

HORNINGSEA PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Councillor Peter Davison

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 25th January 2012 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors: P. Davison (Chair), D Aphthorp, L Davies, Richard McMahon
Parish Clerk: M. Starkie

Open Forum

Nine members of the public attended, some for Item 96 11/12 and some for Item 97 11/12. They were invited to speak at the scheduled items. The chairman suggested that these items should be discussed after the District Councillor's report to accommodate the members of the public but are reported here in the order of the agenda.

89 - 11/12 Apologies for absence – Cllr. Santilly had sent apologies as she was unable to attend due to a bereavement. Cllr. Gingell did not attend.

90 - 11/12 Declarations of interest personal and/or prejudicial and the nature of those interests relating to items on the agenda – none declared.

91 – 11/12 The minutes from the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 30th November 2011 and the *ad hoc* meeting on Wednesday 21st December 2011 were agreed and signed by the chairman

92 – 11/12 Reports from District and County Councillors

a) District Cllr. R Turner reported – SCDC is required to take on £205million of the national debt for Housing Revenue. The DC had no housing debt before this but will now have to pay 50% of tenants' rent to central government to meet the debt over a period of 30 years. The DC aims to increase its Precept by 3% for the next financial year; it is still one of the lowest in the country.

b) County Cllr. N Clarke was unable to attend but sent a report (on file) the main points of which were:

Busway – the millionth passenger since August has travelled from St Ives to Addenbrookes

Fatal accidents on Cambridgeshire roads – the number decreased in 2011 with 26 deaths from 23 accidents - eight fewer fatalities than in 2010

Fulbourn post office – will re-open having been closed for one year

Countryside - The results of a condition survey show that nearly 80% of the path network in the county is easy to use, clearly signposted, free from obstructions and has well maintained bridges and gates.

Hospital discharges - Adult Social Care Services in Cambridgeshire have been given £1.5 million by Central Government towards efforts to reduce delayed discharges from the county's hospitals.

Winter Warmth funding - £207,000 funding from the Department of Health will be used to reduce death and illness caused by cold housing by augmenting local services and commissioning flexible, responsive services. These will quickly identify those at risk and in need, establish rapid referral systems and increase the range and level of practical support such as benefits advice, shopping services and emergency heating repairs for people who are vulnerable to the health effects of cold weather.

93 – 11/12 Report from Linton Neighbourhood Police Panel Meeting – Cllr. Davies and the Acting Clerk attended the meeting on 13th December 2011. The priorities for this area had been the rave at Quy Fen and speeding on local roads. Farmers had been asked to attend a meeting with the police to discuss raves; no further information available. Over the next three months the priorities are the A1307, which has suffered several fatal accidents, and anti-social behaviour in the villages.

94 – 11/12 Financial Update

The following payments were approved:

- i) £166.80 Robert Balm reimbursement of horningsea.com/net hosting fees (two years to 14 April 2013)
- ii) £5,000 Horningsea Village Hall Trust regular payment for 2011 - 2012 and advances for 2012 - 2013, 2013 - 2014 and April - July 2014
- iii) £960 inc VAT Cambridgeshire County Council grounds maintenance 6 months to 31 March 2012
- iv) £36.49 Cambridge Water Company Jubilee Garden toilets.
- v) £35 ICO registration

95 – 11/12 Budget proposal for 2012/2013 and request the Precept – the budget had been circulated before the meeting and covered provision for grass-cutting, maintenance, village grants, payments to CPALC, ACRE, website provider and an amount for contingencies, a contribution for youth support to Waterbeach Way Youth Group and to include the partial cost of the 50mph and village speed restrictions agreed at the November 2011 meeting. The chairman proposed increasing the Precept by 5% in line with inflation. Cllr. Davies suggested that the fees agreed for the Land Registry searches and solicitors' fees would be more than that already agreed and proposed amending it to £1000; seconded by Cllr. Apthorp and agreed unanimously. **Action** – the chairman to provide the revised budget to the clerk who will request the Precept from SCDC.

One member of the public protested against the council using money to introduce a 50mph speed limit on Clayhithe Road. He asked where it started and pointed out that, starting at Waterbeach Station meant that was Waterbeach PC area and that Waterbeach PC should contribute to the cost. The Chairman responded that residents along Clayhithe Road had been consulted, only one had disagreed on grounds that it was not enforceable, that the CCC Highways Manager and police had been consulted and that the proposal had been agreed by a majority of council members at an Ordinary Council Meeting

96 – 11/12 Update on registration of village land – Cllr. Davies had received a report on searches from Michelle Oliver of Dixon Phillips, Commercial Solicitors. Of nine areas searched only the old village green was registered to the Parish Council. The deeds to the Jubilee toilet block had been lost. The cemetery was registered to SCDC under the Title CB2904.

Of the remaining seven areas, three are at Clayhithe: (a) the drove to the north of Riverside House is registered to Prof. & Mrs Neally, (b) the land on the river frontage of Riverside Cottages is registered to Dr. and Mrs Starkie, and (c) two pieces of land on the river frontage of the Cam Conservators' property are registered to the Cam Conservators. A number of residents spoke about their understanding of the ownership of the land at Clayhithe. The chairman asked them to produce any evidence they had.

Cllr Davies outlined the Land Registry procedures. The Chairman explained that the PC was trying to establish evidence for its ownership of the remaining pieces of land and would increase the amount provided in the budget for legal fees. It was agreed that Cllr Davies would instruct Michelle Oliver to register Luggs Lane, the Grubbage Pit and land at the end of St Johns and Dock Lane. She would ask Mike Hellowell to look again for the deeds to the toilet block.

Invoices for £402.50 and £120.80 had been received from Michelle Oliver of Dixon Phillips; these amounts had previously been agreed. Payment proposed by PD, seconded by LD and agreed unanimously.

97 – 11/12 Report on Allotments' license – Cllr. Santilly had sent a report. Members of the Allotment Committee attended the meeting and commented that some plots needed attention before the PC took them over. The Chairman undertook to secure agreement from SCDC on procedures relating to sitting tenants who were not maintaining their plots, that SCDC would accept the eventual return of the allotments in the same state in which they were handed over, and that the existing wire fence should be repaired by SCDC before handover.

98 – 11/12 Update on sewage leak High Street – the Acting Clerk had contacted Anglian Water,

Notcutts and the solicitor acting for residents to invite them all to the PC meeting to discuss the issue. Both Anglian Water and Notcutts had responded that they had investigated the problem, there was no further leakage and that they would therefore not attend the meeting. They had agreed to monitor the situation carefully and agreed to keep the council informed. This had been confirmed by the solicitor. The acting clerk asked that residents should report any leakage to Anglian Water immediately as they had a commitment to act on all such reports within a few hours and that this was quicker than trying to contact her or members of the PC; however, such reports should also be sent to the clerk to help the PC monitor the issue.

99 - 11/12 SCDC Standards' Committee proposal for Code of Conduct and declarations of interest – This information follows the passing of the Localism Act and was circulated before the meeting. SCDC is suggesting that all PCs should use the same Code of Conduct for clarity and consistency. The PC needs to adopt the new Code of Conduct by July 2012. **Action** – to be on AGM agenda

100 -11/12 A14 improvement consultation – Cllr. McMahon summarised the current situation. The previous scheme for widening the A14 between Ellingham and Fen Ditton has been abandoned and a consultation document produced specifying the issues on the whole of the A14. More information and the A14 Challenge can be found on the website and invites comments and suggestions:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-20111212/statement.pdf>

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-20111212>

RMcM pointed out that the forms on the website were not suitable for suggestions by individuals but that e-mails were also acceptable. The next stage will be for all comments and suggestions to be evaluated and a strategic outline case made by other consultants. Two improvements have been approved and funded – Spittals and Girton interchanges. LD suggested that the PC should send an e-mail reiterating the issues which it had previously highlighted – that the A14 junction at Fen Ditton should not be closed and that, if there were to be widening, the extra lane should not end at Fen Ditton but at Milton or Quy junctions because of the effect on the narrow B1047. Proposal seconded by PD and agreed unanimously. **Action** – Acting Clerk to send e-mail.

101 -11/12 Primary School Transport – the chairman had received an indication that, following a report from Atkins on the safety aspects of the Horningsea to Fen Ditton cycle/footpath, the CCC was likely to consider withdrawal of the school bus to Fen Ditton. The chairman felt there were considerable shortcomings in the report as it referred to accompanied children, five years of statistic were referred to when the path had only been opened for two years, that the crossing over the A14 access lane had been incorrectly illustrated, and that the expected crossing point of Horningsea Road was unrealistic as it was south of the school and children were unlikely to go to it and then walk back up the road on the east side. The chairman has sent his comments to Cllr. Clarke and asked him to represent these concerns to the CCC.

102 -11/12 Planning application S/2571/11 St. John's Barn - the plans were inspected. It was felt that the height of the proposed building had considerable visual impact when viewed from the curtilage of the church, which is a Grade 1 listed building. It was agreed by a majority of three to one to recommend rejection. **Action** – Acting clerk to inform SCDC.

103 - 11/12 Lugg's Lane ownership – following the previous meeting it has been established that the Lane is a public (footpath not bridleway) right of way. (Map on file).

104 - 11/12 Amendments to agreed arrangement for Parish Clerk maternity leave:

1. Extension to Margaret Starkie's temporary arrangement to 31 March 2012
2. Invitation to Robert Stone (Parish Clerk, Toft Parish Council), 26 Pepys Way, Girton CB3 0PA, clerk@toft.org.uk, to work at the same terms as Margaret Starkie, Mon 26 March - Fri 1 June 2012

Amendment proposed by PD, seconded by LD and agreed unanimously.

105 – 11/12 Amendments to cemetery regulations and to discuss maintenance

Following her attendance at a Cemetery Management course the Acting Clerk had amended the regulations. PD proposed adopting the amended regulations, seconded by LD and agreed unanimously. PD said that the fees had been reassessed in 2011 and needed to be agreed. **Action** – PD to circulate.

106 - 11/12 Report from Parish Clerk

Local Minor Highway Improvements Funding Application for funding a 50mph speed limit on Clayhithe Road and speed reductions in the village. This was submitted electronically and by post to Brian Stinton on 16th January. Nothing further heard. The application is on file.

Cleaning toilet block. The villager who cleans the Village Hall was not keen to undertake this in the winter as she can only do it in the evenings. A quotation had been received from a cleaning contractor but members felt this was high and involved travel. They suggested that it would be better to appoint a local person.

Telephone kiosk the Clerk has now heard from David Bevan. He will complete a Decision Form this week for Peter Topping to sign to agree the removal of the telephony services so that the Parish Council can adopt the kiosk.

I have written to BT giving them the history of communications and asking for their advice but have not yet heard from them

Jubilee celebrations - HM Queen Elizabeth has agreed that celebrations, local events, magazines, programmes and memorabilia can carry the official logo and be given the title “Queen’s Diamond Jubilee”.

107 - 11/12 To Accept notices & Matters for the next Agenda

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item. LGA 1972 s12 10(2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore the Council cannot lawfully agree any matter that is not on the agenda.

LD commented that a new Head teacher had been appointed to Fen Ditton Primary School and will take up his post in the summer term. He will be welcomed to the post and invited to attend a PC meeting.

The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th March 2012

The public is welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council