

Minutes of Meeting Held on 14th May 2018

Present:

Chair: Willy Brown

Dick Jones

Fiona Marshall

Graham Fagg

Julian Bright

Clerk: Anne Angell

Members of the Public – 8

1. Apologies for absence – Steve Trudgill

2. Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Following recent Local Elections, all previous Parish Councillors had stood and been re-elected without contest.

Graham Fagg proposed William Brown as Chair, seconded by Fiona Marshall, all agreed.

William Brown proposed Dick Jones as Vice Chair, seconded by Julian Bright, all in agreement

3. Declaration of Members' Interests – FM - allotment holder, playground

4. To approve and sign minutes of meeting held on Monday 12th March - approved and signed

5. Neighbourhood Planning - Alison Talkington and David Roberts from SCDC were invited to explain the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan. Although grants are available, to create a Plan will cost on average £13,000 and take approx. 4 years to produce. It may not be appropriate for Hinxton as most of our planning considerations for the future lie just outside or close to Parish boundaries. This will be discussed at the next meeting when more time is available. If anyone is interested in helping if we do decide to develop a plan, please contact the Clerk or any member of the PC.

6. Updates

North Uttlesford Garden Community – Uttlesford District Council planning policy working group are having 2 meetings in May, on the 23rd and 31st. Consultation is expected to start on June 25th with a possible plan submitted in October. The agenda will be published before the meeting when comments can be put to UDC. Chairs of Gt Chesterford, Ickleton, Duxford, Whittlesford, Pampisford, Sawston and Hinxton will arrange to speak collectively at one of these meetings

Smithson Hill AgriTech centre - There is an independent consultation going on about where a new AgriTech centre for the Eastern region area may be sited. Forest Heath in West Suffolk are keen on having this in the Norwich corridor. It is hoped that this will be successful and the threat of the Smithson Hill development at Hinxton will disappear.

Wellcome Trust Campus Development consultation - Plans are expected to be revealed in June, 3 months earlier than expected. It is expected to be for 1,500 housing units plus further research buildings, traffic calming etc. Peter McDonald has asked for a meeting with them. On a recent visit by Sir Vince Cable, one of his questions was whether the Wellcome Trust is a research institute or a property developer.

Iron Bridge – Repair work was proposed for late Spring, but an inspection of the 2 main girders has delayed this.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative – The application to replace some posts and rails

alongside the river on Ickleton Rd was not ranked sufficiently high. The next round of applications is due in the Autumn and the Parish Council will decide on another project at the next meeting.

Allotments – There is still one spare allotment; advert to go in the next edition of the Hinxton News

Mill Sluice – We are waiting to hear back regarding a proposal that has been put to the Wellcome Trust to install a concrete compound side-weir in order to remove the need to operate the sluices and improve the river and flood meadow environment. Meanwhile, for the operation of the sluices, a rota has been drawn up with local volunteers, and a training session is to be arranged.

Playground report - The support poles of the noughts and crosses game have rotted away. We have had an offer to replace this and are waiting for it to be done. The toy train has lost a wheel and this needs replacing.

Flooding at North End Rd -There has not been any flooding after recent rain so hopefully the problem is solved. It needs maintenance on a regular basis to keep on top of it.

Local Bus Service – The new 7a route should be starting soon, it goes to Trumpington Park and Ride rather than Babraham. The bus times will be similar to now.

Village Signs - both signs have now been restored. They will be oiled at regular intervals to keep them in good condition.

Flint wall/Village Hall repairs - quotes are still being obtained, one quote was for £23,000. We are looking into applying for a grant from Amey Cespa, to include car park improvements. We would need to raise 11% of the amount before we can apply. Itemised quotes are needed before next meeting.

Wetlands Conservation Report - Dredging and reed clearance of the lakes to be carried out in the autumn. There would be Wetland walks on Tuesday lunchtimes in May, June and July to which Hinxton people were welcome.

Genome Campus Liaison committee – To be held on 6 June; we are waiting for the revised Permissive Path contract.

Imperial War Museum –Nothing has been heard about the proposed Moto services proposal at the M11 junction since the Mustang crash on the possible site. A new 150-bed hotel is to be built on the IWM site; it should be finished by 2020. The Neighbours of Duxford scheme is now £10 per annum for annual access to all IWM sites; it may be made free for the most affected residents, but we have not heard definitely yet.

Parish Council Archives. Various documents have been discovered which were with a previous Clerk, including deeds, minutes etc. It was discussed where these could be best kept, possibly the Village Hall Committee, or Cambridge Records. It would be good if the more significant documents could be scanned to be generally accessible.

Potholes – There are bad potholes in the village, especially after the recent cold snap. Although these had been systematically reported, they were not deemed bad enough to be repaired. The Highways Dept had been approached about the damaging and illegal parking on the soft shoulder of the A1301 by the McDonalds roundabout and had promised action.

7. New items for discussion

Travellers - The large group of travellers had arrived in Duxford but had just been moved on back

to Thriplow. Farmers and landowners advised to block and access to land where they may move.

Extra Meeting – it was agreed to provisionally book the second Monday of alternate months so that any planning applications which arrived could be dealt with in a timely manner. Whether a meeting would actually be required would be confirmed as early as possible and meeting then cancelled if there was no applications to discuss.

Defibrillator - Clerk to look for quotes on an outside defibrillator – cost, insurance and grants available- could we use Community Chest?

McDonalds litter - ST to arrange a meeting with McDonalds to discuss the problem of litter.

Ancient Lane grass cutting – Clerk to ask contractor to trim the grass down the lane as well as usual verges.

8 Chairman's report – nothing to add.

9 Public Session –

Overgrown hedges - Russell Smith farms to be asked to cut hedges along the North End road.

10 Finance and Annual Audit.

- i. The Governance statement was read out and signed.
- ii. The Accounting statement was read out and signed

Current position of Bank Balances at 6th May 2018

Current A/C : £14,912.78

Business A/C: £11,026.48

Bridge A/C: £2000.

Payments for Approval

EON	Utilities	£336.20
Clerk/HMRC	salary/expenses -	£690.05
Charles Frankau	Grass cutting	£1164.00
Cambridge county council	Street lighting	£75.95
ICO	GDPR	£35
Auditing Solutions	Internal Audit	£270
Yorkshire Tax Bureau	Payroll	£144
CAPALC	Subs	£171.58
Friends Hinxton Church	Painting	£25

Received

Interest from Bank		0.17
Village Hall Committee	Utilities	£185.85
CAPALC	Transparency fund	£637.53
SCDC	Precept	£6.278

11 . Planning Applications received

S/1248/18/LB 8, Hall Farm Barns, Hunts Lane, Proposed roof lights in south facing elevation and landscaped front garden to include trellising and block/brick paved paths and planters. *Approved by PC*

S/1374/18/AD Proposed illuminated car display directional information sign Entrance Security Hut, Wellcome Genome Campus, *No comments by PC*

S/1542/18/FL Single storey extension, conversion of outbuildings and alterations.

(Revised proposals following consent S/1134/13FL). 87, High Street, Hinxton, *No comments by PC*

S/1373/18/FL new single storey detached dwelling with basement, detached garage and parking.

Land adjacent to Pettetts Barn, High Street, Hinxton, *No comments by PC*

S/1722/18/TC Allotments behind Village Hall, 51, High Street, Hinxton, Pollard to 6m Cherry tree in middle of allotments and remove three trees along left boundary (Elm, Sumac and Horse Chestnut) Ancient Lane - Coppice left hand side, pollard right hand side, remove dead wood, remove brambles back to fencing

Comments made - pruning of cherry tree should be discussed further

Planning Decisions approved

12. Correspondence

13. Councillor reports: Councillor Peter Topping County Council
Councillor Peter McDonald District Councillor

14 AOB

Meeting finished at 9pm

Date of next meetings:- 14th May

Annual Parish Meeting 19.00

Normal Parish Council Meeting to follow at 19.30 approx

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County Annual report for 2017-18 to Hinxton Parish Council

Cllr Peter Topping

The highlight of this past year has been the rejection of the proposals for a large agri-tech site near the village. I attended the planning committee meeting where this application was heard, and I spoke against this proposal. In my view while I supported the proposals for agri-tech in principle, there was much to argue against it being located at this site, and in particular the lack of clarity on how the 4,000 staff would travel to work and the consequent impact on local infrastructure especially the roads and the junction with the Sawston roundabout. I see my task as working with the parish council on local issues that affect residents of the village, to represent your concerns to the County Council, and to get things done.

I have met with the highways department manager and driven around the village with him spotting problems.

I was pleased that the access roads were eventually gritted in the winter and will confirm what will be happening next winter. To be honest, the return of winter in late March meant that the pothole filling was behind schedule, but the county must do better at getting roads to a reasonable standard. I am monitoring the filling in of holes that have been reported and chasing the oldest and worst ones.

I was pleased that the county council took in hand the drainage and flooding problems at the junction of the High St and North End Road and that a much-needed proper investigation and subsequent action was carried out in the winter. Peter Taylor, the very able county highways supervisor who oversaw that operation, has gone on to greater things, and his replacement is now being sought.

Over the course of the year I have been to meetings regarding Uttlesford Garden Village. It is my view and that of the county council that the proposals for housing at Chesterford need to do more to address the transport issues to do with this new settlement, where much of the commuter traffic will be flowing northwards.

I want to mention the Combined Authority in the context of housing developments. I supported a bid for some £197m to move the water treatment site at Milton, freeing up the brownfield sites around Cambridge North Station for the building of homes. 1,500 of those homes will be in South Cambs and so therefore will COUNT against the targets set by government. This means that there will be less pressure on villages. This bid is going forward to government and I spoke to the Housing Minister about it last month.

I met with the new police chief supt. before Christmas to discuss rural crime including illegal hare coursing. The police have increased their new task force set up specifically to tackle this, with aerial surveillance and specialist off-road vehicles.

You may have seen the travellers who have set up along the A505 near the Pet Crematorium. The travellers are currently back at Thriplow having been evicted from Duxford by the council at quite a cost. Last year I worked with the police, the county and the district councils so that the agencies worked together and helped parish clerks when travellers did arrive and trespassed on land. I had the district council serve enforcement notices because of the flytipping that has now started on that site.

I am pleased that since the discussions with Hexcel/Huntsman two years ago there has been far less of lorries getting stuck in Hinxton because the drivers sat-nav told him this was the quickest route.

The county council will be putting up “ford closed” signs further away from the ford itself to give drivers sufficient warning rather than have them drive up and then have to reverse into the banks to turn around.

One of the concerns for local residents in Hinxton is access onto the A505 and road safety. I have been pressing the county council to consider how to make road junctions safer, especially where small turn-off roads run from very busy A road. There are safety interventions that can reduce the risks, and some of these below may be suitable for a discussion between the parish council and the county highways department, although funding for these proposals is not a given.

- Removal of foliage at all highway junctions
- Removal of foliage in advance of all directional signs
- Replacement of all directional and advanced direction signs, including increasing sign text sizes
- Replacement of large diameter posts with a passively safe type, to reduce the risk of injury
- Surface dressing of sections to improve skid resistance.
- Renewal and rationalisation of white lines and road studs.
- Introduction of textured edge lines at specific high risk locations
- Widening of the hard edge (section of road beyond the edge line) at one location where regular edge overrun has been identified.
- Re-cutting of grips (channels in the verge to drain water).

I serve on two county committees: the constitution committee and the health committee, and I chair the Health and Wellbeing Board for Cambridgeshire. Regarding health matters, the county council and the hospitals have recently improved their performance in managing delays in transfer of care and while there is still much to do, in this part of Cambridgeshire there is exploration of trying to have more preventative work done in surgeries rather the later interventions in hospitals.

I have taken early retirement to be able to devote more time to serving the communities I am proud to represent. If you need to contact me, please use my email peterwwtopping@gmail.com or call 07825 876582.

Peter

Report by Tony Orgee, District Councillor for Hinxton until 6 May 2018

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

The examination in public into the Draft South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the Draft Cambridge City Local Plan has taken far longer than expected, but it must be remembered that this is a simultaneous examination into **two** separate plans.

The process is now near its end – in the Autumn of 2017 the inspectors asked that consultation be carried out on the Main Modifications that they consider necessary for the two Local Plans to be found ‘sound’ (and can therefore be approved).

The Main Modifications ‘do not change the broad strategy for development included in the Local Plans or the main locations for where this development will be delivered.’ So major development will take place in new settlements and extensions to larger villages – Northstowe, Waterbeach, Bourn airfield and expansion of Cambourne.

The terminology ‘Main Modifications’ may imply something greater than is actually required: in many cases the modifications involve relatively small and simple changes in wording.’

With regard to the Hinxton area, the inspectors have not asked for changes in the designation of land locally and so there will be no designation of land within the A505, A11, A1301 triangle for employment or housing.

Uttlesford Local Plan and North Uttlesford Garden Community

The draft Uttlesford Local Plan includes a proposal for a 5,000 home development just north of Great Chesterford. This proposed development would be on elevated ground on the far side of the A11 from Hinxton.

There are a number of very serious local reservations about this proposal and I have worked with a number of local parish councils in South Cambridgeshire to oppose this proposal.

It is important that local residents and parish councils make their voices heard by responding to the next round of Uttlesford Local Plan consultations, likely in the Summer.

Proposed Agritech Park

A planning application for this major development just south of the A505 was put forward in late 2017, and considered by South Cambridgeshire District Council’s Planning Committee earlier this year. I worked with local parish councils to oppose this proposal, and the South Cambridgeshire view, as set out in the relevant agenda papers, was very powerful. I spoke at the Planning Committee meeting against the application, as did the Chairs of Hinxton, Pampisford and Whittlesford Parish Councils, a resident of Hinxton and the local county councillor. It was disappointing that another resident who was called to speak did not appear to be in attendance at the meeting. The Planning Committee’s decision to oppose the application was unanimous.

Genome Campus proposals

The Genome Campus have held two separate events so far this year as they work towards submitting a planning application that is likely to include significant expansion of the Campus to the east of the A1301 to provide more research and development space and also about 1,500 dwellings.

The number of dwellings currently being talked about is considerably higher than the Genome Campus was

Hinxton Parish Council
talking about a year or two ago.

To put the figure of 1,500 dwellings into context: this is a greater number of dwellings than the total number of dwellings in Hinxton, Ickleton, Duxford, Pampisford and Babraham combined.

There are clearly some who want to support the Genome Campus with local housing, but linking additional employment at the Genome Campus with additional local housing simply reinforces the arguments put forward in promoting the North Uttlesford Garden Community.

Future proposals for the Genome Campus would, in my view, be best considered in the context of the new joint South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Local Plan, rather than as a standalone planning application.

District Council Budget

South Cambridgeshire District Council set its budget at its February meeting. The Council has faced considerable financial pressures in recent years, and this pressure was reflected in the budget decision.

There are three sources of funding to the Council, namely, Council Tax; Business Rates and income from interest and commercial activity.

The Council has sought to provide more cost effective services – for example through joint working with other authorities.

The shared waste and recycling collection service between the District Council and Cambridge City Council consistently achieves an over 99.5% collection rate and achieved a 100% collection service in the recent very bad and cold weather

Creating better collection routes for waste and recycling collections across the two local authorities has led to a reduction of about 20,000 miles travelled per year by the collection vehicles and will give savings of about £700,000 over three years.

Net Portfolio Holder expenditure from the current year of £17.5m will increase to £19.2m in 2018/19. This increase is due to a number of factors including inflation; salary increments and additional requirements placed on the Council – examples include:

- national government's Reducing Homelessness Bill will be implemented in 2018 and additional staff are being taken on to provide the greater level of support needed.
- £55k is allocated for the green energy fund and £200k for the green energy loan scheme.
- The Capital Programme includes provision of £160k in 2018/19 for street sweepers.

At the District Council's budget-setting meeting it was proposed to increase the Council Tax for a band D property by £5 and proportionately for other council tax bands, which is a rise of 3.7%. This was approved by 31 votes to 2 with 11 abstentions.

To set matters in context, a 1% increase in the District Council's portion of council tax raises an additional £70,000 per year whereas a 1% increase in the County Council's portion of council tax raises over £2.4 million a year.

Shared services

As a way of working more efficiently, South Cambridgeshire District Council has joined with Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridge City Council to share certain services in order to reduce costs. For example, small district councils simply cannot afford to employ a wide range of legal officers and when specific expertise is required, have to buy in those services from specialist companies. By sharing legal services across three councils, the shared service can afford to employ specialists in all areas of the councils' work and so avoid the high costs of buying in specialist advice.

Planning Enforcement

District Council officers continue to monitor and, where appropriate, carry out enforcement action at sites in our villages. In some cases, resolving matters takes a considerable length of time with court hearings, adjournments, appeals and further court hearings. Recently the District Council was awarded £7,000 court costs in relation to a local case.

Tony Orgee
14 May 2018