

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL** HELD
IN THE SCHOOL ROOM, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
20TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr L Wragg, (Chairman), Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr J Houghton, Cllr C Howe, Cllr D Roberts, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr M Vinton, Cllr S Wells and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr and Mrs Allen, Mrs Tokley, Mrs Woods, Mrs Willis

		Actions
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Crowther arrived late for the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS: No items were declared</p>	
3.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 15TH SEPTEMBER 2015: The minutes were to be agreed and signed as a true record following the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>MATTERS ARISING: The Butts Fire Engine shed is now being used by the playgroup and they are very grateful to the PC.</p>	
5.	<p>COUNTY COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Cllr Topping attended the meeting and gave the following report:</p> <p>"County council finances <i>The County's financial position continues to be worrying, and some pretty unpalatable options are being considered, including reducing highways maintenance, switching off streetlights after midnight, reducing community grants, putting up car park charges, reducing library services.</i> <i>The county has appointed a new Chief Exec, job-sharing with Peterborough City, and she may be able to move this difficult issue forward. There will be more information over the autumn as the County sets its budgets. The possibility of local authorities keeping business rates – as trailed in the Chancellor's speech – should be good for areas with a growing economy, such as Cambridgeshire. The devil is always in the detail. It is likely that over the next few years the blue-light services will increasingly work together – whether the fire and police amalgamate officially.</i> <i>I attended the County Council Audit Committee as its vice chair: the county's accounts may be qualified because of the way it records capital work in progress. It isn't good news, but neither is it a fraud or a losing money problem.</i></p> <p>More locally....</p> <p>On issues outstanding <i>I have raised but not had any agreement from highways re the Butts Lane sinking surface, in that it is on their list of issues to attend to but no commitments. I have again raised the request for a light near the broadband box. The county has been blitzing drains recently, so let me know please if the team has attended to Chapel Lane.</i></p> <p>Energy insulation firm Climate Energy goes into administration <i>I have been working with officers to ensure that people who had paid a deposit or had work started for solid wall insulation by this company do not lose out. The good news is that the sub-contractors who actually do the work seem to be prepared to pick up the pieces. I know there are some properties locally that have placed orders.</i></p> <p>Cereals 2016 <i>I made it very clear to County officers at the Open Day at Whittlesford Bridge in Sept that the lack of engagement with local parishes on forward planning for Cereals 2014 had been unsatisfactory. I</i></p>	

passed the details of the parish councils whose roads are affected to the officer dealing with this in the highways dept.

County Local Highways Improvement Initiative

The time for putting any bids in is almost upon us. The deadline is 2nd November. The parish - if successful - is expected to provide a minimum contribution towards each project of at least 10% of the total scheme cost.

Travellers at the Sawston McDonalds roundabout

Have moved, having been served notice by the County that the bailiffs were arriving. The County Council is now planning to plough the entrances, subject to checking the land for electric cabling. I have discussed the longer-term enforcement issues with the County Council.

Environment Agency

A meeting is being called by Heidi Allen's office with the Environment Agency over a number of problems. I will press again for the timetable to clear up the site of the Flint Cross Fire is tightened up.

School places

My concern, from the meetings I have had with 4 heads and chairs of governors so far is that the county needs to start thinking now about a strategic solution on school places. The situation is still very difficult in that demand may well exceed supply as it did this year in local villages next year. I will now be meeting the county officers to find out their plans.

IWM and the planning application from Vetspeed (Pet Crematorium) for a waste-to-energy plant on A505

I attended a public meeting held at Thriplow. The planning application from Vetspeed is to replace most of what is currently there on the Pet Crem site with a new plant using a new process called pyrolysis, which burns material without oxygen, and meets tighter emissions requirements as well as turning waste into energy. Also present were officers from the county and district council planning and environment teams, and the Environment Agency.

The questioning was along four lines:

- how the emissions would be controlled, and shut off if there was an emergency, who monitored and checked the output, and what chemicals might be produced - or remain - to be emitted from this process and how they would be dealt with or removed
- on the impact on the volumes of traffic along the A505, which is already operating at maximum capacity.
- the impact of the proposed new chimney (replacing three existing ones, but much taller) on the flightpath into the Imperial War Museum airfield.
- monitoring of emissions - and smells - from the current incineration plant there, which is not currently checked by the Environment Agency as it is not a big enough operation"

Cllr Topping said he has passed on the issue of the sinking road at Butts Lane/Westfield Road to Gavin Wiseman, who is the boss of Mike Cooper.

Cllr Wragg reported on the Duxford Neighbours group which don't support the new chimney as proposed by Novus.

Cllr Topping to chase the through-ticketing issue for bus journeys on the 31.

Cllr Sunderland asked Cllr Topping to please look into the white lines in the village being repainted as most are now very faint and are in need of being replaced.

A) LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT FUNDING BID

	<p>Cllr Howe reported on progress with the development of the bid. We are in the process of trying to discuss a speed-watch with another PC (Whaddon - Cllr Roberts to progress). It caused friction in the past to undertake it 'ourselves' in the village. How to assess community support? Clerk to see if the school have completed a 'Travel plan' and a statement from the school crossing lady would be welcome too.</p> <p>Mrs Tokley offered to deliver a paper version, the Clerk to prepare. Whittlesford have a similar device and Clerk to get some feedback from their Clerk.</p> <p>B) ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE - ALISTAIR COOK (CAMRA) Cllr Wragg welcomed Alistair Cook who gave an explanation of what nominating an asset as one of community value means. You have to justify what the asset does for your village. The forms are very simple. Cllr Roberts asked whether the owners should be informed, and this is apparently not necessary, but SCDC advise it. The process takes about 8 weeks. It means you (the PC) have the right, but not the obligation, to purchase it and it has to go through the planning system if the owners look to sell or change use.</p> <p>Cllr Sunderland proposed, Cllr Roberts seconded, all Cllr's were in favour. The Clerk to process the forms.</p>	<p>Cllr Roberts Clerk Clerk</p> <p>Clerk Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
6.	<p>DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE Cllr Roberts reported on the ongoing delays in the Local Plan and the PC would be prudent to keep money in the precept for possible planning legal advice.</p>	
7.	<p>SUSTAINABLE PARISH ENERGY PARTNERSHIP EVENT Clerk to chase for a suitable event, despite some lethargy on the part of SCDC.</p>	Clerk
8	<p>DRAFT MINUTES / TRANSPARACY The Clerk reported on a recent training course she attended and the PC is good with its efforts towards transparency, ie financial info in the minutes, draft minutes. It may be useful to look to moving the web-site back in-house but this will be discussed later in the meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE A) MINUTES FROM 29TH SEPTEMBER 2015</p> <p>MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD IN THE DOROTHY PLUCK ROOM, ST MARY'S CHURCH, FOWLMERE ON TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7:30PM</p> <p>PRESENT: Cllr D Roberts (Chairman), Cllr S Crowther, Cllr M Sunderland, Cllr M Vinton, Cllr L Wragg and Mrs J Wright (Clerk)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: Cllr J Houghton, Cllr S Wells, Cllr T Bearpark, Cllr C Howe</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE: There was no one in attendance.</p> <p>1. Declarations of interest (if any) Cllr Roberts declared that if an application is later placed before South Cambridgeshire District Council she will approach any new information afresh. Also, because Cllr Roberts is a District Cllr at SCDC, the same applies and she will look at any application, which goes to SCDC, afresh.</p> <p>2. Follow up after SCDC meeting re Affordable Housing</p>	

Cllr Roberts explained some of the background around speculative planning applications outside of the Village Envelope and changes to SCDC/Housing Association regulations. A possible proposal of 15 units in Long Lane would not allow for any play-space and would be cramped. The PC is essentially supportive of another scheme provided that it meets village needs and complies fully with village connection requirements, BUT a scheme of 8-10 units, with a suitably sized green space, is more likely to be supported, with car parking and a similar quality of design to The Triangle/Maltings Cottages. A good HA and design would need to be employed to construct and operate the housing. SCDC have gone through their housing waiting list to assess need via a village connection (13/14 individuals or families). There is no information as to who would want part buy/part rent as opposed to rental only. One bed units would be an issue, as the turnover is greater, and they are often not well looked after. Cllr Roberts suggests progressing slowly, to be positive but take the lead in negotiations. Any discussions, these conditions need to be accepted as a foundation, which have arisen as a result of the Triangle project - described as 'pre-application discussions.' Clerk to respond to Sarah Lyons, via the PC for first draft.

3. Assets of Community Value

The Parish Council to approach Alistair Cook from CAMRA to speak to the PC about this, to find out best practice. This is being discussed because there is the potential threat to losing facilities within the village.

4. S/2289/15/FL

Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of planning consent S/1902/14/FL for solar farm and associated development

Black Peak Farm, London Road, Melbourn, SG8 7PJ
Lightsource SPV107 Ltd

The Parish Council declined to comment as it is not in the Parish and the PC was not listed to in the previous application.

5. S/0008/15/CW - Explanation and prior warning of consultation.

Replace an Existing Building with a larger building to house a new energy waste (pyrolysis) plant and extend an access track around the back of the site.

Novus Environmental, Novus House, Thriplow, Royston, SG8 7RR

An event is to be held in early October regarding this. Clerk to ask the Thriplow Clerk if they need our support for any reason with this and to circulate details of the meeting.

6. Permission for bee hives on parish land (renewal)

Chris Parsons to be contacted - Cllr Wragg to pass the text on to the Clerk for Mr Parsons to extend the agreement and ensure the peppercorn rent is paid.

7. Other Matters and Updates

Cllr Vinton would like the issue of The Butts being bolted to passers-by on the next agenda. The amount of wrecked cars is also an issue and an H&S factor. He understands the gas unit has been replaced by a timber business with a lot of forklift activity - this has further diversified into landscape building in the last 2 weeks and is dumping/storing the refuse on the land. The gate has been padlocked by the business owner. The Ramblers Association could prove a right-of-way. The existing planning permission could be an issue - Cllr Roberts to enquire at SCDC and also speak to Environmental Health. Is it a permitted pathway?

Cllr Wragg is going to a workshop in Cambridge on the Local Plan this weekend organised by FECRA

	<p>- its aim is to provide a 'single voice for Cambridge'.</p> <p>The Clerk is meeting with Mike Cooper tomorrow (30/9/15) re ditches. There is also a meeting with King Street Housing on Monday 5th October to discuss The Triangle issues.</p> <p>The Clerk to order 20 trees for the cemetery, English Oak, birch, field maple, walnut if not Norway maple, and possibly an old fashioned pear tree?,</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:20pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>b) King Street meeting re The Triangle Update This happened on 5th October and the representatives from KSH were very accommodating. Tree work at numbers 1/2 The Triangle had been done. There has been an issue with a parking bay. Unfortunately there has been no way to provide additional playspace from the owners of the remainder of the land adjacent to the development, as they are unwilling to lease any to KSH or residents. The Clerk to thank KSH for a very positive meeting and to say the PC is pleased with progress, and the planning application should go ahead whether or not a resident is supportive or not as this is for the whole scheme.</p> <p>c) Affordable Housing Update There is nothing further to add since a e-mail from Sarah Lyons at SCDC thanking the PC for their positive response.</p> <p>The meeting was opened to members of the public and press</p> <p>Mrs Willis asked about the outcome of the benches which was discussed at the previous meeting - one opposite the school house, facing into the green and one over by the play equipment.</p> <p>The flashing sign on Long Lane is not working - this has been passed to Cllr Topping.</p> <p>The meeting was then closed to members of the public and press</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Topping</p>
10.	<p>BURIAL BOARD: A) CEMETERY CLEAR-UP DATE The Clerk to make sure a notice is put up in good time to invite more people to come along and help out - the agreed time is Sunday 15th November - 10:00am.</p> <p>B) MEETING WITH MELBOURN RE CEMETERY REGULATIONS Cllr Wragg reported on the meeting with Melbourn, to say it was very useful seeing how Melbourn have planned out and run their new cemetery in New Road. The PC will have a Burial Board meeting to discuss further in the near future.</p>	Clerk
11.	<p>TREES, GRASS AND HEDGES: A) DITCHES The Clerk met with Mike Cooper who advised that SCDC is scheduled to clear the ditch in Chapel Lane/Dovehouse Close and work should begin soon.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on an exchange with Mike Cooper (CCC) and a resident in the village over a damaged tree but this was not in the parish and there was nothing for the PC to attend to as Mr Cooper had asked for all he needed if the resident wished to progress anything.</p>	
12.	<p>FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES A) CHEQUES PAID</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Wright Salary for September £526.40 • HMRC September - J Wright - £121.60 • Seniorlink Eldercare September 15 (monthly charge for residents' pendant scheme) - £62.34 • Hardy Landscapes - September 15 - £1501.54 • J Wright Telecoms September refund - £28.03 • Agriplant Protected Verges Cutting - £685 plus VAT • E-on Cemetery Chapel Electricity - 26.08 • Lister Engineering - Map stands construction x 3 and delivery - £1335 plus VAT • Chairman's Allowance (Annual) - £150.00 • Royal British Legion annual Donation for wreath - £50.00 • Dave Salmons, work to make safe play equipment play centre (turf) and fixing in the 3 village signs - £395.00 • BACS in £17445 - 2nd half of precept • Friendship • Cheques in - Newlings (Wilkinson Memorial Stone) £90.00 <p>Balances at Bank as of 6th October 2015: Current A/C (Santander) £32,064.45 Deposit A/C (Santander) £19,953.66 Cambridge Building Society £40,000.00 Petty Cash £424.11 (£39,464.73 of this is Section 106 Money)</p> <p>B) PLAY SPACE WORKING PARTY A date was set in daylight hours - 15th November at 11:00am, after the cemetery clear up for Cllr's to take a look at any useful spaces within the village.</p>	All
13.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE The correspondence list was noted.</p>	
14.	<p>ACTION LIST UPDATE: The action list was updated accordingly.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts asked about the fence at The Butts Industrial estate and how long it had been there, and it was thought more than 20 years. The concern was the access through the gate and safe access through the footpath. The gate is still locked periodically. It's a 'permitted access point' not a 'right of way'. If more than 20 years then it becomes a right of way, suggested Cllr Wragg.</p>	

15.

OTHER MATTERS:

A) PC WEB-SITE

It was proposed that this was discussed more at the next meeting, with the Clerk putting together some options.

B) PROPOSED DATES FOR 2016

Finance - 7:00pm, Tuesday 19th January 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 19th January 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 16th February 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 15th March 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

Finance - 7:00pm, Tuesday 19th April 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 19th April 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

Annual Village Meeting - 7:30pm, Tuesday 3rd May 2016 at St Mary's Church

PC (incl AGM) - 7:30pm, Tuesday 17th May 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 21st June 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

Finance - 7:00pm, Tuesday 19th July 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 19th July 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

No meeting in August

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 20th September 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

Finance - 7:00pm, Tuesday 18th October 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 18th October 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 15th November 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

PC - 7:30pm, Tuesday 20th December 2016 at the URC, Chapel Lane

The above dates were noted by all.

A Planning meeting is provisionally booked for Tuesday 3rd November - 7:30pm at St Mary's

The Clerk circulated the details for the Remembrance parade - Sunday 8th November - 10:25am at Fowlmere and 10:45 at Fowlmere URC for the service.

Clerk to circulate details about a proposed date for a Christmas meal, breaking with tradition, it might actually be before Christmas this year....

The meeting closed at 21:05