

WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Waterbeach Parish Council held on 4th November 2014 at 7.30 p.m. at the Old Pavilion, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach.

OPEN FORUM

The following issues were raised by members of the public: -

- Skatepark – several people spoke in favour of resolution at 14/85 below
- New lines needed for the basketball court – raised at the APM. This will be moved higher up the “to-do list”.
- Do we still own gang-mowers – the answer is yes
- The school still needs a crossing patrol officer. The Parish Council to advertise this on its noticeboards, website and Facebook page.
- An article on the development of wetlands around Cambridge
- To urge council to support resolution ref Cam Locks at 14/83(c)below
- To ask council to get input from groups in the village about ideas for expenditure of s106 funds.
- Waterbeach Matters Facebook page – people targeted should print off what’s been said and report it to the police.
- Some members’ interests’ declarations on SCDC website inadequate.
- A resident said he intended to record the meeting if no one present had any objection
- Inadequate lighting on the rec and in the village generally

PARISH COUNCIL

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr K Grant

14 / 81 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 7 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and were signed

Proposed: Cllr A Grant Seconded Cllr Bull
12 in favour. 2 abstentions (Cllrs Howlett and Rabbett not present at that meeting)

The Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 21 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and were signed

Proposed: Cllr Wright Seconded Cllr Gaunt
8 in favour. 6 abstentions (Cllrs Smart, A Grant, M Williamson, Shipp, Howlett and Rabbett not present at that meeting)

14 / 82 MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

Cllr P Johnson – South Cambridgeshire District Councillor
Cllr Smart – Items 14/84(b) and 14/92(b)

The next item was taken out of order

14 / 85 SKATEPARK

After a long discussion including comments about location, drainage, lighting, costs and the number of potential users,

it was **RESOLVED** to endorse the recommendation of the skatepark working party to provide a new concrete wheeled park in the location approved by the planners i.e. between the parish office and the tennis courts, whilst ensuring drainage and lighting issues are properly addressed.

Proposed: Cllr M Williamson Seconded: Cllr P Johnson

10 in favour. 3 Against. 1 Abstention.

An **amendment** to the above resolution “to fully explore other locations” was **not passed**.

Proposed: Cllr Shipp. Seconded: Cllr Gilzean

3 In favour. 8 Against. 3 Abstentions.

14 / 83 REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

a. A copy of the **Budget vs Actuals Accounts for Quarter 2 of 2014-15** had been circulated. This had been looked at in some detail by the Finance Committee and two amendments had been made – the addition of £1000 for tennis court maintenance and the addition of incoming bank interest.

Specific comments:

- Tillage Hall to be asked to make a contribution for their share of the electricity bills currently billed to the Groundsman’s store.
- Clerk to give a more detailed report to the Finance Committee regarding Servicing and Spares
- Grants includes the deposit of £4400 paid to Wren against the grant for the skatepark. Also the loan to the Village Society is in this account - repayment expected quite soon.

b. After some discussion about the **best use of s106 monies**, it was **RESOLVED** to pay half the cost of the recently purchased white liner machine from s106 contributions. (the other 50% having been covered by a grant).

Proposed: Cllr M Williamson. Seconded Cllr Williams: Unanimous.

The Clerk also agreed to arrange for Mr James Fisher (s106 officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council) to come to speak at a meeting on the subject of the use of s106 funds.

c. A report on the question of the **maintenance of the open spaces at the Cam Locks site** having previously been circulated, a long discussion took place covering the past history of this site and the possible reasons why the Parish Council had not agreed to adopt the land at the time. It was agreed that we need to deal with the situation as it is today and make a decision that is fair to all residents.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** to agree in principle that, subject to legal formalities and the receipt of a lump sum from the new Cody Road development, the Parish Council should take on responsibility for the open spaces and play area (but not the balancing pond) at Cam Locks, on condition that the Parish Council be given freehold ownership of the land (or a very long lease).

Proposed: Cllr M Williamson Seconded: Cllr Bull

10 in favour. 4 Against

14 / 84 REPORT FROM EMPLOYMENT PANEL

a. It was **RESOLVED** to authorise expenditure of £650 plus travel for an independent report on the work hours needed to look after the recreation ground and other open spaces in the village.

Proposed: Cllr Williams. Seconded: Cllr Howlett

11 In favour. 1 Against. 2 Abstentions.

b. Cllr Smart left the room during consideration of this item following his declaration of interest. It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the engagement of a barrister to further represent the Parish Council in any Employment Tribunal rehearing.

11 in favour. 2 Against (Cllrs Shipp & Gilzean) Cllr Smart not present.

Cllr Smart rejoined the meeting.

14 / 86 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to issue a new complaints procedure based on the template circulated to members.

Proposed: Cllr M Williamson. Seconded Cllr Bull Unanimous.

14 / 87 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Issues raised by members: -

- Leaves need to be cleared from the Green and Gault and other open spaces. The Clerk explained that these have built up due to the recent staff shortage and awaiting delivery of the proper equipment but this should be resolved shortly. It was agreed that Wellington Close be included in the leaf clearance. Pavements are the County Council's responsibility.
- The timer needs checking on the lamppost in the car park (nearest to the recreation ground).
- The dog bin is still to be installed on Bannold Road. The Clerk explained that she had been advised that, if installing a new post for this, we would need to check that no utility cable or pipes are laid underground there. It was agreed to try and tie the bin to a nearby telegraph pole.
- The basketball and tennis court lines need re-painting.
- We have asked the county for more gritting equipment for use by the volunteers but have had no reply as yet
- The damaged finger post on the Gault is hanging at a height where people could bump into it – to be repaired.
- The signs about the companies that funded the New Pavilion could now be removed as they are becoming damaged and unsightly.
- There is a dangerous willow tree branch overhanging the path near the railway station – to be reported to the County Council.

14 / 88 REPORTS

The next item was taken out of order

j. Toddler Playgroup Working Party.

It was agreed that Cllr Bull arrange a date and time to look at the old garage on the recreation ground as a potential location. Cllr Gaunt to join them as she had spoken with planners about change of use and had details of the concerns about parking.

a. Parish Clerk

A report had been circulated and is attached to the minutes. The following specific comments were made:

- Electricity use in the Old Pavilion is high in the winter not only because of additional heat and light inside but also due to the use of floodlights outside for football training

- Reports on usage levels from the library show that they match or significantly exceed the levels required by the County Council SLA. Councillors were invited to send comments or queries to the Clerk about the proposed SLA which is quite a complex document.
- The meeting point and time for the litter-pick on 22 November is 9.30 am at the Fish Shop.
- The Chair and Vice Chair will call into the office from time to time during the Christmas/New Year closure to check for post and messages. The answerphone message will be changed.
- The Finance Committee was asked to review Financial Regulation 14.2 covering the value at which property can be disposed of without reference to the council.
- It was suggested that Sport for England be approached for possible grant funding for new lighting on the recreation ground.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council's Investment Policy be reviewed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

b. County Councillor

The County Council needs to save £30m this year. A 2% increase in precept is planned, cuts in services for seniors and children's services and changes in road maintenance - to be more planned and less reactive. Significant cuts are proposed to road gritting and the Chair asked the County Councillor to flag up parish councillors' concerns that gritting on the route between Waterbeach and Cottenham Village College should not be cut. It is proposed to turn off street lighting at midnight and to reduce the levels generally by 70%.

c. District Councillor(s)

A report had been circulated and is attached to these minutes.

d. Chairman

The Chair reported that the dog survey is now closed. The basic result appears to be that around 50% of people are in favour of no change and the rest are split between requiring dogs to be on a lead or a total ban. Most valuable are the comments that have been made which fall into three main groups (a) people who do not pick up after their dogs are a problem as are (b) over-enthusiastic dogs not controlled by their owners and running up to people – whether adults or children – who are scared of dogs (c) the opportunity for people to walk their dogs on the rec and meet others had a very high social value to a lot of people. A draft report will be produced so that a formal decision can be made. This will be on the council agenda next month.

e. Library Officer –SLA covered in the Clerk's report.

f. Tree Officer – Question of consultant covered in Clerk's report.

Councillor Smart left the meeting at 9.33 pm.

g. Cemetery Working Party

A report had been circulated. The Chair felt there were some omissions, particularly in respect of the fact that the reason for recruiting Mr Rabbett in 2006 had been the fact that lots of complaints were being received about cemetery maintenance prior to that.

h. Skatepark Working Party – covered at 14/85 above.

i. Emergency Plan Working Party

It is planned for posters to go up before the publication of the parish council newsletter to tell people to look out for information to be published.

14 / 89 ACCOUNTS

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of accounts for the past month as set out in the schedule.

Proposed: Cllr Wright. Seconded: Cllr Bull Unanimous.

14 / 90 FUTURE AGENDAS

- The Chair asked that councillors who were keen to create an open spaces committee should propose a set of terms of reference for it so that the question can be properly considered.
- It was requested that “members’ interests” be added to any confidential agenda (in addition to the main agenda).
- Premises for the toddler group to be considered further following the site visit.
- Standing orders – position to be clarified on various matters.
- To consider what s106 money might be spent on. Involve residents by putting a question in the next newsletter.

14 / 91 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

To exclude the public from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

*It is hereby **resolved** in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted at the next agenda item (s) the Chairman asks that in the public interest the public and press are temporarily excluded from this meeting and are herewith instructed to withdraw.*

Proposed: Cllr Gilzean. Seconded: Cllr J Williamson Unanimous.

14 / 92 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

- a. To confirm the Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 October 2014.
- b. To receive a report regarding the Employment Tribunal.
- c. To receive a report on any further progress on audit matters

The minutes for these items appear in the council’s confidential minutes’ book.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm.

Chair