

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at the Cathodeon Centre on Thursday 15th July 2010 commencing at 8 pm

Present: Ms E Cornell (Chair), Mrs E Bald (Vice Chair), D Champion, Dr B Cox, Mrs S Dew, M Gee, R Hickford, Ms T Hunt, T Krarup, J Linsdell, Ms M Mannassi, G Potter, Mrs J Wilson
Mrs S Parry (Clerk to the Council)

County and District Councillor J Batchelor, District Councillor Mrs T Bear and Mrs K France (Press) were in attendance together with four members of the public.

Public Forum

Mrs D Dockerill of Flaxfields reported that the Council's Environmental Health Officer, John Wilson had visited to check the lighting and give his recommendations. He took various readings and will be sending a report to Sanctuary Hereward. The visit lasted around 3.5 hours. Mrs Dockerill was concerned that it appeared that the Health Centre was unaware of the possible increase of patient numbers. She was also concerned about security and lighting issues which had compromised her safety at home. It was agreed to contact any relevant parties for advice.

The Chair opened the meeting of the Parish Council at 8.10pm

- 58 Apologies.
Cllr Manley – holiday.
- 59 Ms Mannassi was welcomed to the Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was signed.
- 60 Declaration of Interests from Members. Cllr Dew declared an interest under item 68, Nichols Court. Cllr Bald declared an interest under item 72, payments.
- 61 Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2010. Cllr Hickford proposed that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt and agreed by the meeting.
- 62 Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2010. It was confirmed that Cllr Champion wished to join the A1307, Traffic, Recreation Ground Parking group and Police Liaison group. Cllr Manley wished to join the A1307, Traffic, Recreation Ground Parking group, Recreation Ground group and Linton Granta Football, Sports and Social Club group. An updated list will be circulated **Clerk**
Under item 50 ix) The Clerk confirmed that the County Council would not sanction the use of a mirror at the entrance to the Health Centre. They had suggested that the vegetation be cut back hard to improve visibility. The Clerk would arrange for this work to be carried out. **Clerk**
Under item 50 ix) Cllr Hickford reported that he had spoken to the PCSOs regarding speeding at the Bartlow Road junction. They had suggested that this be brought up at the next police panel meeting scheduled for September. **RH/DC**
- 63 Consideration of the Minutes of the Planning meeting held on 1st July 2010. These were noted.
- 64 Approval of the Minutes of the Finance meeting held on 22nd April 2010. Cllr Linsdell proposed that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cox and agreed by the meeting.
- 65 Report from Police and consideration of Policing, Safety and Security issues
Cllr Hickford reported on a break-in at the pavilion during the early hours of 8th July. A good response from the police had been received but unfortunately the information had not been passed back from the central database to the local police until 14th July (this had only occurred after intervention by Cllr Hickford) when investigations had commenced. However the local

PCSOs had been very helpful. Cllr Potter was asked to send a list of stolen items to the Clerk.

GP

It was noted that the police station opening hours had been deleted from the sign.

66 County Councillor Batchelor reported that this years County budget would be reduced by £10m and a reduction of 25% over three years was expected. In reality the Youth Service budget would be cut from £3m to £2m from November. All money would be targeted to areas in need and in deprivation with the majority going to the Fenland area. The County Council would seek to withdraw from funding youth services. Partnerships with Parish Councils would be sought. A financial review would take place in October. It was expected that there would be no rise in Council Tax and no increase in public sector salaries.

67 District Councillors Bear reported that the District Council had agreed to move the Green Lane sign to the opposite side of the road. However negotiation with the owners of the wall would be required prior to fixing as a free standing sign would not be suitable in that location. Cllr Bald requested signs for Palmers Close and Dodger's Lane.

The previous government had consulted with the District Council on housing stock and had proposed that a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) be imposed. This would mean that all Councils holding housing stock would take on a collective debt (£197m for South Cambs) to be borrowed at fixed rate. The District Council would then retain all housing rent and proceeds from the sale of council houses. Currently the government takes 75% of income raised by the sale of houses and 52% from rent. A 30 year pay back system would be a good deal in the long term. However South Cambs was negotiating to reduce the sum of £197m which it considers to be unfair.

Cllr Bear requested that the Council considers erecting a seat at Tower View for residents waiting to catch the Newmarket bus.

Cllr Batchelor reported that the mobile road sweeper, seen in the village recently, was due every second Wednesday. This service was currently being funded from the Reward Grant funded by the Local Strategic Partnership which is now frozen. The supervisor in charge, Mr Terry Smith, had been requested to contact the Clerk to determine which areas of Linton should be covered in future.

68 Nichols Court update. Cllr Hickford reported that three councillors and several residents had been given a tour of Nichols Court. The overlooking was horrendous and much worse than had been envisaged. Cllr Dew reported that she had been able to see her daughter in her bathroom from the building. Cllr Dew had been advised that the criteria for allocation of a unit is age 60+ and in need of a minimum of one hour care per week. However this may change if places were not filled. Linton residents or those with connections to Linton were given priority. However South Cambs residents were not being given priority over those from other areas including Haverhill. The building was initially intended for South Cambs residents only.

This response from Ray McMurray, case officer, had been received just prior to the meeting.

'The Council's Environmental Health Officer, John Wilson, met with Mr Allan Howard who is a member of the Institute of Lighting Engineers to check the lighting and give his recommendations. He took various readings and will be sending a report to the Sanctuary, From the tone of the meeting Mr Wilson felt that there will be some alteration to the existing lighting which will help the residents of Linton and in particular Mrs Dockerill who lives at 11 Flaxfields and is the most affected.

When the lighting proposals have been finalised, they will form the basis of a planning application, on which the public will be consulted.

The Council's Landscape Officers have provided detailed advice to the developer concerning additional planting around the perimeter of the site. This includes a minimum of five trees on the southern boundary adjacent to the rear boundaries of 18 –20 Symonds Lane....'
(The full report can be inspected at the Council's office).

69 Review of Cathodeon Centre planning application. Cllr Batchelor confirmed that Linton library was safe from closure and was being promoted as an example of good practice. Concerns were again raised regarding safety during evening use. It was not felt that access around the front of the building to the back door was an improvement on the existing route. Concerns were raised that there were places where undesirables could hide especially in the vicinity of the sheds. Moving these sheds to the other end of the site would not eliminate any danger. There were also concerns regarding the steep banking along the west side of the building. Cllr Bald suggested the Centre be extended to include storage, a meeting room and porch.

After much discussion Cllr Potter proposed that the Cathodeon Trustees consider the Parish Council's request, on health and safety grounds, for a permanent evening entrance on the south side of the building. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hunt. Cllr Krarup requested that a recorded vote take place.

In favour: Cllr Bald, Cllr Champion, Cllr Cox, Cllr Dew, Cllr Gee, Cllr Hickford, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Linsdell, Cllr Potter, Cllr Wilson (10)

Against: None

Abstentions: Cllr Krarup, Cllr Mannassi (2) **Proposal carried**

70 Written reports from Council representatives. Cllr Bald had issued a report on the Parish Forum meeting.

Cllr Cornell reported that the County Council Estates department would be withdrawing their objection to Camping Close being designated as a Village Green.

71 Wind Farm update. Cllr Hickford reported that in the past few days a preliminary non specific timetable for the inquiry in September had been received. We were aware that Enertrag would be cross examining AECOM, our highways consultants. The Inspector would allow us to be Rule 6 status on highways which had come as a great surprise. This would mean that we could ask our witness questions and seek legal advice. To that end we would need to decide whether we wished to take up this option. Cllrs Champion and Mannassi both stated that having come this far we should not stop now. Cllr Hickford proposed that up to £5k be spent on legal representation. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Gee. A vote took place with 10 votes in favour and 2 abstentions. **Proposal carried**

It was suggested that the Council writes to local parish councils requesting a donation towards the costs.

72 Cllr Gee proposed that the payments listed below be paid. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Champion and agreed by the meeting. Cllrs Gee and Potter signed the cheques.

| | | Gross | Excl VAT |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| E Bald (OS map central Linton) | 1382 | 48.00 | |
| AECOM Ltd (preliminary highways report) | 1383 | 5287.50 | 4500.00 |
| ESPO | 1384 | 35.39 | 30.12 |
| E Bald (mileage claim) | 1385 | 60.00 | |
| Briar Security Systems Ltd | 1386 | 188.00 | 160.00 |

73 Correspondence received and for discussion

Item 32 Notification of Giant Hogweed on the river bank had been received from Environmental Health department. Cllr Cox reported that Giant Hogweed was growing in Dr Bertram's garden and was seeding down river. It was agreed to ask CGM to check the river bank and to scythe and collect up the seed heads for safe disposal. **Clerk**

Item 35 Advice from CPALC had been received regarding a donation to a Brownies Group. All S137 funding for the year had been allocated therefore the request would be refused. The Group would be invited to re-apply at the correct time later in the year prior to precept. **Clerk**

Item 40 It was agreed to grant the request from Linton Action For Youth (LA4Y) to erect a climbing wall on the Recreation Ground on 3rd August to celebrate the launch of its internet café subject to the receipt of a risk assessment. **Clerk**

Item 55 A letter from LA4Y had been received. Councillors were concerned with the following statement 'that information received in good faith by the Parish Council from sources unqualified to speak on behalf of LA4Y'. Clarification of this statement would be required. **Clerk**

74 Reports from Councillors (for information only)

Cllr Hunt reported that LA4Y had offered to help plant trees and hedging in the village. It was agreed that they should liaise with Mrs Anderson, tree warden. They also wished to plant wild flower seeds and bulbs on the bank in Stanton's Lane. Permission from the County Council would be sought.

Clerk

Cllr Potter reported that the Recreation Ground gate would be left unlocked until works to repair the pavilion, following the break in, had been completed.

The Chair reported on the sad death of Mr Barry Brewer. Mr Brewer had been involved with the Aztecs Football Club and youth football for many years and his contribution to the community would be sadly missed. She extended the Council's sympathy to his family.

75 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

The Council resolved to exclude the press and public whilst the Council considered the following item of business pursuant to section 100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972

Allotments update

Note: Copies of reports and documents referred to in these minutes can be inspected at the Council's office.

