

Minutes of a Meeting of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held in The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn on Wednesday, 12th January 2011.

Present: Councillor Patten (Chairman) and Councillors Bullen (from Item 148), Dawson, Doggett (left during Item 148), Hardwick, Lacey, Lockwood, Mair, Newell, Scarr (and District), Stalley, Ward, Webdale and Williams (and District), County Councillor Clarke and the Clerk.

Public & Press - You are invited to attend the whole meeting and are welcome to speak at our Open Forum at the beginning of the meeting. No one present.

144. To accept apologies for absence. Councillors Drage and Newell.

145. PCSO Coppard – Presentation on Marshall’s Airport.

PCSO John Coppard issued notices for our boards encouraging the public to report any suspicious activity to ensure that in these times the increased threat to airport security is tightened. It is possible during 2012 more equipment for the Olympics will be flown into the airport. Small commercial flights are also being planned. He then advised that 35 incidents had been reported in Fulbourn this month, 14 from the hospital alone; 6 in the city though they come under the village; these include, shop lifting; domestics and abandoned vehicles. The Police have been giving talks about the Digital Switchover to Sheltered Housing, and PCSO Coppard offered to write an article for our next edition of The Pump.

146. Catherine Shilton, Cambridgeshire Acre – Affordable Rural Housing.

Ms Shilton works for Cambs Acre, a Charity that supports communities in Cambridgeshire. Catherine acts as a go between with County, District and Parish Councils together with Housing Associations assisting communities with setting up affordable housing schemes. Surveys are done where there is a need and Catherine issued an example of one recently done in Isleham. They found more surveys were completed if supported with a covering letter from the Parish Council. There is a lack of affordable housing mainly due to high mortgages and house prices. The Affordable Rural Housing Scheme allows people to live in the village they were born or if proven to have a local connection, family or work. Ms Shilton would like to do a survey in Fulbourn.

Cllr Doggett asked who collated the responses and where would land be found to build.

Catherine confirmed she herself collates the answers and that they remain confidential and anonymous. When the need is known, they work out how much land is needed based on how many homes per hectare can be built. She confirmed the government does have the authority to build in the Green Belt although was not aware of this happening in Cambridgeshire. When asked about finance, Catherine advised Cambs Acre fund this through grants and they would then send out all the surveys. She would then work with the Parish Council.

Cllr Hardwick proposed, seconded by Cllr Scarr that Fulbourn has this survey done. Agreed by the Council. The Chairman thanked Catherine for her presentation and she left the meeting.

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

Cllr Stalley – Personal Item 158; Cllr Ward – Personal Item 159.

148. Windmill Estate – Redevelopment proposals for Resolution.

Cllr Hardwick began that the Parish Council would have to make the hardest decision it has ever had to make. He had been contacted by a resident, who although had lived in his property since it was built 45 years ago, was willing to move provided a suitable alternative could be found. To continue with redevelopment, it was always clear that Accent Nene would need to sell some properties in order to finance more building.

Cllr Scarr recapped for new Members, that 7 years ago SCDC Housing Committee went round the estate and not only were pitched roofs on their wish list, which was possible, but other needs were

asked to be considered especially families living in 2 bedroom properties on first floor flats found it difficult; damp was causing major problems affecting health and other maintenance issues. As things grew the Developers then wanted to redevelop the whole estate. When asked about Compulsory Purchase the District Council took the decision at the beginning of the development. Cllr Scarr continued that he had a problem with Compulsory Purchase and felt that the Parish Council had been backed into a corner by SCDC. *At this point Cllr Bullen arrived.*

Cllr Patten said we were in this position and we have to make a decision. She felt for the village and wished to see the estate finished. If nothing is done, people would lose out on new housing.

Cllr Doggett advised she would not be voting for Compulsory Purchase and was concerned that this Council would set a precedent and open the floodgates for other the villages in S Cambs.

Cllr Patten felt some agreement should have been drawn up in the contract by SCDC in the first place.

Cllr Doggett said SCDC had always maintained they would not go for Compulsory Purchase and the Developers had informed us that they could work round any property if someone did not wish to move. Cllr Williams said at a Steering Group meeting they were informed the current Planning Permission would expire before Phase 2B was completed and Accent Nene need assurances that this will go ahead. We were wrongly told that a property could be built round if anyone stayed, so the whole block of houses would have to remain. If the block stayed, SCDC do not have any money to meet the current housing standards to put them right so they would be boarded up. It could mean that up to 70 families would not have homes and Accent Nene might not wish to continue with the Phase 2B if that block is left in the middle of it. He had hoped to get everyone around the table and accommodate everyone including the resident who wanted to stay in their property.

Cllr Doggett advised SCDC had £7 million in reserves. A Compulsory Purchase Order would take 18 months at a cost of £1 million pounds.

Cllr Patten said residents were concerned about Anti Social Behaviour if the block was left.

Cllr Webdale said when the estate was first built it was only intended to be temporary.

Cllr Bullen was aware that all the residents had been offered various deals. *At this point Cllr Doggett left the meeting.*

Cllr Lockwood told Members that if residents moved no mortgage was required to buy the rest of the property, extra costs only come in when the property is passed over or if the person died. Owners had been offered compensation of 10% of the value of the property and all residents had received financial assistance towards moving fees. People were moving to nicer properties that were cheaper to run financially.

Cllr Scarr confirmed he had been asked to speak at the SCDC Full Council meeting on 27th January 2011 adding that SCDC had learnt a hard lesson and future developments should include a clause to prevent this happening again. He felt it necessary for the development to get moving but did not wish to go for Compulsory Purchase as he felt it would not look good on the Parish Council if our promise is revoked nor if an eyesore was left.

Cllr Hardwick proposed “We recognise that leaving the existing housing on the Windmill Estate will be unacceptable in the development of this village. With regret, this Parish Council will support SCDC in any decision to use Compulsory Purchase as a last resort”. Proposal seconded by Cllr Webdale.

Members voted. 10 were in favour in the motion. Cllrs Lacey and Scarr abstained.

For the record this Item took one hour to debate.

149. Post Office Update.

The Council still awaits a response to our letter from The Cooperative Group Regional Secretary. Cllr Williams then rang him to be advised our proposition was being taken seriously but it all takes time. It was now on the February agenda for the Co-operative Food Group for further discussion. Members agreed for Cllr Williams to contact Post Office Limited asking for interim measures be put in place as it has now been 6 months since the Post Office closed.

150. Fulbourn Day Centre Update.

At present there are 12 attendees on Monday and 11 on Tuesday. Crossroads Care has increased its staff to 4, so the Day Centre too will be able to increase numbers. The Day Centre has received a proposal from Crossroads Care to take over running the centre. There are concerns that they would be unlikely to run the Day Centre in the interest of the local community, so a meeting with CCC has been arranged to seek advice as the Trustees do not have the resources to manage it themselves. The Parish Council will offer to have a meeting with the Trustees if needed.

Volunteer minibuss drivers are also required and the Council agreed to advertise this in The Pump.

151. Replace Recreation Ground CCTV for Resolution.

The present CCTV system often crashes. It is shared with the MUGA and is in need of updating. It was agreed to obtain quotations for the next Finance Committee to consider.

152. The Village Pump.

This will be issued at the beginning of February to include a report following the Full Council meeting at Cambourne regarding the Windmill Estate. *PCSO Coppard left at this point.*

153. SPEP (Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership) Report.

Cllr Dawson reported that through the Fulbourn Forum a one-to-one meeting with Alexandra Day took place. The Forum are now in possession of energy monitors and on 3rd March 2011 will be holding a session aimed mainly at energy conservation. The next SPEP meeting will be in Girton on 13th January 2011 although Cllr Dawson will not be able to attend due to another commitment. He confirmed Alexandra Day is leaving and is due to be replaced shortly.

154. To approve the minutes of the last meeting.

The Minutes were accepted and signed by the Chairman.

155. Matters arising from the last meeting.

155.1 High Street Parking. A meeting took place with David Lines from CCC, Highways to try and address the problem. Following the suggestion to switch the parking bays outside the public house and the bus stop, Mr Lines provided an estimate that works for lining and advertising would be £600 – 700. Council agreed traders should be consulted along with the bus company to see if this would be viable.

155.2 Haggis Gap. The trees and hedge work along The Swift's was completed on 6th January 2011.

156. Correspondence. The following items had been received this month: -

156.1 **Cambridgeshire Acre** – Community Action Winter 2010 magazine and Membership renewal of £25. Cllr Scarr proposed, seconded by Cllr Ward that Council renews its membership. Agreed.

156.2 **Accent Nene** – Copy of letter to residents regarding Phase 2A of the Windmill Estate with a drop in arranged for 10th February to meet Carter Homes who will be building 59 homes.

156.3 **Cambridgeshire Community Services** – Consultation on becoming an NHS Foundation Trust.

156.4 **CCC** – South Cambridgeshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee Meeting 17/1/11.

156.5 **SCDC** – Parish Forum, next meeting is Wednesday, 19th January from 5.30-8.00pm.

156.6 **CCC** – Cambridgeshire Older People's Newsletter, January 2011.

156.7 **Royal British Legion** – Information on Poppy Parties planned for June 2011. Members agreed our local branch should be contacted to ascertain if they would be taking part.

156.8 **Fulbourn Forum** – Suggest Litter Pick for Sunday, 20th March 2011; They have 3 residents offering their gardens through the new Garden Share Scheme, and seek permission to approach people on the allotment list to see if any of them would be interested in this. Members agreed the date for the Litter Pick and supported the request to contact allotment holders regarding the Garden Share Scheme.

156.9 **Assured Highway Solutions** – Providers of Traffic Management Services that include road closures; temporary traffic lights; barriers; pedestrian management and road signs.

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157. To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

157.1 Councillor Clarke has been working on the budget and that job losses had just been announced in the media; Cllr Clarke said safe guarding children in schools was a serious issue that had gone to Cabinet who agreed all people employed in schools should have a CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check; There had been a lot of reports and protests about children with special needs going back into mainstream schools. This has come from Head Teachers and not the CCC, as pupils seem to get better results in mainstream education. Cllr Clarke will be attending a meeting with 4 Governors from the Primary Schools he covers to see how village schools would be affected should ones in the city be extended.

157.2 Councillor Scarr had not attended any meetings relevant to Fulbourn over the festive period.

157.3 Councillor Williams issued the attached written report. Cllr Williams will also be attending a Corporate Government meeting to see how we audit any changes as a result of the Localism Bill.

158. To resolve the accounts for the month.

Shelford Heating: Repairs.....189.07R	Metrosigns: Notice board.....740.25
Barclays Bank: Fees.....68.84R	B's Travel: Shopper & PO run.....550.00
Ridgeons: Various supplies.....202.28RC	ESPO: Litter bin & supplies.....141.58R
Petty Cash: Stamps & Admin.....7.79R	Cambridge Flooring: Foyer.....1,140.33RC
Opal: December Calls.....25.85	Swift's: Cleaners Wages.....286.20
Townley Hall: Cleaning.....150.00	Townley Hall: Allotment Water.....30.00
Redact Solutions: Website.....768.95	Camb City Council: Grass cutting.....8,048.75
Konica: Photocopier.....101.98	J Stalley: Cemetery & Gate opening....1,862.00
Wages: Clerk + Expenses.....804.70	Wages: Pavilion Cleaner.....37.55

Cllr Hardwick proposed, seconded by Cllr Lockwood that the accounts are passed.

159. Recreation Ground – Report of site visit with SCDC Tree Officer.

Cllr Ward issued the attached report that Cllr Scarr proposed is adopted by Council. Agreed.

160. To consider planning applications.

Minutes of a meeting held on 5th January 2011 were issued.

Planning permissions received for: -

S/1786/10, 1 Station Road – Erection of Garage/Store and Entrance Gate following Demolition of existing Garage and Store Buildings;

S/1787/10, Home Close Care Home, Cow Lane – Entrance Extension, Link Extension, Conversion of Daycare Centre to Four Care Home Bedrooms and Ancillary Services.

Appeal: S/1163/10/F – 21 Teasel Way for an Extension. Appeal dismissed. Report Accepted.

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

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Attached reports: -

(157.3) My report to the January 2011 meeting of Fulbourn Parish Council

1. South Cambridgeshire District Council has been wrong footed by the government taking into account the money raised by parish councils when settling the amount of money it will give the district council for the next two financial years. As a result it is proposed the district council will receive a

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formula grant £1.7 million less than it had expected to, with the result that further serious cuts in services will have to be found. The inclusion of parish council tax comes about because its argued that urban authorities such as Cambridge City do not have parish councils and therefore the taxes the parish councils raise for services should be taken into account in the rural councils' settlements to produce a level playing field. As a result, the reduction in the proposed government grant to South Cambridgeshire is around 30% in real terms over the period from April this year to March 2013. Given that the district is already a low spending authority there just isn't the wriggle room to avoid cuts in front line services.

2. Following discussions with officers and councillors, I shall be putting forward a motion to the full meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Council asking councillors to agree that in an exceptional circumstance compulsory purchase powers can be used, in order to support current and future residents in ensuring the successful completion of this major housing provision. Previously, the council had ruled out the use of compulsory purchase orders believing the estate could be redeveloped without resort to such powers. But this has proved impossible to accomplish. Failure to obtain the freehold of all existing properties will lead to the redevelopment being unfinished and over 70 families not having new homes and the new estate being blighted by derelict houses, because they are unrepairable and unmortgagable. We have many families not just in Fulbourn but across the district wanting decent affordable homes. The use of compulsory purchase orders as a last resort must be faced now and those residents whose support has made the redevelopment a success should be backed by the council.

3. The Chief Financial Officer of SCDC has calculated the tax base for the Fulbourn parish precept for 2011/12 at 1,978.4 band D equivalent properties.

John Williams
5 January 2011

(159) RECREATION GROUND WORKING PARTY

Report of visit by SCDC tree officer on Tuesday 7th December

We walked the entire Recreation Ground inspecting all the trees.

The two trees in the centre of the ground, one ash and one chestnut are of some concern. The chestnut has bleeding canker and the ash did not come into leaf properly. It was agreed that both should be monitored.

The lime tree on the corner of the Balsham Rd. Footpath needs monitoring and a large dead piece needs removing from it.

An ash tree which borders the garden of Jeeves Acre is starting to cause problems and the tree officer suggested removing it and replacing with a Holm Oak on the border of the last property in Impetts Lane. The owners need to be consulted (tree to come from Parish Planting Scheme).

Trees near the Fulbourn Centre which are damaged to be monitored as they have been planted quite close to each other.

Gill Ward Recreation Ground Working Party