Pavilion renovation projects-which were very similar in scope and ambition and (here's the rub, particularly for funders) just a couple of hundred yards apart-now become one project to improve facilities for community recreational use and another for a renewed medieval Grade II* church building suitable for both its core activities and for service of the community, not least by providing a venue for many of the community groups that currently use the Hall. Each project is attractive, sustainable, focussed, and will provide real benefits. Indeed, when both are complete they will provide more space for community use than we have at present. What are the timescales? The PCC and the Hall Trustees are both very keen to co-ordinate the sale of the Hall and the consequent re-ordering of the church with the renovation of the Pavilion. Naturally, we want the village and parish to have as much space available for use as possible at all times-and we'll do our best to achieve this in co-operation with the Recreation Ground Trust and the Parish Council. It will, besides, take the church community 18 months or so to develop suitable plans for redevelopment. There are many stakeholders, statutory and otherwise, in the life of a parish church and we hope to have ample opportunity for village input both through community consultations and advisory membership of the group that will plan the re-ordering. St Mary's is, after all, your parish church-here for the all the people of the parish whether they worship or not, just as it has been for the last 800 years.

The Rev'd Dr Alun Ford

Priest-in-charge

Fen Ditton St Mary the Virgin

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