

Present:

Vice Chairman: Willy Brown

Steve Trudgill

Mark Alexander

Dick Jones

Julian Bright

Jane Chater

District Cllr Tony Orgee

Clerk: Mrs Anne Angell

Members of the Public – Peter Dee Chairman Duxford PC

1. Apologies for absence – Barbara Fagg

2. Declaration of Members' Interests - none

3. To approve and sign minutes of meeting held on Monday 11th Jan 2016 -approved and signed

4. Matters arising:

a. Wellcome Trust 25 year vision & liaison meeting

JC attended the Ickleton PC meeting where Wellcome Trust gave a presentation to the council.

It was slightly different to the one given to Hinxton, again no definite number of houses- 900-1200 mentioned, as well as opening amenities to the village.

The Vision is due to be available soon at

https://www.wellcomegenomecampus.org/wgc/assets/campus_vision_2016-03-11.pdf

The trees which Bidwells promised in Knights Close have arrived after some 5 years.

there are 3 hawthorn (good for nesting birds) and 2 crab apples on the old pit site, nicely spaced out and then 3 clumps on the wider field - 2 sets round the old willows (one with the Little Owl box) and one new clump all with mixed oak also beech (including one purple beech) and some mountain ash/rowan and a crab apple - all good wildlife species.

b. Road signs Local Highway Initiative , this has been approved and MA to liaise with Highways and Transport, also Duxford PC to see the best place to put these for most effect.

c Meeting of Local Parish Councils regarding Neighbourhood Planning. Whittlesford are very keen to go ahead but Peter Dee said that it is a huge amount of work and very expensive and Duxford will not be going any further with the plans. The Local Plan is not yet finalised so Hinxton will wait before a decision is made

d Gt Chesterford Development plans are still in the consultation stages but thought that something is going to be built on the triangle between Stumps Cross and Gt Chesterford Rec ground. No small developments will be going ahead so it seems likely that big developments will be the main concentration. WB to send a letter raising Hinxtons concerns for this development, also contact Chairman of Gt Chesterford and try to invite Heidi Allen.

e Contribution to Water charges for the Allotments- agreed that the PC will pay the bill of £39.41

f Ford Gates Peter Topping trying to arrange another meeting as to why these are closed for such a long period of time.

g Internal Audit. Agreed to appoint Auditing Solutions to carry this out. Policies approved for this years Audit.

h. Parish Website- up and running, Minutes will be added as well as news items. Investigate to see if it can record number of hits and also put on a link to the Village Hall website

i. Flooding at North End/High St- this is supposed to be done on a regular basis- has it been done, Clerk to follow up.

j. Footpath cutting. Bidwells have agreed to pay for the permissive footpaths over the water meadows to Ickleton to be cut including the middle field.

K Bridge inspections- the metal bridge is in need of an inspection. Clerk to arrange this.

l. Audit 2016.

Chairmans' report nothing else to report.

Public Session – none

Finance

Current position of Bank Balances at 10th March 2016

Current A/C : £5233.93

Business A/C: £11014.55

Project A/C :£0

Bridge A/C: £2000.

Payments made

EON £211.21

MD Landscapes £360

PKF Littlejohn £360

CPRE £36

Website fees £77.74

Allotment Water £39.40

To pay in VHC Utilities £152.02

Received

Interest 0.17

HMRC Tax refund £2230.18

VHC contribution to car park £1000

To Pay

CCC Street lighting £63.23

ACRE subs £54

Charles Frankau Grass cutting £968.40

Payments approved.

Planning Applications

S/0148/16/FL Single oak framed garage with log store 101a High St , Phillip Weston

S/2995/15/FL Conversion of existing garage/workshop into annexe- Churchfield House. Hinxton Grange, Mr & Mrs Remijn

S/2952/15/FL Erection of detached stable for 3 stable boxes, tack and hay store, Churchfield House, Hinxton Grange, Mr & Mrs Remijn

Planning decisions

Approved-

S/3145/15/FL Installation of 4 speed bumps, Wellcome Trust Genome Centre

**Councillor reports: Councillor Peter Topping County Council
Councillor Tony Orgee District Councillor**

Tony Orgee, District Councillor -

The District Council's Budget

In previous years, district and county councils have been allowed to raise their council tax by up to 2%, but if they wanted to increase their council tax by more than 2% then they had to hold a referendum.

The rules for district councils were changed this year following representations from a number of low spending district councils. They argued that low spending councils should be able to raise their council tax by 2% or upto £5 for a Band D property, whichever was the greater, otherwise the differences between authorities would simply become wider. A council with a band D council tax of £250 per year could raise their portion of council tax by upto £5 per year without a referendum, but a council such as South Cambridgeshire (with a current Band D council tax of just over £126 per year for a band D property, would have to have a referendum if they wished to raise a band D council tax by more than £2.62 per year.

As a council with one of the lowest band d council taxes in the country, and given its overall financial position, South Cambridgeshire District Council decided to raise its Band D council tax for 2016-17 by £5.00 to £130.31. This was agreed by 46 votes to nil with two abstentions.

The Council Tax levied on behalf of Hinxton Parish Council will be £67.02 (for comparison, the average parish council band D council tax for 2016-17 will be £79.25).

The total council tax for a band D property in Hinxton in 2016-17, that is, including the county council, district council, parish council, police authority and fire authority elements of the tax, will be £1613.15.

Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bid

I was delighted that Hinxton Parish Council's bid for an LHI grant was successful. As a member of the panel that considered all the applications, I can say that the Hinxton bid was presented in a very clear and helpful manner and the panel was able to see images of the roads within the village.

In previous years, LHI bids have been submitted in the late autumn, but I understand that the process may be brought forward for 2017-18, with bids being requested in about June/July. Parish clerks will be informed about precise details in due course.

Draft Local Plan update

The District Council carried out a further round of consultation on its Draft Local Plan in December 2015 – January 2016. This consultation focussed on a small number of issues, and there was an initial discussion on the consultation responses at a meeting on 14 March. The full District Council will decide on 23 March whether to make any changes to its Draft Local Plan in the light of the consultation. It will then pass on its views to the inspector carrying out the Examination in Public into the draft Plan, and the Examination in Public will then be re-convened to carry out further hearings.

City Deal update

At recent meetings, the City Deal Joint Assembly (12 February) and the City Deal Executive Board (3 March) considered high level transport concepts that had emerged from initial study work undertaken regarding the A1307 corridor.

Although many of these high-level transport concepts are very costly (some well in excess of the £39 million allocated to the A1307 corridor), some of the funding can be available for road safety improvements, bus service improvements and bus stop accessibility improvements.

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One thing that did emerge from the City Deal Executive Board meeting on 3 March was a comment from one of the county council officers that a separate road over the Gogs was not really needed but that there might need to be some divergence from the A1307 itself from near the Gogs roundabout going towards Cambridge.

I submitted two pages of comments to both meetings and put the following question to the Executive Board (the comments and question being mostly specific to the A1307).

Given that it appears from what has already been said at this meeting that no action will be taken regarding the Linton bottleneck, given the extensive parking at a number of bio-medi and bio-technology employment sites south of Cambridge, and given the presence of an underused park and ride site at Babraham Road, what impact on congestion on the A1307 are the following high-level proposals expected to have:

- *A park and ride site in the general area of Fourwentways;*
- *An off-line rapid transit route between the general area of Fourwentways and the southern side of Cambridge;*
- *a rapid transit route running south of the built up area of Cambridge between the Babraham park and ride suite and the Addenbrookes bio-medi campus.*

I commented that the agenda item was very narrowly focussed on the A1307 and that my question was underpinned by a wider more strategic point: did what the Executive Board have before them represent a missed opportunity to consider the inter-related major bio-medical and bio-technology employment sites of Addenbrookes, the Babraham campus, Granta Park/TWI, the Genome Campus, the Great Chesterford site and the congestion hotspots of Linton and the A505 roundabout in a more holistic and integrated way.

Consultation on possible major schemes will be held starting in June, and when it does the Parish Council could consider whether to respond about the need for wider thinking that covered all the major centres of employment and traffic bottlenecks in the area bordered by the A1301 and A1307 south of Cambridge.

Report to Hinxton Parish Council – March 2016

Peter Topping

County Councillor

Wellcome Trust plans

I have been contacted by Heidi Allen MP's office seeking an update and general information on the situation and have briefed them on the recent presentation by WT and the reaction and concerns locally. I have also had a letter from Ickleton expressing their concerns about proposals for development at Gt Chesterford, and particularly that many of those likely to live there would be commuting north through south Cambridgeshire. My suggestion is that Hinxton parish council writes to Heidi Allen to establish a link there, seeking her engagement and support.

Hinxton Ford

I arranged for the new highways officer Peter Taylor to brief the chair of Duxford Parish Council, Peter Dee, on the decision processes followed in opening and closing the ford gates. Peter has circulated the notes of his meeting, and Peter Taylor has now got into the good practice of emailing ahead as to when he is about to close the gates. I am arranging a follow-up meeting, to which I hope Hinxton PC will be able to send a representative, to discuss with the senior highways engineer, who thankfully is called Emma rather than Peter, as to how the local community might have more say in the decisions to open and close the gates. As before, the issue at the heart of this is the risk appetite of the county council and their concern that if a car was swept away

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while crossing the ford they would be liable. Annoyingly, the gates are closed but the signs indicating this are currently not displayed at the Duxford end.

Update- I have today urged the County Council to open the gates – I have called and emailed Peter Taylor as his boss, Evan, is on leave. The telemetry app is showing a dropping water level at Chesterford

Hexcel

I have had no response from them: have written now to Mr Whiffen as I think the other person has now gone.

County council budget

After a meeting of some 12 hours, the county council decided to increase the council tax by two per cent, ring fenced to protect social care, and to freeze other elements of the budget. The arguments put forward by those supporting this increase was that the 2% would provide some £4m towards a very hard pressed area of the council's work. Those opposing the increase, mainly from the more rural areas of the county, were of the view that given the considerable savings that would still need to be made in social care and that the sooner the county started on its necessary transformation work the better, and not add to the tax burden of residents.

Minor highways improvement scheme

I was very pleased that Hinxton were successful in this year's bidding process. As the scheme becomes the main route by which significant improvements can be made, there will be pressure to present bids in a structured way, based on an analysis of highways issues as they affect the village, demonstrating public consultation on that analysis, and how the specific bid fits in with the wider strategic approach. Bids where the parish can make a more than 10 per cent contribution will score more highly, as will bids that are jointly made from a group of parishes.

Broadband coverage

There is a new campaign to identify where there are "not-spots" of poor wifi and broadband coverage across Cambridgeshire. The website is www.thinkbroadband.com/CambsNotspotter for more details.

Devolution deal and housing

The government is very keen on a devolved government deal for the three counties of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, to be known as the eastern powerhouse. This may be announced tomorrow in the Budget if the last minute deal making is successful. The issue is controversial because the other two counties are very different economically to this county and to this part of Cambridgeshire. The government is however offering a deal that would see South Cambridgeshire having access to funds that would enable it to build more affordable and starter homes, recognising that if there are not more homes, then the current economic boom locally might start to fail. The other advantage of devolution is that it would allow major transport improvement, such as on the A505 and rail transport locally, allowing houses to be built further away, in places like Wisbech or Newmarket, so that people could commute into Cambridgeshire, reducing the pressures to build more locally.

One issue that will come to the fore in the next few months is do we want "affordable" houses as in rented properties run by housing associations and/or the council, or do we want "starter" houses for young people on limited incomes.

Peter Topping

March 2016