

## **WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Waterbeach Parish Council held on 7 June 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Old Pavilion, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach.

### **16/23 THOSE PRESENT/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: M Williamson (Chairman), B Bull, M Gaunt, I Gilzean, A Grant, K Grant, B Johnson, P Johnson, A Shipp, D Smart, B Williams, J Williamson, A Wright.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs M Howlett and J Rabbett; Cllr P Johnson (late arrival).

In attendance: 4 members of the public, County Cllr Maurice Leeke, District Cllr Ingrid Tregoining and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Tregoining to the meeting. It was noted that the meeting was not being recorded due to equipment problems.

### **16/24 OPEN FORUM**

A resident of Clare Close expressed objections to the re-submission of the previously declined planning application for 41 Denny End Road, on the grounds that: there would be 30 dwellings on a very small field; there was only one access onto Denny End Road; the gradual encroachment of the industrial estate; flooding of the field which had not been kept fallow as claimed; and concerns about noise and smells, and black smoke from the site which had been reported to SCDC's Environmental Health Department. The resident felt that the site was unsuitable for housing.

A resident of Winfold Road urged that the application be refused for three reasons, namely: the noise from the Industrial estate; the lack of a link from the site into the village other than by a circuitous route; and overlooking of the new dwellings by existing properties, which the Planning Officer had said could not be overcome.

### **16/25 MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 May 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman after the meeting, subject to an amendment under item 16/22 to read "Standing Order 3(L)". (Prop JW, 2nd BB, unanimous)

### **16/26 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None.

### **16/27 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES CONTRIBUTIONS**

RESOLVED that the S106 indemnity agreement for 12 Pieces Lane should be signed by the Parish Council. (Prop AS, 2nd BJ, unanimous)

### **16/28 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF LEVEL CROSSINGS IN THE PARISH**

Cllr J Williamson declared an interest as adjacent resident to one of the crossings. Since two of the crossings are on Public Rights of Way, the Chairman read out an extract from the website of the Ramblers Association. The sites proposed for closure by Network Rail on the grounds of safety were considered. Cllr P Johnson arrived during the discussion at 7.55 pm. An exhibition will be held in Cambridge on 10 June.

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council strongly believes the crossing referred to as “Jack O’Tell” on the map should be maintained as a vehicular access. The crossing referred to as Chittering is also on a public right of way and should be retained if possible. The crossing referred to as “Ballast Pit” is the only access to that land and should be kept open unless alternative access is provided. The Parish Council has no specific views on the crossing referred to as “Fysons” on the map, and Network Rail should discuss this with the landowner.. (Prop AG, 2nd BB, unanimous)

#### **16/29 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

The South Cambridgeshire proposals would involve the loss of a District Councillor. RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council is very concerned, given the future growth of population in this ward, that the proposed arrangements will not be sustainable in the medium/long term, and would prefer to retain the status quo of four members, as it does not believe the Boundary Commission has taken into account the significance of the population increase in the ward.

RESOLVED with regard to the Cambridgeshire proposals, to make the same response as before and to reiterate the concerns previously expressed.

#### **16/30 WATERBEACH TODDLER PLAYGROUP**

Cllr Bull reported. Following a site visit by a member of the County Council’s capital team a suggestion had been made to put a mobile building on another part of the recreation ground, as the site of the former Groundsman’s hut was too small and therefore unsuitable.

At 8.11 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended to allow a member of the public to comment.

The Parish Council discussed various options, including: to take down the shed and put something else on the site; to add an extension on the Tillage Hall; or the eventual use of CCC S106 money to put a new building on the new development.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is willing that the WTP should have a building that would meet their requirements on the site of the shed, as long as it is sympathetic to the surroundings. Alternatively, the Council would suggest an extension on the Tillage Hall, as it is not in favour of a portable building in another area. (Prop AG, 2nd BB, unanimous)

#### **16/31 PLANNING APPEAL**

S/0882/14/FL - Land adjacent to 41 Denny End Road, Waterbeach – Erection of 30 affordable dwellings including associated vehicular access and external works - Notice of appeal

Cllr Bull recounted the reasons for objection to the previous application, including: that this was a designated Green Belt area acting as a buffer between the industrial site and the village; excessive noise and radiation; the existing gridlock in Denny End which would be exacerbated by any increase in traffic; drainage; loss of wildlife; inaccuracies in the Design and Access Statement; a road leading to nowhere; the need for affordable homes at the barracks; the impact on residents who were unable to use their gardens because of noise and smells; and the duty of care by the Parish Council to the residents who should not be expected to live in a poor environment.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would like to be present at the forthcoming hearing by the Inspector to Waterbeach and would like to speak against the application.

RESOLVED to reiterate the previous objections made in January and, given the additional

proposals for additional development at Stirling House, to make the following additional objections on the grounds of lack of sustainability, due to: the potential increased traffic congestion in Denny End Road, given the subsequent development at Stirling House; the roads and trains are already at capacity and the bus service is poor with no service on Sundays; poor infrastructure; and the waste disposal and sewage are over capacity.

All residents were urged to object to the application, especially regarding the noise issue.

S/0252/15/FL – Hall Farm Stables, Cambridge Road – Change of use to riding school and livery use including retention of ancillary buildings (retrospective), extension to existing ménage (retrospective) and the erection of an agricultural worker’s dwelling to support the riding school and livery business

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to obtain the Parish Council’s informal view on the application. Cllrs P Johnson, B Johnson and Gilzean declared an interest as friends of the applicant and left the meeting. The four remaining members of the public left the meeting.

Cllr Bull recounted the objections made to the previous application, including that the application was outside the development framework, within the Green Belt; was very large for an agricultural dwelling; the site was a field; there was no drainage report; the site was between two ancient monuments but there was no archaeological report; light pollution issues; the Parish Council owned the tarmac roadway and there were access issues. None of the issues raised by the Parish Council had been addressed.

RESOLVED, whilst the Parish Council felt that its previous comments stood, given that the papers from SCDC had been wrongly delivered and given the difficulties encountered in obtaining time extensions, that Cllr Williams should telephone Andrew Filmore at SCDC tomorrow and that a further meeting should be held on Tuesday 14 June to discuss the application in more detail.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 8.45 pm.

### **16/32 LIBRARY GRANT**

RESOLVED to approve a grant to WILL for £1000.00 for new books to support the Summer Reading Challenge. (Prop MG, 2nd AW, unanimous)

### **16/33 ADDITIONAL GROUNDS AND OFFICE SUPPORT**

- (a) To consider a replacement for Les Alligan who will be leaving at the end of June

RESOLVED having considered various scenarios, to employ a contractor using their equipment on an ad hoc basis, which would cost approximately £400 per cut for the cemetery, £120 per cut for the recreation ground, and £100 per cut for the open spaces and verges including the Green. (Prop BW, 2nd MG, carried with 1 abstention)

- (b) To consider the report proposing additional admin support at the Parish Office

RESOLVED having considered the proposal for additional support to deal with the increasing workload, cover for leave, and the current circumstances, arrangements and various options, to recruit an additional Assistant Clerk on a temporary contract for 6 months in the first instance, for 30 hours per month, at an approximate cost of £4000 (pro-rata) with a review after 6 months, and costs to be checked and covered by virement from the insurance budget and the Neighbourhood Plan budget. The Parish Council will look

into ways of providing uninterrupted time for the Clerk. (Prop MW, 2nd PJ, carried with 2 abstentions)

## **16/34 OFFICER AND COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

### **a. Clerk**

No report available.

### **b. District Councillor(s)**

Cllr P Johnson spoke to his previously circulated written report and referred to the car park at the old goods yard, the post box, overflowing drains in Greenside/Chapel Street. He undertook to speak to SCDC regarding clearing out the remaining drains. A question was asked about the drains and the new pedestrian crossing. Cllr Johnson will contact SCDC. A request was made for the accessibility of the pavement on The Gault to be looked at as this was not flat or wide enough for wheelchairs and could be hazardous. The Parish Council asked Cllrs Johnson and Leeke to look into this.

Cllr I Tregoeing reported on the Planning Portfolio holder's meeting and the Sports Strategy Consultation. It was suggested that Parish Councils consider what facilities, both indoor and outdoor, were needed or should be protected, as part of a Neighbourhood Plan, and provide feedback.

### **c. County Councillor**

Cllr Leeke reported on:

- the Greater Cambridge City Deal recommendation to have peak time road closures at congestion points in Cambridge, on an experimental basis.
- the proposals for a workplace parking levy of £1.50 per day for employers offering more than 10 parking spaces
- Changes to the Milton and Histon Road to speed up buses.
- The Devolution settlement.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable the meeting to continue. (Prop BB, 2nd BJ, unanimous)

### **d. Library Officer**

No report available

### **e. Tree Officer**

A comment was made about the extent of the work on the leylandii on the Recreation Ground.

### **e. Chair of the Parish Council**

Nothing to report.

## **16/35 WORKING PARTY AND PROJECT REPORTS**

### **a. Planning**

Nothing to report.

### **b. Highways**

Cllr Gilzean reported on a site meeting with John O'Donnell regarding three locations for a 40 mph speed reduction at Car Dyke, Denny End and Clayhithe.

### **c. Finance**

The Internal Auditor had not yet reported but had raised some queries which were being

attended to. Items outstanding from the April finance meeting regarding Commercial Organisations Open spaces and wooden gates were deferred to a future Parish Council meeting.

**d. Recreation User Group**

Nothing to report.

**e. Skatepark Working Party**

Nothing to report.

**f. Emergency Plan Working Party**

Nothing to report.

**g. Toddler Playgroup Working Party**

Nothing to report.

**h. Neighbourhood Plan Working Party**

Cllr Williams reported on a good session at the Annual Parish Meeting. There will be a stall at the Feast. Parish Councillors were invited to attend. The position regarding insurance cover is to be checked.

**i. Grant Funding**

Cllr Gaunt reported that funding was being sought from ACRE for the Neighbourhood Plan.

**j. Cemetery**

Issues arising from the survey are being looked into. A report from the June meeting of the steering group will be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting. It is hoped to submit the plans as soon as possible to allow an Autumn start with a joint planning application. The report is to be circulated.

**k. Urban & Civic**

Apologies had been received from Rebecca Britton (illness).

**l. Groundscare Tender**

Groundscare tender documents had been sent out. Tenders were sought by 24 June.

County Cllr Leeke and District Cllr Tregoing left the meeting at 9.43 pm.

**16/36 ACCOUNTS**

A query was raised whether the electricity bill was actual or estimated. The Chairman pointed out that the invoice was available for anyone to inspect. The play inspection report is to be circulated. The costs of photocopying were queried. A query was raised about the use of electricity at the machinery store. This will be looked into.

RESOLVED that the payments as shown in the payments list, be approved for payment.  
(Prop JW, 2nd MG, carried with 3 abstentions)

**16/37 FUTURE AGENDAS**

Items for the next meeting are to include:

Standing Order 3 (L) and the outstanding items from the April Finance Meeting.

The Urban & Civic Cemetery presentation.

The bench.

**16/38 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

On a proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed, in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that is, employment matters, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw. No members of the public were present. The Minutes Secretary was invited to remain. (Prop BB, 2nd JW, unanimous)

**16/39 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

**16/40 CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT MATTERS**

At 10.02 pm, the meeting was re-opened to the public. No members of the public returned. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.02 pm.

Signed .....Chairman .....date

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