

**MINUTES OF THE SWAFFHAM BULBECK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
NUMBER 331**

Held at the School on Tuesday, 2nd March 2010, starting at 7.15pm with an Open Forum for members of the public to address the Parish Council.

Members of the Public in Attendance: Sophie Singleton, Lorely & Dudley Moxon and Ralph & Ronald Wedd.

Having written to the Parish Council on behalf of residents of Fen Lane, Sophie Singleton summarised people's concerns to the Parish Council about the condition and use of Fen Lane. It was considered that Fen Lane/White Drove was in need of repair with cracking and holes that needed filling in, particularly at the Cowbridge end of Fen Lane. The recent bad weather had led to water flooding part of the road which caused a hazard as well as the breaking up of the surface. It was felt that this could be rectified if grips were cut into verges to allow the water to drain away (a practice that in the past was routine). Concerns were also raised about local farmers not clearing away mud left by their farm machinery. A further worry was the ongoing problem of speeding.

The official meeting followed at 7.40pm:

Present: Margaret Chadwick (Chairman), Loder Bevington, Bert Collins (Vice-Chairman), Daphne Dodds, Giles Merritt, Lynn Reed, Sharyn Robinson, Mary Smith and David Turner.

In Attendance: Karen King-Clerk.

2474: Apologies for Absence:

None

2475: To Approve & Sign the Minutes of Meeting Number 329, 2nd February 2010: Lynn Reed referred to minor typing error. Subject to this correction the minutes were approved and signed:
Proposed: Lynn Reed. Seconded: Mary Smith.

2476: To Approve & Sign the Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting Number 330, 16th February 2010: These were approved and signed. *Proposed: Daphne Dodds. Seconded: Lynn Reed.*

2477: Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only):

- Min.ref.329/2454: David Turner said he had been away on holiday but would organise the planting of the tree as soon as he was able. **Action: DT**
- Min.ref.329/2466: Lynn Reed asked about the Speedwatch Scheme. Mary Smith said she would follow up. **Action MS**
- Min.ref.329/2454: Lynn Reed asked whether any progress had been made with the dog bins. Margaret Chadwick confirmed that she had met with the ECDC's Dog Warden and agreed the positions; one on the High Street near to No.85, one by pony field on Quarry Lane and one opposite blackberry bushes on Fen Lane. The position of the 4th bin given by ECDC was yet to be decided but suggested locations were Cowbridge, Park End, Commercial End (nr Free Church) or outside Lordship Farm. This was to be agreed with Dog Warden. **Action: Clerk**

2478: Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda: David Turner declared an interest for item 10 of the agenda (Min.ref: 2483).

2479: County Councillor's Report: *Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting:*

- *Budget:* February meetings at the County Council have largely centred around the budget process, and agreeing the integrated plan for the coming three years. I attended a number of scrutiny committees which challenged cabinet members and senior officers on spending plans. This culminated in a meeting of the full County Council on 16 February when the plan was approved. Unsurprisingly then was a long and heated debate on the proposals before the budget was finally agreed.

Following decisions at East Cambs District Council, Council Tax rates for 2010/11 will be as follows:

Parish	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Burwell	971.40	1133.30	1295.20	1457.10	1780.90	2104.70	2428.50	2914.20
Reach	973.86	1136.17	1298.48	1460.79	1785.41	2110.03	2434.65	2921.58
Swaffham Bulbeck	968.94	1130.43	1291.82	1453.41	1776.39	2099.37	2422.35	2906.82
Swaffham Prior	969.18	1130.71	1292.24	1453.77	1776.83	2099.89	2422.95	2907.54
Average across District	973.67	1136.18	1298.49	1460.80	1785.42	2110.04	2434.67	2921.60

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- *Bus Services:* I took the opportunity of the full County Council meeting to ask a question expressing my disappointment and dismay at the revised bus timetable imposed by Stagecoach. In answering, Cllr Mac McGuire, Cabinet member responsible shared my disappointment and said that he would ask the Passenger Services team to discuss the changes with Stagecoach to see whether at least some of the evening and Sunday services can be reinstated. Cllr McGuire also offered to arrange a meeting with Andy Campbell, Managing Director of Stagecoach, Cambridge. This meeting should have taken place on 1st March, but unfortunately had to be postponed because of illness. I will report further when the meeting has been re-arranged.
- *Potholes:* I have reported a number of potholes following complaints from residents. Those I have reported seem to have been dealt with as have a number of problem drop kerbs.

2480: District Councillor's Report: *Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting:*

- *Soham Masterplan:* ECDC has been successful in its bid for £40,000 of Government funding to help develop the town.
- *Budget:* At the Full Council meeting on 23/2/10 the budget for 2010/11 was approved following a long debate. The District Council has faced unprecedented financial challenges as a number of issues from the impact of the recession, the bailing out of the banking system and the fall in income has hit the Authority. This has been made more difficult with small government grant settlements leaving the Council facing a budget deficit of over £1.6m for the next year. As part of the budget a number of measures were approved:
 - Council Tax was set at 2.95% which is less than 8p a week for an average band D property.
 - Over £3/4million savings in staffing costs including redundancies and a pay freeze for all council employees and a 20% in consultants fees.
 - 50% reduction in funding over a two-year period on arts development with Arts Development in East Cambridgeshire (ADEc) continuing to provide the service.
 - A reduction in the Council's Grant funding with cuts to historic buildings and a number of community grants schemes.
 - A review of the waste and recycling contract with the withdrawal of the plastic bottle kerbside collection service.

Mary Smith asked about the plastic bottle banks. Cllr Alderson confirmed that these would remain and if possible increase in number in the future. Lynn Reed asked if the changes in the collections for plastic were to come in force from April. Cllr Alderson confirmed that kerbside collections would stop from the 26/3/10.

2481: Correspondence for Consideration/Circulation: *(see Appendix 1 for correspondence received).*

- CCC – Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation 15/2 – 29/3/10. *Passed to LB for consideration although it was noted that the close date for consultation had passed.*
- Letter from Sophie Singleton re Fen Lane - *Following on from the Open Forum the concerns raised were discussed at length. Sharyn Robinson had spoken with Paul Butcher of CCC Highways who confirmed that drainage grips were no longer cut regularly but were done on a when needed basis. He also confirmed that CCC were not aware of any major problems with Fen Lane but that any flooding problems needed to be reported at the time they happened. SR had also spoken with the Police Service Centre who confirmed that the Police have powers to prosecute anyone who does not comply but this was subject to any problem being reported to them at the time it occurred. If the person/s responsible were not known, any problem was still to be reported as soon as possible via the Police Service Centre on 0345 456 456 4 as this would enable them to send someone out to make an assessment of the hazard and implement any action that might be needed. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to all local farmers and the Environment Agency and ask that they ensure mud left by their vehicles was cleared from the road and that care was taken to drive at a reasonable speed. Contact was also to be made with the NFU to ask for their assistance in reminding their members about the foregoing. CCC Highways would be asked to clear drainage grips in the verges.*
- Letter from Cambridgeshire Horizons – Green Infrastructure Strategy Review – Consultation. *To be circulated.*

Cllr David Brown left the meeting at 8.35pm

2482: Progress Report on CCC Play Pathfinder Project – Recreation Ground/The Denny:

- Following discussion the following points were recorded:
- Mary Smith reported that the swing had now been installed correctly and that the wrong bolts had been used the first time.
- Loder Bevington and Bert Collins, following inspection of the swing, reported on their findings noting the damage to the galvanising and quality of the installation.

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- It was agreed that the quality of the equipment and the workmanship was poor and considered not 'fit for purpose' and as such the Parish Council required a total replacement by Monster Play. The Clerk was to write and confirm this with Monster Play. **Action: Clerk**
- LB noted that time was a factor as the project needed to be completed for use by the 31/3/10 and would inform Ashley List of CCC about possible delays. **Action: LB**
- The final inspection was to be changed from the 19/3 to the 26/3/10. **Action: Clerk**
- (Min.ref. 330/2471): Quotes for supply and laying of turf were received from:
 - *Bibby's Turf Supplies* £384.30 (inc VAT) for supply of turf & £828.00 (+ VAT) for laying of turf
 - *Spearhead Turf Ltd* £300 + VAT for supply of turf & £900 (no VAT) for laying of turf (A & B Landscapes).
- It was agreed to accept the quotes from Spearhead Turf Ltd. *Proposed: Mary Smith. Seconded: Loder Bevington.* The Clerk was to confirm and arrange date for work asap. **Action: Clerk**
- Sign for the project approved by CCC & PC and ordered.

2483: Mitchell Lodge Farm, Quarry Lane – further consideration of planning concerns:

Min.ref.330/2470: Cllr Alderson told the meeting that he had asked Alan Dover, Head of Planning Services, for clarification on the detail with particular reference to the concerns raised about the Juliet balconies. His reply confirmed that all correct procedures had been followed and that no further action would be taken with regard to the balconies and a reply would be sent to Geoffrey Datson. The meeting accepted the points made by Alan Dover and agreed to take no further action.

Cllr David Brown left the meeting at 9.05pm

2484: Repairs to War Memorial – works required and application for funding:

Min.ref: 330/2472: Mary Smith had met with Roger Cook to review the work needed using the original specification by Loder Bevington/Bob Thomson. Roger confirmed that he would not touch the War Memorial itself and would only work on the steps. He noted that the condition was deteriorating and that the render needed replacing. He provided a new quote in the sum of £1,480 + VAT. Further quotes received:
Ivett & Reed. £716.50 - to clean. £462.00 to repaint. £202.50 for mortar work (all plus VAT)
Fairhavens of Anglesey Abbey - £315.00 – to clean. £157.00 – repointing. £315.00 – plinth work.
Discussion followed about the foregoing.

It was agreed that MS & LB would review the details of the different quotes received and report further at the next PC meeting. **Action: MS/LB.**

2485: Adoption of New Standing Orders:

It was agreed that the Clerk should review and mark options for adoption at the next meeting. *Proposed: Loder Bevington. Seconded: Giles Merritt.*

2486: Summary of Consultation re Bus Shelter opposite Shop:

The results of consultation with people in the village and the likely costs involved in erecting a new shelter had shown that this was not a viable option. It was agreed to take no further action. *Proposed: Loder Bevington. Seconded: Mary Smith.*

2487: Detail of Section 137 Donation to Bottisham Village College:

The Clerk had requested the above from the Head Teacher at BVC but to date had received no reply. This item was deferred until next meeting.

2488: Clerk's Report:

Min.ref.328/2440: CCC confirmed that they were collating requests for salt bins but that it was unlikely these would be ordered before the end of financial year.

Min.ref.329/2464: The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted a company who could supply replacement Perspex panels but required measurements. Sharyn Robinson said she would do this and pass to Clerk so she could forward on to suppliers for pricing. **Action: SR/Clerk**

Min.ref: 329/2464: The original dates were not available. ECDC confirmed the 15th May as an available date. To be confirmed and discussed further with ECDC. **Action: Clerk**

2489: Finances including Approval of Payment of Outstanding Accounts:

Payments:

a) Karen King – Clerk's salary, February 2010	£	209-37
b) Inland Revenue – PAYE	£	52-40
c) Karen King – expenses	£	34-76
d) Taylor Vinters – profession services re Evelyn May Stephens Will Trust	£	881-25

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e) E.ON Energy – <i>streetlighting, December 2009</i>	£	1-93
f) Mr L Shreeve – <i>treeworks for new play project</i>	£	400-00
g) David Rayner Farming Partnership – <i>ground works for new play project</i>	£	1,083-94
h) CCC – <i>street light maintenance</i>	£	18-65
i) Adventure Playgrounds – <i>new play equipment</i>	£	5,000-00
Total:		£ 7,682-30

Monster Play–*cantilever swing* - (£ 8,044-45). This payment was deferred until work completed to a satisfactory standard.

Proposed: Mary Smith Secoded: Lynn Reed.

Loder Bevington told meeting that he had received a request from Adventure Playgrounds asking if the Parish Council would consider payment/part payment of their invoice £10,882.85 as they were currently experiencing some financial difficulties. This was discussed and it was agreed it would be Good Practice to agree a part payment of £5,000. *Proposed: Loder Bevington. Secoded: Giles Merritt.*

Receipts:

BIAA Bank Interest – <i>February 2010</i>	£	0-87
CCC – <i>Play Pathfinder Grant-1st instalment</i>	£	10,700-00

2490: Parish Councillors' Reports:

Loder Bevington told the meeting that a football match was played on the pitch during very wet weather which had caused the pitch to be churned up and damaged.

Loder Bevington asked about the advertising signs on the Memorial Green suggesting that these might cause a distraction to drivers. *The Clerk was asked to contact CCC Highways.* **Action: Clerk**

Loder Bevington said he had recently attended a National Trust/Parish Council meeting about Wicken Fen which discussed the bridge works and he said reference was made to Sustrans having identified Fen Lane/Bulbeck Lode as being an 'aspirations route'. He felt this needed some clarification. The Clerk was to check Sustrans plans. **Action: Clerk**

Sharyn Robinson reported that the public footpath sign at Gutteridge Corner needed replacing. **Action: Clerk**
Giles Merritt confirmed that the footpath leaflet was with the Designer. He also confirmed that work was continuing with the website project.

Loder Bevington said that Cecil & Jean Nash had spoken with him about use of the standard waste bins to dispose of dog waste saying that they found this very unpleasant when emptying the bins. Everyone wholeheartedly agreed and said that action needed to be taken to stop this. *The Clerk was to produce laminated notices for fixing to the regular waste bins telling people not to put their dog waste in them but to use the dog bins provided or take home for disposal.* **Action: Clerk**

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

2491: Dates of Next Meetings:

6th April
4th May
18th May (Annual Parish Meeting)
1st June
6th July

APPENDIX 1:

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION/CIRCULATION/FILE:

CCC

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan – (Proposed Submission) Consultation 15th February to 29th March 2010.

Chris Tucker – Details of training for P3 Co-ordinators

Play Pathfinder Project – email communications

ECDC

Chairman's Newsletter

East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership – NHP – Newsletter/posters

Planning (Alan Dover) – Policies applicable to applications

Marcus Bell – consultation on draft Supplementary Planning Document entitled 'Guidance on submitting planning applications on land that may be contaminated'.

Alan Gillham – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – consultation

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Issy Bridge – East Cambs Domestic Violence Awareness Event – 26/3

Tracy Couper – details of Code of Conduct Training – 17/3

General

Taylor Vinters – copy of Lease to National Trust

Thomson, Webb & Corfield – email communications re land registration

Bibby's Turf Supplies – turf quotation

CALC – Bulletin Newsletter

Cambridgeshire Horizons – Green Infrastructure Strategy Review – Consultation

Newmarket Town Council – London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games Legacy Project

Email for Sophie Singleton re Fen Lane

SB School – Parish Council donation for community facilities

The Playing Field – Newsletter

NALC – Consultation documents