

# Weston Colville Parish Council

Chairman: Ray Vidler

## Minutes

Of the Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room, Weston Colville

Present: Ray Vidler (Chairman), Bridget Durham (Vice-Chair), Constantine Pagonis (RFO), Matt Jackson, James Hubbard, Ian Ashbridge.

In Attendance: District Councillor Richard Turner

The chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

- 1. Apologies** - were received from Allen Scott, John Garrod, and Councillor Batchelor.
- 2. Declarations of interest** - None.
- 3. Minutes** – The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were reviewed and agreed as a true record of the meeting. **Proposed by Councillor Vidler.**  
All agreed. Minutes were signed.
- 4. Appointment of new parish clerk** – Jessica Ashbridge has accepted to take on the role of the Parish Clerk. **Proposed by Councillor Vidler**, seconded by Councillor Pagonis. All councillors voted in favour of the appointment.
- 5. District and County Council reports and items of interest** – District Councillor Turner delivered his report at the meeting (appended), also appended is the February County Council report from Councillor Batchelor.
- 6. Parishioners' Question Time** – None.
- 7. Planning**
  - 7.1** Planning discussed and voted by Parish Council – No new applications received since the last meeting
  - 7.2** Status of planning applications with District Council

Reference	Address	Proposal	Status
S/2984/17	Weston Woods	Installation of new portacabin office, access ramp and 5 parking bays - variation of time limit	Approved
S/3699/17/DC	Linnet Hall Barn	Discharge of access consent	Awaiting feedback

- 8. Matters in hand/ Arising since last meeting**
  - 8.1** Website update – A quote has been obtained of £299 to create a parish website. The Reading Room has offered to share the website. Councillor Pagonis will take this further and report back in May's meeting.
  - 8.2 Reading Room** Car Park transfer from South Cambs District Council (SCDC) to Weston Colville Parish Council (WCPC). Since the last meeting the District Council have now registered the car park with HM Land Registry under a wasting lease which gives them Title Possessory to the land. The lease expires on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2081 at which time the parish council can apply to register for title to the land under the law of adverse possession. SCDC wishes to apply two conditions to the lease (a) that it is transferred as a village hall car park and (b) an Overage condition that if the Parish Council ever develops the land for housing then they must share any enhanced value, 50/50 with the District Council for a period of 100 years from the date of transfer.

In discussion it was agreed that the land should be transferred into WCPC's ownership as a village and not village hall car park. It was also felt that it was not reasonable to extend the overage after 29/09/2081 as SCDC's lease would end at that point. The total cost of the transfer including Land Registry fees should be circa £1800

**8.2.1** It was **Proposed by Councillor Jackson** and seconded by Councillor Pagonis that the transfer should proceed **preferably with the changes requested or as near to these as SCDC would agree**. The resolution to proceed with the transfer of the car park to the district council was passed unanimously. It was also agreed that the Chairman and the Parish Clerk could execute the transfer.

Finally it was agreed that Allen Scott could see this transfer through to completion as a representative of the council.

**8.3** Stream Clearing and footpath update/verges – Councillor Ashbridge has carried out a survey into the condition of the tributary of the Stour that runs down Chapel Road and enters the Stour at the bottom of Horseshoe Lane. Summer rain events have been exacerbated by water running down the road surface and not entering the drains. West Wratting estate has cleared all drains on Chapel Road to the point where they enter the built-up village.

There was discussion around the section of the stream which runs alongside the Cricket field. The stream is overgrown but not silted up, and is affected by various debris which needs clearing. The main issue restricting the flow of water in this section of stream is a narrow twinwall culvert at the end of Horseshoe Lane where it meets the Stour.

**8.3.1** A working party is going to be formed to clear the banks of the drain by the recreation field. Councillor Durham agreed to approach the Cricket Club, and suggest this as their activity for their Cricket Force weekend. Councillor Jackson agreed to put an article in the Challenge magazine. Councillor Ashbridge agreed to look into Environment Agency grants for replacing the small culverts.

**8.3.2** Verges – A discussion was held regarding how the condition of roadside verges could be improved. It was agreed that there is no real effective action the council can take but it was agreed that we would put an article in the Challenge to remind people that it is their responsibility to keep the verges outside their houses in good repair. Councillor Durham agreed to write the article.

**8.4** Road Drain clearance and repair update - A meeting was held between Councillors Ashbridge, Scott, Garrod, Henry Batchelor, Brian Heffner and Nicola Burdon from Cambs County Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 to discuss a solution to the flooding at Church End at the Mill Hill/Brinkley Road junction. The road drains are not clear; it was agreed at the meeting that the drains would be jetted and cleared by SCDC. The parish council is awaiting a proposal from Nicola Burdon regarding improvements to the infrastructure of Church End at the junction with Mill Hill which will reduce the risk of road surface water entering properties.

**8.5** Speed Indicator Device update – Councillor Hubbard has received information and brackets for the SID equipment, and has looked into displays and heights etc. Four locations can be used. The village will have access to the equipment for two weeks out of a ten week cycle. Councillor Hubbard agreed to chase when the allotted slot will be, and fit the brackets in place.

**8.6** Defibrillator contacts - Councillor Garrod has agreed to provide his address details so that people can go to his house for the code for the defibrillator. The council also agreed that he approach his next door neighbour to see if she was happy to act as a contact for the code – report back next meeting.

## **9. Matters for the Council to discuss/vote on**

**9.1** Age UK – Age UK, the UK's largest charity working with older people, is seeking to increase its work from 18 to 20 hours per week. South Cambs contributed £3,040 last year towards supporting 19 people. Three more require assistance and Age UK is seeking an additional £1300 spread over the parishes. **Councillor Jackson proposed WCPC increases its contribution from £200 to £250 paid for by the Briggs Gift charity, on the condition that it is reviewed in two years and other parishes increase their contribution by the same amount.** Councillor Durham seconded, and all agreed.

## 10. Playground

**10.1** Maintenance Update – Councillor Jackson is still looking for contractors to repair the slide, and alternatives, will report back at the next meeting. Councillor Hubbard has fitted new seats to the swings at the Weston Green playground.

## 11. Finance

### 11.1 Receipts.

Date	Method	Payer	Item	Amount
None				

### 11.2 Payments since last meeting

Date	Chq. No.	Payee	Item	Amount
12.2.18	698	T.J.Potter	Verge cutting	£1314.00

### 11.3 Payments agreed at the meeting

Payee	Item	Amount
CAPALC	Parish Clerk training	£200.00

**Councillor Vidler proposed the above payment.** Councillor Pagonis seconded this. All voted in agreement.

**11.4** Account balance - **£16, 585.37p** on the 2nd February 2018

**11.5** Budget – a draft budget was presented at the meeting by Councillor Vidler. A second draft will be sent round by Councillor Vidler for approval.

**11.6** Bank Account – **Councillor Vidler proposed to move to online banking with Lloyds.** Councillor Pagonis seconded, all agreed.

**11.7** Changes of Address – addresses were changed for Briggs Gift and West Wrattling RAF Memorial Trust charities. **Councillor Vidler proposed that the council approve the Chairman and RFO as the council's authorised signatories for the RAF Wrattling Common Memorial Trust.** Councillor Pagonis seconded, all agreed.

## 12. Matters for the next agenda

**12.1** Wadlow Windfarm community fund feedback – Councillor Durham

**12.2** Village Sign restoration, report from Highways Agency – Councillor Jackson

**12.3** Reading Room layby update – Councillor Jackson

**12.4** Phone box restoration/repurposing

## 13. Date of Next full Meeting:

- **14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 -Annual Parish Meeting starts at 7.00pm followed by parish council meeting**
- Planning meeting (if required) – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### **Dates of future Parish Council meetings in 2018:**

<b><u>Full Council</u></b>	<u>2 July</u>
	<u>3 September</u>
	<u>5 November</u>
<b><u>Planning meetings (if required)</u></b>	<u>6 August</u>
	<u>1 October</u>
	<u>3 December</u>

The Meeting closed at 9.48pm

Jessica Ashbridge  
Parish Clerk

## **March 2018 District Councillor Report – Balsham Ward**

### **Balsham Ward Combined Parishes District and County Councilors Meeting**

The next Combined Parishes meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Castle Camps Village Hall. We are expecting Julie Ayre, SCDC planning officer and hopefully Nicola Burdon, Local Highway Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council, to attend.

### **Planning**

#### **Local Plan**

At least 1000 responses were received from the consultation process and they have been checked by the team to see if they are valid. The representations that have been received are available to view on the Council's website along with the Statement of Consultation. The representations have been submitted to the Inspectors undertaking the examination, who may decide whether any further hearings are required or if any issues need to be revisited. The Inspectors will present their final conclusions in their Reports for each Local Plan. If the reports conclude that the local plans are sound, the Councils can make arrangements for the Local Plans to be adopted, subject to making the Modifications that have been identified by the Inspectors.

#### **Determination of planning applications**

Legal advice was sought to determine what weight, in planning terms, can be given to the un-adopted Local Plan. The advice received gives the un-adopted Local Plan some "prematurity" which may, in principal, arise as a material consideration, consistent with national planning practice guidance (NPPG).

The argument for using "Prematurity" to refuse planning permission could potentially be successful under two circumstances;

1. Applications for relatively substantial housing or housing-led development on land outside a proposed settlement framework in the Local Plan, and at a **scale** which is above the threshold of new development which the Local Plan sets for that settlement.
2. Where there are several smaller applications at an individual settlement that are each in conflict with the Local Plan, but which individually may not be so substantial as to justify refusal of planning permission on grounds of prematurity. When considered "**cumulatively**" the development may, as a matter of judgement, be considered to be significant enough to undermine the plan-making process.

The Council has two relevant speculative housing proposals where the prematurity argument can be made. Records show that Melbourn has already had 222 homes permitted on 5 year housing land supply sites, and Swavesey has 200 homes with 90 homes at appeal.

It is not expected that a prematurity case can reasonably be made for all 5-year supply applications currently before the Council.

All details can be found on the web page <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/mainmods>

### **Planning Delivery Fund**

A £11M fund was made available to encourage more innovation in the design quality of new housing developments, especially Garden Towns and Garden Villages, as well as to provide design advice and support to local authorities.

On Tuesday 27 February 2018, the district council announced that it had been successful in its bid to the Planning Delivery Fund for £130,000. The funding will provide additional support to Parish Councils that are carrying out building character assessments that are required as part of developing and planning Neighbourhood Plans. Building character assessments are designed to help ensure new developments reflect the distinctiveness of their communities.

### **Greater Cambridge Partnership**

#### **Cambridge South East Transport Study Consultation 2018 (A1307 and A1301)**

The Greater Cambridge Partnership is consulting on all three strategies identified and developed during Local Liaison Forums and workshops. The consultation closes 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.

The link to the consultation is

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TEKOY/>

There are a number of communications being provided by the GCP including a series of road shows. The Babraham Park and Ride road show is being rescheduled due to bad weather.

Stapleford Pavilion	Wednesday 7 March	16.00 – 19.00
Haverhill Tesco Superstore	Saturday, 10 March	9.30 - 12.00
The Abington Institute	Tuesday, 13 March	16.00 - 19.00
Sawston Village College	Wednesday, 14 March	16.00 - 19.00
on the Evangelist, Hills Rd, Cambridge	Thursday, 15 March	16.00 – 19.00
Haverhill Arts Centre	Thursday 22 March	17.00 – 20.00

Further details and updates can be found [events](#) page and [Twitter](#) account.

The comments will be used to develop the strategies further to allow the Executive Board to identify a preferred strategy that will be progressed.

#### **Update by MP on A1307**

Chairs of Parish Councils (including Lt and Gt Abington, Hadstock, Shudy Camps, Bartlow, Hildersham etc.) have been invited to attend a meeting with Lucy Fraser at 3pm on 9th March at Horseheath Village Hall. W.Wickham, Linton and Horseheath have so far said they would be able to attend. The meeting will be at Horseheath Village Hall.

#### **Haverhill Area Forum**

I have been invited by Haverhill Town Council to attend the Haverhill Area Forum scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March. An update on the A1307 transport options is to be provided by the Mayor James Palmer where he will set out his vision for transport along the A1307 corridor. Representatives from Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership, Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, Rail Haverhill and Cambridge Connect will attend.

#### **Community Energy Grant Fund now launched March 2018**

A Community Energy Grant Fund of £55,000, is available annually to bid for, from organisations including parish councils, charities, voluntary groups, sports and social clubs and not-for-profit

organisations, to fund energy efficiency and power reduction initiatives. Bids will be welcomed for projects including the fitting of insulation, fixing of lighting and heating controls in community buildings, and to the installation of electric vehicle charging points.

The maximum yearly grant will be £3,000 per organisation to make sure that the fund is distributed across a wide range of projects throughout the district.

The scheme will be funded from the business rates it retains from new renewable energy generation sites within the district.

Further details and a link to the online application can be found using the link;

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/switch-on-for-community-energy-grant-fund>

Additionally, a separate loan fund for residents, businesses and community groups to borrow funds to spend on green energy measures is also being established by South Cambridgeshire District Council. This is due for launch in mid-July.

The authority is also investigating ways it can be greener itself, such as by looking at the potential for installing solar canopies in the car park of its Cambourne HQ and renewable energy generation schemes at the planned new Sports Pavilion and Community Centre sites at Northstowe.

### **SCDC Corporate Plan**

After last summer's listening and engagement exercise, and adoption at the last Full Council, a Corporate Plan for 2018-2019: South Cambridgeshire: Your Place, Our Plan has been agreed and is available to view on the Council's webpages.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/council-aims-and-objectives>

- Living Well. We will support our communities to remain in good health whilst continuing to protect the natural and built environment
- Homes for Our Future. Secure the delivery of a wide range of housing to meet the needs of existing and future communities
- Connected Communities Work with partners to ensure new transport and digital infrastructure supports and strengthens communities and that our approach to growth sustains prosperity
- An Innovative and Dynamic Organisation Adopt a more commercial and business-like approach to ensure we can continue to deliver the best possible services at the lowest possible cost

## **Henry Batchelor – District Councillor**

### **Report for Parish Councils – February 2018**

#### **A1307 Improvements**

The final options for improvements to the A1307 have been published and are going out for public consultation as of February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor of the Combined Authority has indicated he is keen on looking at Rapid Mass Transit options (fast, driver-less buses in essence), which would begin at the A11. Please do make your comments on these as this could be the last opportunity to do so before decisions are made. <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/>

#### **County Council Budget**

The County Council has decided it's budget for the coming year. The main point of interest in that it was unanimously agreed to increase the general council tax by 2.99% and the ring-fenced adult social care budget by 1.99%. The County Council hadn't increased the council tax for the last two years in a row and has suffered as a consequence, having to make cuts to key services, such as children's centres and post-16 transport. In financial terms the increase is £1.14 per week on band D properties.

#### **Garfield Weston Foundation Grant**

This is a new funding opportunity for capital funding towards new or improved community facilities in the UK. It's open to registered charities, places of worship and state schools. Details and how to apply can be found here - <https://garfieldweston.org/apply-to-us/>

#### **Cambridge Magistrates Court**

The Ministry of Justice has just revealed plans to close the Magistrates' Court on St. Andrew's Street in Cambridge, which serves South Cambs. Some civil matters would be moved to the County Court on East Road, but all minor criminal work would go to Huntingdon and Peterborough Magistrates' Court. The MoJ is running a consultation on the proposal until March 29<sup>th</sup>, please do add your comments should you have any - <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/cambridge-magistrates-court-proposal-on-future/>

#### **Parking**

A gentle reminder that unsociable parking can be reported at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciphSwVKwXXxZ4CK24OIF5CkGEAgEBGXN4dDalJH-1i6slnA/viewform?c=0&w=1>