

Minutes of a Meeting of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held in The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn on Wednesday, 8th September 2010.

Present: Councillor Patten (Chairman) and Councillors Doggett (Except Items 66 to 69), Drage, Hardwick, Lacey, Lockwood, Mair, Newell, Scarr (and District), Stalley, Webdale and Williams (and District), County Councillor Clarke (from Item 63.1 to Item 65) and the Clerk.

59. To accept apologies for absence. Councillors Bullen, Dawson & Ward. Councillor Clarke has Quy and Wilbraham Parish Council Meetings tonight.

60. To notify the clerk of any declarations of interest that will be declared by members for any item to be discussed.

Councillor Scarr, Personal – Item 64; Councillor Newell, Personal – Item 83.

61. Alex Andrews - Proposed Redevelopment of Scouts, Guides and Institute Site for New Combined Facility.

Alex Andrews explained youth activities used to take place on the old school building in School Lane. Since The Centre has been built, they have been renting the old Football/Institute building for a peppercorn rent. The building itself is not in a good condition and was only ever intended as a temporary measure. When the Guides folded it seemed time to try to get a new building so Alex had preliminary talks with all interested parties including the Scouts. FA4Y (Fulbourn Action for Youth) is now a registered charity which is beneficial when applying for grants which are available for such projects. Unfortunately without any land, they have been unable to proceed. If the Parish Council had ownership of the land, not only would this be constant, it would also be easier to develop for multi purpose youth facilities.

Coun Webdale advised that the Whitehouse family had originally given the land to the Guides and believed that should it no longer be used for Guiding, a clause in the lease stated it should be given back to the village. Alex had seen a copy of the lease and had contacted SCDC Planners to see what if it could be developed and what it could be used for. They will come back to the Parish Council regarding this as well as advice on Rights of Way and Change of Use. Alex continued a Needs Analysis of the groups had been done and all need outside space too to make the whole area more versatile.

It was suggested draft plans should be done, but Mrs Andrews said until land had been secured, this could prove expensive. She said a range of youth facilities was needed to serve the whole village. Council agreed that setting up a small Working Party including representatives from the PC, FA4Y, Scouts and Guides was the way forward. Discussions about widening the entrance to the recreation ground had met with approval from both the Scouts and Highways so Council agreed to continue with this. Enquiries as to moving the telephone pole will be made.

Fulbourn Parish Council discussed a Multi-Facility building without coming to a conclusion.

62. To approve the minutes of the last meeting.

The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

63. Matters arising from the last meeting.

63.1 High Street Parking. Having received further complaints about parking in The High Street, Coun Clarke visited the owner of the Car Lot who advised he could not park cars on the highway then advertise them for sale although he had parked cars there in the past but moved them as soon as he could. Following discussion, including inconsiderate parking and the bays outside the Six Bells that block the buses, it was agreed to invite all traders to a meeting to try and resolve this problem before resorting to costly legal procedures.

63.2 Christmas Tree. Coun Mair obtained a quote for an outdoor electric supply for £5,000. Following discussion, it was agreed to have a tree opposite the Post Office with electricity courtesy of David Wright, and see how this works for the future.

63.3 Ride-on-Mower. As this is no longer used, Coun Scarr proposed to sell it and purchase a hand mower instead. Seconded by Coun Doggett and agreed by Council.

64. Post Office Update.

Coun Williams advised he and Coun Patten had spoken to Post Office Limited and Royal Mail who were both keen to stay in the village. Discussions are continuing with Co-operative Food Stores to house Post Office facilities on their premises. Council agreed to write to the Co-operative Area Committee for Cambridge and East Anglia to seek their support.

Items 65 and 76.1 were taken at this point.

Coun Clarke issued the attached report. As there is a Steering Group Meeting on 9th September 2010, Coun Clarke will give an update on the Home Close Day Care Centre next month.

65. Home Close Day Centre Update.

See above.

66. Website Update and Minutes of Communications Committee held on 23rd July 2010.

A draft of the website had only been received yesterday, so Coun Drage suggested until the Communications Committee had had a chance to consider it, this items is deferred to the next meeting.

67. Healthcare Homes Ltd – Thanked for their tree and hedge work maintenance.

The Parish Council has written thanking them for doing such a good job. It is the best the rear entrance in Pierce Lane has looked for years.

68. Windmill Estate Update.

A letter from the Residents Panel had been received asking for support as some owners were holding up the development of the estate. Members were advised that two of the properties were owned by absentee landlords. It was felt when the original contract was drawn up something should have been included to cover this. Council are aware of people on housing lists and the need for affordable housing. It was agreed to write to SCDC to take action after a report is received from Stephen Hills, Corporate Manager of Affordable Homes at SCDC at the next Steering Group Meeting.

69. Condition of Windmill Lane.

Members agreed attention was urgently needed as the road has been deteriorating for a long time. Construction traffic has not helped either so they will be asked to make a contribution to have this resurfaced as the estate will not be completed for some time.

70. Fire at Fleam Dyke.

Steps erected earlier in the year had been set alight and on another occasion railings ripped off. Although now repaired, many Members felt these were a blot on the landscape.

71. The Swift's – Heat Pump Replacement; Information Item.

The Council have been advised by Mitsubishi Electric that they are voluntarily recalling the above and will be installing a replacement as soon as possible.

72. Laptop and Projector for Resolution.

Consideration should be given to this if SCDC follow the City Council with planning documents in the future only being available via the internet. Coun Webdale will make enquires as we need the correct equipment. Coun Doggett proposed we proceed and purchase a laptop and projector, seconded by Coun Drage and agreed by the Council.

73. Installing Salt Bins for Resolution.

The County Council have advised it is not permitted to install bins in The High Street and Members considered the legal implications.

74. Council Committees.

An up to date list of Members on Sub-Committees was issued. It was agreed to also circulate email addresses to all Members.

75. Correspondence. The following items had been received: -

- 75.1 **Fulbourn Forum** – Wish to arrange a Litter Pick for Sunday, 17th October 2010. They have also arranged a visit to Donarbon in November. Spaces permitted, COUN PATTEN and DOGGETT will attend.
- 75.2. **Royal British Legion** – Thank you for maintenance work recently carried out on the War Memorial at the cemetery. COUN DOGGETT suggested meeting with John Stalley and the Clerk to possibly plant a box hedge to enhance the memorial.
- 75.3. **CCC** – Need to make significant budget savings over the next three years and will save more than a quarter of the Library budget by reducing this by £2 million. Details of proposed Mobile Library services also received; comments to be received by 13th September 2010.
- 75.4. **Claire Dillon, Cambs Police** – Information regarding review of libraries in Cambridgeshire in recognition of their importance in the community.
- 75.5. **CCC** – Review covering winter gritting arrangements including routes and provision of bins.
- 75.6. **CPRE** (Campaign to Protect Rural England) – Fieldwork, August 2010 magazine and Countryside Voice Summer 2010.
- 75.7. **CCC** – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals Waste Plan, submission of Development Plan Documents (DPD'S) to the Secretary of State for examination.
- 75.8. **K McLean** – Concerns over hedges along Sanders Lane. Work now completed.
- 75.9. **CCC** – Newsletter concerning Protected Road Verges (PRV'S).
- 75.10. **Cambridgeshire Acre** – AGM, 28th September 2010 in St Ives.
- 75.11. **War Memorials** – August 2010 magazine.
- 75.12. **A Tanser** – Artwork for Fulbourn Life Wall for comment.
- 75.13. **SCDC** – Next Liaison Meeting on 18th October 2010 at 7.30pm. COUN WILLIAMS to attend.
- 75.14. **CCC** – Would welcome improvements to the Recreation Ground entrance should the Parish Council wish to proceed.
- 75.15. **CPALC** (Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils) – Consultation document on Local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases and their suggested response.
- 75.16. **Cambridge City Council** – Allotment Policy Consultation.
- 75.17 **U Lyons** – Suggest a presentation or party for Richard and Jean Butcher who retire from the Post Office. Councillors as individuals would be happy to donate to a collection and will write suggesting Mrs Lyons begins one for the village to make donations.
- 75.18 **Cambridge City Council** – Advising in future they will no longer send planning documents to consultees but will be available via the internet.
- 75.19 **CCC** – Training Course on designing and producing leaflets and maps, £35 fee at Huntingdon on 22nd September 2010.
- 75.20 **Clerks & Councils Direct** – September 2010 magazine.
- 75.21 **SCDC** – Consultation on Options for Foodstore Provision in North West Cambridge until 18th October 2010.
- 75.22 **S Wombwell** – High Street parking concerns. This item has been discussed.
- 75.23 **Cambridgeshire Constabulary** – Sgt Rebecca Williams has left the force and her replacement will be appointed in November.

76. To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

76.2 Councillor Scarr issued the attached report. COUN SCARR also issued notes from the Beechwoods Estate walk. Action from this will be taken by the Clerk. The ditch along Stonebridge Lane also needs attention and our Open Space Contractor will be contacted.

76.3 Councillor Williams issued the attached report.

77. Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP) for consideration.

Fulbourn Forum had requested the Council considers signing up to participate in this scheme. Our District Councillors were not sure if the scheme still existed, the Clerk will enquire, and if it is still running, Council agreed to participate.

78. To resolve the accounts for the month.

Wages: Clerk + expenses.....1,563.72	Wages: Pavilion Cleaner.....217.60R
NRF Contracting: Open Spaces.....1,715.50R	JF Stalley: Contract work.....1,736.00R
B's Travel: July Shopper Bus.....275.00R	Opal: July phone calls.....22.87R
Falcon Print: Village Pump.....118.00R	J Furner: Groundworks.....1,392.38R
ESPO: Supplies.....23.74R	Redact Ltd: Website fees.....200.00R
Collier: Marking chalk.....117.97RC	Dents: Lock repair.....61.10R
Moor Stephens: Audit fees.....1,042.23	B's Travel: Shopper Bus.....220.00R
Suffolk Acre: Insurance.....2,240.08	Townley Hall: Cleaning.....150.00
FA4Y: Youth Worker funding.....3,000.00	FA4Y: Building maintenance.....2,000.00
Petty Cash: Stamps & Admin.....76.13R	Good Technology: Supplies.....317.26RC
Ernest Doe: Supplies.....90.04	Opal: August Phone calls.....29.14
J Furner: Ground maintenance.....795.47	

Coun Doggett proposed the accounts are passed, seconded by Coun Webdale. Agreed by the Council.

79. Annual Accounts 2009/10 – Completed and signed off by External Auditors.

Coun Stalley proposed accepting the External Auditors report, seconded by Coun Hardwick and agreed by the Council.

80. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 3rd August 2010.

An amendment of website costs was made to the attached report which was then accepted.

81. Recreation Ground Update.

Minutes of a Meeting held on 4th August 2010 were issued. The hard court tennis court lines were painted today. One quote for a Mobile Warden Patrol had been received. Advice had been received that the Council could protect access to the MUGA provided warnings were displayed. This will be investigated further. It was agreed to re-type the Bye-Laws for the notice board as those on display have faded.

Reports Accepted.

82. Report of a Patient Participation Group Meeting held on 1st September 2010.

Coun Drage issued a report of a Meeting held on 01/09/10 advising after updates, the old appointment system had been restored; new entrance doors and cycle racks to be installed shortly and artwork improved.

83. To consider planning applications.

Minutes of Meetings held on 11th August 2010 and 1st September 2010. These were accepted. Amended application received for S/1132/10 – Land west of 8 Lucerne Close. Council reiterated its previous comments that they considered it to be an over development of the site, detracting the openness of the location as the area to be developed sides the footpath and hugs a substantial bend in the road. Highways should be consulted and a copy of their report made available to the Parish Council. New application: S/1185/10 – 23 Geoffrey Bishop Avenue for an extension. Recommend approve. Tree works: Field House, Pierce Lane – Numerous trees to crown lift or remove. No objection.

84. Donation Request to support “Bobby Scheme” for Resolution.

This was deferred to the Finance Committee.

85. To receive items for inclusion on the next Agenda for decision and/or action.

Fulbourn Charity Changes and Remembrance Wreath.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

FULBOURN DIVISION COMMUNITY NEWS July 2010

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Cambridge
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Parish Council report from County Councillor Nick Clarke

Fulbourn Old Drift: As a result of some significant lobbying of the Director for Highways Fulbourn Old Drift has been resurfaced much earlier than expected.

Fulbourn Day Care Center: A meeting was held between the county, district, parish and community to discuss how day care provision may continue in Fulbourn. A visit to see how this is provided at Over took place on the 6th August.

I attended a meeting with county officers to investigate the financial viability of the community managing a day care center. All the current users of the day care center have now been found alternative centers to attend. This means that the funding relating to these users will in effect move with them to the other centers. The steering group is looking into what services can be provided within the village and are meeting tomorrow to discuss. It is most unlikely that a like for like service will be provided. See update report.

Parking – High Street: I was asked to look into the issue of vehicles, belonging to businesses, parking in the high street. Concerns were expressed that some vehicles were being parked for long periods of time preventing casual visitors parking which has a negative affect on trade in the high street. This issue has been raised a number of times at parish council and remains a difficult problem to solve to please everyone. I have spoken with a number of individuals including some of the businesses involved and recognise that the fundamental problem is that the high street is not very long with lots of vehicles trying to park and operate from it. I would like to suggest that a meeting is held with all interested parties present to explore, with a bit of give and take on all sides, how we can reduce the obvious frustrations felt.

School expansions approved: Plans have been approved to increase the size of six primary schools in Cambridgeshire to cater for an expected rise in pupil numbers. Cabinet has agreed the proposed expansions of the six schools, providing an additional 170 places across the county.

- * Abbey Meadows Primary School, Cambridge – an extra 30 Reception places from September 2010
- * Colville Primary School, Cambridge – an extra 30 Reception places from September 2010
- * Spring Meadow Primary School, Ely – an extra 30 reception places from September 2010
- * The Weatheralls Primary School, Soham – an extra 30 Reception places from September 2010
- * St John's C of E Primary School, Huntingdon – an extra 30 reception places from September 2010
- * Pendragon Primary School, Papworth Everard – an extra 20 reception places from September 2011

There is also a proposal for a new primary school in the south of the city. I am concerned that this additional capacity inside the city will have a negative impact on the schools close to the city. I have spoken with the cabinet member David Harty and made the case for some flexibility on how the number of classes are calculated.

Neil Scarr - District Councillor's Report for Fulbourn Parish Council

August is usually a quiet month so far as South Cambridgeshire DC is concerned: this is probably historical, dating back to the days when many if not most members of Rural District Councils (like Chesterton RDC and South Cambs RDC) were farmers, and needed to keep the harvest period relatively clear of other commitments. Drainage Boards follow the same pattern of meetings for the same reason.

However, outside of meetings it has been unusually busy. A number of issues have kept me in almost daily contact with the council offices – usually by email. Email is proving a boon, as most people expect only to be able contact their local councillor at the end of the working day, when of course the council offices are closed. Thanks to email, we can now write to the relevant officers in the evening or over the weekend, for them to respond when the offices are next open. It certainly beats endless notes on “post-its” stuck to the phone until

Monday morning, which is what we did prior to emails! And yes, no-one has to wait to raise matters with us. Even the vast majority who hesitate to phone their councillor on a Sunday or late evening can send us an email whenever something occurs to them to raise with us – no more waiting until it seems polite to phone.

Most of the matters raised have concerned one person or family, or have been of a confidential nature, so it is inappropriate to comment on them here.

I have become concerned at the state of the ditch alongside Stonebridge Lane, and have enquired of Pat Matthews (Drainage Manager at SCDC) whether or not it is an awarded watercourse, and if it is an award drain, how soon can it be pulled out?

The District Council Cabinet will soon be discussing compulsory Value for Money gains from the government. This is an ongoing process from 2007 (under the previous government, with a cumulative total of £1,600,000 of savings in the current year, with a target of £628,000 of new savings for the next financial year.

Major savings suggested for SCDC are:

£399,000 bringing IT support services back in-house;
£ 61,995 on the cost of temporary staff (use of a bank of staff or short contracts rather than agency staff)
£44,000 on the cost of rewiring in homes (renegotiated contract)
£140,000 by increased productivity in housing repairs;
£617,000 by restructuring in Sheltered Housing;

It is easy to claim that every cost reduction is good, because it results from a more efficient use of resources, and equally easy to claim that every efficiency saving is a “cut”. I have to say that I suspect that some of these savings do (or could) represent cuts as well as efficiency, and I shall be keeping an eye open for their effects in Fulbourn, especially as they affect the most vulnerable, such as those who look to the council for housing, and especially within the sheltered housing service.

My report to the September 2010 meeting of Fulbourn Parish Council

1. Since the July parish council meeting I attended the full meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Council on 22 July 2010 and the following matters of interest to Fulbourn arose, two of which came from questions to the administration.
2. The New Communities Portfolio Holder confirmed that with the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy by the Government there were no longer any regional targets for gypsy and traveller sites and that in future it would be up to SCDC to make its own decisions regarding this. SCDC was therefore now waiting to new guidance and regulations from the Government to ensure that whatever it did next would be sound in law.
3. The new Government is to abolish the East of England Development Agency and replace it with Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Government wants LEPs to set the right conditions for growth and business and to tackle such issues as housing, planning, transport and employment on a more local basis. SCDC aims to work with the city council, the county council and the business and academic communities to submit a proposal for an LEP by the deadline of 6 September 2010.
4. The response to the Government's consultation on a proposal to give councils back the right to keep all money from council house rents and right-to buy purchases in return for a one off payment to offset its £29 billion housing debt has turned into a complete fiasco.

As I have mentioned before, SCDC has to give the government over £10 million a year from its council house rents, mainly to subsidise public housing elsewhere. Being able to keep that money for repairs and new build would have a significant impact on the council housing stock. However, in return the government wants a one off payment from SCDC of about £190 million. The council doesn't have that sort of money and would have to borrow it. I think everyone agrees that the formula for deciding upon the one off payment is unjust on SCDC and there needs to be some hard bargaining done. Also the interest will need to be fixed for the duration of the loan.

But I consider having control over our own housing finances outweighs the cost of a loan. Generally speaking, based on a 7% rate of interest keeping the rent money will off-set the loan repayments in the first ten years of a 30 year loan, after which the council will be better off as the income from rents and right-to-buy will exceed the loan repayments - giving the council much needed money for repairs and new homes for rent.

The Housing Portfolio Holder decided to make a personal response to the consultation on the pretext that the council could not meet until after the consultation date which was set for 6 June 2010. The letter said it supported in principle the proposal, but opposed the level of debt asked of SCDC. But when he put his response to the full council meeting on 22 July he said was opposed to what he had written and following a vote the response to the consultation was rejected. The council is now having to tell the government that it doesn't support the letter sent to it by its Housing Portfolio Holder.

5. And finally SCDC has a new Chief Executive - Jean Hunter - formerly the CX of South Ribble Borough Council, Lancashire. Jean has worked in the private sector including running her own companies as well as in local government.

Cllr John Williams
31 August 2010

Report of the **Finance Committee** of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held on Tuesday, 3rd August 2010 at The Swift's, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn.

Present: Councillors S Hardwick (Chairman) and Councillors Doggett, Patten, Webdale and the R.F.O. Mr R Ward.

The meeting elected Councillor S D Hardwick as their Chairman.

Apologies for Absence. Harvest time: Councillors Bullen and Stalley.

Matters arising from the last meeting in May 2010.

The Annual Accounts 2009/10 had been accepted although questions were still arising from the External Auditor.

There had been no more information regarding the Schools Cluster.

First Quarterly Report 2010/11.

The R.F.O. presented the first quarterly financial report for year 2010/11. He reported that there had been little expenditure during the first quarter and that all cost centres were well below budget. The first half of the precept had been received. The only capital expenditure had been for the new computer. No S106 monies had been spent.

The R.F.O. was thanked for his report.

Communications Committee Report.

A report from the Communications Committee was received and considered. They had agreed that the best option was the Content Managed System and the most suitable. The total year's cost for the system was estimated to be £950.00 plus £100.00 annual maintenance and this the Committee recommends that the Council accepts.

There were questions regarding the timing of providing copies for the new website, and it seemed that thought needed to be given to this.

Investment Report.

The investment report indicated that: -

- £100K invested at 1.2% maturing 12 November 2010
- £100K invested at 1.2% maturing 25th February 2011

The Committee agreed to invest a further £50,000 with the Cambridge Building Society – Option Four at 2.05% per annum – unless the Clerk knew of a better offer from Barclays Bank.

Government's Emergency Budget.

The Committee discussed the possible effect of the Government's Emergency Budget.

The increase on 11 January in V.A.T. would have no effect as we can, as a Council reclaim. It was thought that we could be affected by cut backs in local government services. The council precept cannot be increased.

Day Care Centre Update.

Councillor Patten reported on the Day Centre position, and it seemed that progress was being made. At present there was no indication that the Council would be affected financially.

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Other Items discussed.

The closure of the Post Office on 29th October 2010 would have no affect on Parish Council operations.

The Committee were agreed that there should be staff pay rises, but were unable to make recommendations due to lack of information.

The possible sale of the cemetery ride on mower was discussed, but the opinion of absent members was required. Councillor Webdale offered to make enquiries.

There was a brief discussion on improvements to the Recreation Ground entrance, and enquiries are being made.

A communication had been received from Nick Toovey who was pleased to see that the Council were exploring the idea of widening the access road, and he knew of a surveyor who would help at little or no cost.

There was discussion on various items regarding a project to provide new premises for young people. In all areas of this item, there appeared to be a general lack of information and understanding.

The next Finance Committee meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 19th October 2010.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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