

BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting Monday 7 December at 7.45pm, held online due to coronavirus restrictions

PRESENT:

Cllr Jon Ogborn- Chair. Cllrs Buchanan, Chetwynd, Clarke, Marsh, O'Dell, Sunner, van Someren and Winkcup; D/Cllr Cane and C/Cllr Shuter also attended for part of the meeting. Jonathan Cook (A to B1102 Group) attended for the Public Session.

142 PUBLIC SESSION:

Cllr Ogborn welcomed Jonathan Cook from the A to B1102 Group and invited him to address the meeting. Mr Cook explained that the role of the group was to support already established groups (including Parish Councils) and to provide a conduit for consultations on transport issues affecting this part of East Cambridgeshire. In particular those instigated by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) which is currently developing plans for the eastern access into Cambridge. He noted that only 19 responses had been received from the area covered by the group during a consultation in the summer. He said that 25,000 vehicles use the B1102 in each direction during the course of a working week. Any changes made on the far side of the Quoy roundabout will inevitably affect our villages. A key objective of the Eastern Access Project is to minimise the use of private vehicles to reach the centre of Cambridge so it is important that the villages in the group scrutinise the proposals to assess the impact in East Cambridgeshire. The plan for the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro is projected to pass through our area on its way to Mildenhall, but there is no clarity about the route it would follow – another aspect which local people need to be engaged with. The current round of consultation closes on 18 December and he emphasised the importance of both Council and individual responses. While Cambridgeshire County, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Councils are represented on the Executive Board, East Cambridgeshire is not.

The Clerk has forwarded Mr Cook's presentation to all councillors. This includes a link to a survey by the A to B1102 Group which will collect views from this area to help shape responses to the Partnership.

C/Cllr Shuter referred to the development of a "gateway" station at Six Mile Bottom alongside a substantial development of new housing, which would also have an impact on transport systems in this area. He also highlighted the importance of engaging with the Mayor of the Combined Authority on the needs of this part of Cambridgeshire.

ACTION: Cllr O'Dell will collate and circulate bullet points of suggested comments from Council members, taking into account draft paragraphs prepared by the A to B1102 Group to enable a submission to the GCP consultation by the closing date of 18 December.

ACTION: Individual Councillors are encouraged to complete the A to B1102 Group survey

143 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Received from Cllrs Martin and di Lorenzo.

144 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November were agreed and will be signed when possible.

145 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

146 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Parish Councillor vacancy:

Cllr Ogborn advised that Cllr Sunner has indicated that he will be standing down from the Council at the end of March, as his business responsibilities will leave him with less time in Bottisham. Cllr Ogborn expressed his gratitude for the service Cllr Sunner has given to the Council. This would mean there would now be two vacancies to be filled this spring. He said that he had been pleased by the level of interest in co-option to the vacancy following his article in the December Cresset.

ACTION: Cllr Ogborn to instigate the process for selecting a co-optee from those submitting applications

b) Preventing Vehicular incursion on Ancient Meadows green:

D/Cllr Cane has arranged a meeting on site with the responsible officer from ECDC. This will be attended by Cllr Winkup and the Clerk. A number of possible options for achieving this were suggested by Mead Construction. Cllr Clarke noted that this was an issue which the Parish Council had drawn to the attention of the District Council as the owner of the land, but it is not responsible for providing the solution. He stressed the importance of seeking the views of residents before implementation.

c) Preventing parking on the Triangle:

The Clerk had sought three quotations for the work proposed at the November meeting. One company did not respond and the second said this was not work they could undertake. Mr Mead of Mead Construction visited the site and advised that the proposal to install boulders would create difficulty for mowing and maintenance. He suggested the installation of square posts similar to those already there, as these are easy to mow around. During discussion it was agreed the posts previously supplied by Highways would not be sufficiently robust for the purpose. Meads have equipment to detect electric cables under the surface.

ACTION: Clerk to forward Mead Construction quotation to Cllrs Sunner and Martin

ACTION: Cllrs Sunner and Martin to discuss further with Mr Mead, including possible sample dig to ascertain the feasibility of the proposed solution

d) Bus Shelter:

Following responses from two builders that the task was too large and no response at all from three bigger firms approached, the Clerk has arranged with one firm to provide a quotation and will also contact a builder suggested by Cllr Marsh

ACTION: Clerk

e) Repair to Village Map opposite the Church:

This has now been completed and the appearance is much improved. A resident commented to Cllr Ogborn that the map itself is out of date. There was discussion about the feasibility of updating the maps at the two locations in the village. Some suggestions were made about seeking input from the school. However past investigations have indicated that the matter could be very costly and, in an age when most have access to electronic mapping, it was concluded that this should not be pursued at this time.

147 COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

C/Cllr Shuter reported that managing services in the context of Covid continues to be the County's priority. The level of infection in East Cambridgeshire is currently running at about 50 per 100,000 people, but remains stubbornly high in the Peterborough area.

Cllr Buchanan asked about the trial to restrict parking in the areas close to schools and whether Bottisham could be added to the trial. C/Cllr Shuter replied that the trial areas had been selected by reference to the local road conditions and that it is not possible to apply to be included.

In response to a question from Cllr Winkcup about the drains in Lode Road, he said that the necessary information had been gathered but not yet disseminated – he anticipates that it should be available by February 2021.

148 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

D/Cllr Cane said that the recent Operational Services Committee meeting had noted the excellent performance of the street cleansing and waste collections teams in maintaining services throughout the period of Covid restrictions.

The Finance and Assets Committee had considered the local bus services review and made response to the Mayor about the needs of the East Cambridgeshire area. She mentioned the need to increase the frequency of the no. 11 service, as well as having a direct link to Cambridge North. The Committee seeks reconsideration of the decision not to trial 'demand responsive transport' in the villages; this could provide an effective link to faster bus services into Cambridge. Cllr O'Dell commented that he had previously proposed the introduction of Community Buses, which D/Cllr Cane said could be part of the solution.

149 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Cllr Ogborn said that he had been contacted by Tony Jolley and Rhona Walker regarding increasing noise levels from the A14, particularly for residents in the High Street. Cllr Ogborn will represent Parish Council at a meeting arranged by Mr. Jolley and Mrs. Walker with Highways England and Cambs County Council, with a view to getting this area nominated for noise abatement works. He advised that the next funding round was in 2025.

ACTION: Councillors to send comments to Cllr Ogborn as background to the meeting.

150 PLANNING:

The Parish Council considered the following applications:

20/01309/FUL 1 Bottisham Place

Proposed change of use (only) of existing redundant Grade II listed agricultural barn to B1 (light industrial) use for the manufacture of timber pods (no alteration to barn)

Cllr Ogborn had visited the site and discussed the plans with the applicant. There will be no change to the building and he was reassured that this activity will not generate significant traffic.

20/01209/FUL & 20/01309/FUL 1 Bottisham Place

Amended plans for Highways in respect of new access previously approved under ref 17/01876/FUL

These amendments had been reviewed by Cllr Buchanan and no concerns were identified.

20/01467/FUL Old Orchard House, 55A Lode Road
Single storey extensions with balustrade to front and rear

Cllr Buchanan reported that this property is situated adjacent to Bottisham Village College. The proposals do not impinge on neighbours and no objections have been received. The Council identified no concerns with this application.

20/00296/OUM Land to rear of 163 to 187 High Street
Development of Retirement Care Village

Cllr Buchanan advised that a request had been made for additional time to comment on this application as it has been substantially amended, notably by the addition of up to 50 affordable dwellings on the north west corner of the site adjacent to Rowan Close which means that it is now a mixed development. The Chair of the Planning Committee has agreed to determine the matter at the February meeting of the Planning Committee. The additional time will ensure that residents have adequate opportunity to comment on the changes as well as permitting a detailed review of the new documents by the Parish Council. Cllr Clarke pointed out that the most relevant document is the new Design and Access statement.

It was agreed that the Planning Working Group will meet on 15 December to draft the Council's response which then be placed on the agenda for the full Parish Council meeting on 4 January.

151 ENVIRONMENT:

Cllr Winkcup advised that the two diseased Poplars in the lane from Beechwood Avenue to Ancient Meadows had been felled. They are due to be replaced by new trees which has not yet happened.

Cllr Sunner reported that this path was very slippery and needed a new surface. The Clerk said that it had already been reported to ECDC following an incident when a child slipped and fell. He was assured that action will be taken. The state of the Jubilee Path had been reported but Highways had responded that it was not sufficiently bad to warrant action at this point.

Parish Council Streetlights: The Clerk reported that the Council owns 8 lights and a recent inspection had found that 4 were not working. He has made enquiries to Balfour Beatty to establish the cost of a maintenance contract. They responded by saying that some lights may be obsolete which means that bulbs could not be replaced. When they carried out an inspection 7 of the 8 were found to fall into this category, so we are now awaiting a quotation for the cost of their replacement.

152 FINANCE:

a) Precept for 2021-22

The Clerk advised that the invitation to submit a Precept for 2021-22 indicates that the Tax Base is estimated at 842.7 Band D properties. This was queried with the Finance Manager at ECDC as the number for 2020-21 was 866.4, meaning that the latest figure represents a fall

of 2.8%. Given that a number of new properties have been completed over the intervening period the number might have been expected to increase rather than decrease. The response was that the estimated figure takes account of the anticipated rise in unemployment reducing the numbers of households able to pay the tax. This is assessed across the District rather than by individual parish.

The Council is being alerted to this now, as the Precept request will need to be decided at the January meeting whereas the budget is proposed to be determined in February.

For information, the amount levied per household this year was £55.71 while the average for all the parishes in ECDC is £78.32. The range goes from £3.06 to £127.78.

b) The following payments were agreed:

	£
Jonathan Giles – Salary, PAYE and NI	728.52
Software for Clerk's Computer (reimburse Cllr Winkcup)	17.32
I Swift– Litter picking (5weeks)	65.60
K Levitt– Litter picking (3weeks)	39.36
Repair to Village Map sign	414.26
Haven Power – Streetlighting (Nov- collected by DD)	49.11
Haven Power – Streetlighting (Dec-to be collected by DD)	47.82
East Cambs Trading Company – Grasscutting	408.31

153 NEW CEMETERY WORKING PARTY:

No report this month

154 PRE-SCHOOL PLAY AREA WORKING PARTY:

No report this month

155 CORRESPONDENCE:

The listed items were noted. Cllr Ogborn thanked Cllr Winkcup, who had responded to the request circulated for a new Trustee for the Bottisham Local Charity

156 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 4 January 2021 at 7.30 pm on Zoom