

# BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of meeting Monday 1 November at 7.45pm, in the Poppy Room, Bottisham Social Club

### PRESENT:

Cllr Ogborn- Chair. Cllrs van Someren, O'Dell, Wilson and Winkcup  
C/Cllr Sharp; D/Cllr Trapp

### APOLOGIES:

Cllrs Buchanan, Cundell, di Lorenzo Martin & Marsh; D/Cllr Cane

**ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None

**90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**91 MINUTES OF MEETINGS 4 October 2021:** Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr O'Dell and agreed unanimously

### 92 MATTERS ARISING

a) **Play Area Working Group – Consultation with residents of Ancient Meadows:** A letter, which is being finalised by the Working Group, will be circulated in January. A box for feedback responses will be placed in the Village Store as well as a meeting for those interested in the Poppy Room on 24 January 2022

b) **Lode Road Flooding:** Cllr Winkcup has been sent copies of the surveys of drains in Lode Road carried out in 2019, which revealed that they were silted up. He also recorded his thanks to local residents who have provided information about their experience of the problem. He understands that 6-8 drains in the area between Pound Close and Jenyns Close were flushed out in 2019. This improved the situation, but problems are now re-emerging which he believes maybe linked to leaves falling during autumn. Cllr Winkcup reported that Bob Rossiter, the responsible officer from Highways, is proposing that the area from the garage on Tunbridge Lane to the village store should be cleared once the fall of leaves is complete in a few weeks time. Cllr Winkcup also highlighted the poor surface on the pavement outside the takeaway shops. The Clerk advised that similar problems occur outside the Old Bakery on the High Street.

**ACTION:** The Clerk will report the problem with the drain outside the Old Bakery and copy this to Bob Rossiter, with a request to prioritise the resurfacing of the pavement outside the shops

c) **Funding of the Newmarket CAB:** The Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to D/Cllr Ambrose-Smith setting out the Parish Council's concerns should the review determine that ECDC funding should be withdrawn

d) **New sign at Newman's Farm at the entrance from the A1303:** Cllr Wilson confirmed that there is no record of permission being granted for this sign by either the County or District Council. D/Cllr Trapp pointed out that signs are permitted up to a defined size.

**ACTION:** Cllr Wilson will check whether the sign conforms to the permitted size

**93 COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** C/Cllr Sharp reported that the only recent meeting was that of the Children & Young Persons Committee which had largely been concerned with the budget for 2022-23. The Highways & Transport Committee is meeting on 4 November and will focus on "active travel", ie the promotion of walking and cycling. He encouraged the Council to respond to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Eastern Access project consultation which begins on 3 November. He also highlighted the proposed Ely Rail Enhancement Scheme, which could

improve the local environment by moving freight traffic from roads (especially the A14) onto the railway. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, on which he also sits, had expressed concern that the Combined Authority Mayor's Transport Strategy had not been shared with them. He had received a recent briefing on the Covid situation, which pointed to a relatively high incidence within the County, although it now appears to be reaching a plateau. Recent attendance at the Village College has been 93% which is better than the County average.

**94 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** The District Council report is appended to these minutes, but D/Cllr Trapp drew attention to the proposed Police led scheme to tackle issues such as speeding and illegal parking. He was impressed by the presentation from the Police and is hopeful that the scheme can have an impact across the District Council area including the villages. He asked that Council members send him a note of problems areas within Bottisham, so that these can be fed into the scheme.

**ACTION:** Council members are asked to email D/Cllr Trapp with locations where illegal parking and speeding are prevalent within the village.

D/Cllr Trapp also referred to the minor revision to the Local Plan, which is possible because there is more than 5 years land supply within the District. He believes, however, that opportunity should be taken to develop a new plan taking account of new sustainability standards.

**95 CHAIR'S REPORT:** The Chair reported that Cllr Martin has tendered his immediate resignation on the grounds that his work is increasingly requiring him to be unavailable at the time of Council meetings. He thanked him for his contribution while a member of the Council and is grateful that he will complete the project to install the bollards around the Triangle within the next couple of weeks

**96 PLANNING:** Cllr Wilson had circulated the monthly Planning Information sheet. The only significant issue listed is the notice of Appeal by the applicant seeking to develop a retirement care village and affordable housing on the site behind 163-187 High Street (Application ref 20/00296/OUM). The initial stage of the appeal runs from 18 October to 22 November, by which time the Parish Council needs to decide whether it wishes to apply for Rule 6 status in the Inquiry. This would enable the Council to present evidence on a formal basis and to cross examine the evidence of others. A complicating factor is that the applicant's grounds for appeal have not yet been disclosed. Cllr Wilson is liaising with Anne James, who is presenting the case on behalf of ECDC. As the Parish Council's view is in agreement with that expressed to date by the District Council, it may be most efficient and effective to indicate this to the Inquiry, rather than seeking separate representation. In the meantime, whilst we await details of the grounds for the appeal, D/Cllr Trapp suggested that the Parish Council might review its previous comments in the light of the basis for the Planning Committee's refusal of planning permission to see if there are any matters to be added. The formal hearing of the Appeal is scheduled for 25 January 2022 though the venue for this has not yet been notified.

**97 ENVIRONMENT:**

a) **Highways reporting system:** Cllr Winkcup advised that the Highways reporting system removes the fault from the website at the point a decision is made about repairing a fault rather than when the repair itself is completed. This makes it difficult for the public to see the current status of the problem and may lead to multiple reporting of the same issue if there is delay in carrying out the repair. Particular concern was expressed with delay in repairing the damaged crash barrier on the A1303.

b) **Bus shelter:** The Clerk reported that the junction box in the bus shelter has been vandalised. An electrician has attended and is sourcing a replacement which is proving difficult; consequently the price of the repair is not yet known. Cllr Ogborn has taped up the box to prevent access to the wiring which could be dangerous. The Clerk has stressed the urgency of the repair

to the electrician, given the safety concerns. Given the frequency of problems being reported at this location, the Clerk sought advice about reporting to the Police from Sgt Lupton-Pike who is responsible for community policing in the area. He said that while the 101 reporting number is to be used for non-urgent reports, if any member of the public sees vandalism in progress the right course of action would be to dial 999, so that the Police could determine whether to attend immediately.

**c) Streetlight by garages in Jenyns Close:** This light, which is the property of the Parish Council, has now failed and as it lights an otherwise very dark area it is important that it be replaced. The Clerk has reported the derelict state of the garages and the growth of shrubs around the old light to Sanctuary. Removal of the latter will be required before the light can be replaced. It was proposed by Cllr Winkcup and seconded by Cllr Wilson that the Clerk be empowered to order a replacement light from Balfour Beatty at an approximate cost of £1600+VAT. This was agreed unanimously.

**d) Maintenance concerns:** Concern has been raised about the lack of cleaning of the bus shelter at the eastern end of the High Street and the overgrowth of some hedges in the cemetery, both of which are covered by the maintenance contract with East Cambs Trading Company.

**ACTION:** The Clerk will refer these issues to the East Cambs Trading Company for action

**e) Flower beds by the village sign and wild flower area in the Churchyard:** The Council expressed its gratitude for the work of the volunteers who have taken on the beds by the village sign, as well as for those who care for the Churchyard where a new wildflower area has been created.

**98 FINANCE:** It was proposed by Cllr Winkcup, seconded by Cllr Wilson and unanimously agreed that the following payments be approved:

Jonathan Giles – Salary, Pension, PAYE and NI	749.60
Jonathan Giles – Face masks	4.99
I Swift – Litter picking (4 weeks)	52.50
K Levitt – Litter picking (4 weeks)	52.50
Haven Power – Streetlights (paid by DD)	47.82
Wave – Churchyard Water	19.52
Microsoft 365 subscription	59.99
Simpsons – bedding plants by the village sign	24.00

**99 UPDATE ON NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE AND EMAIL:** Cllr Cundell had sent a note to advise members of the progress with this major project. Cllr Winkcup said the main project goals of setting up the new website and email had been achieved. The new website has drawn many favourable comments. Notice has been given to the previous provider and will take effect from January. In the meantime, the data on old PC email accounts will be transferred to the new emails.

**100 NEW CEMETERY UPDATE:** Cllr Ogborn circulated copies of the proposed design to members. The consultants, who have advised us to date, have recommended that a specialist Planning Consultant be engaged to present the planning application to ECDC on the Council's behalf. Cllr Ogborn has identified three potential consultants who are qualified to do this work and will approach them for a formal quotation. He reported that the design has now been approved by the Eastern Regional Board of the National Trust, which is significant progress towards the acquisition of the site. This design has the vehicular entrance at the northern end of the site. This location provides much better sight lines for vehicles entering and leaving, and obviates the need to relocate the chicane which is situated near the southern end. At that meeting, a board member had queried whether it might not be better for all parties if the Trust granted a

long (999 year) lease rather than the land having to be compulsorily purchased. This might be a simpler and less costly approach if it is possible for the Trust to offer a long lease. The Trust's surveyor is now obtaining valuations from two independent surveyors on both a compulsory purchase and leasehold basis.

**101 CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence listed was noted

**102 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 6 December at 7.45 pm in the Poppy Room

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom</b>
<b>92b</b>	Report blocked drain outside the Old Bakery in the High Street and advise bob Rossiter	The Clerk
<b>92d</b>	Establish whether the new sign at Newman's Farm at the entrance from the A1303 is within the permitted size limit	Cllr Wilson
<b>94</b>	Email D/Cllr Trapp with locations where illegal parking and speeding are prevalent within the village	All Cllrs
<b>97d</b>	Contact the East Cambs Trading Company regarding the requirement to clean the bus shelter at the eastern end of Beechwood Avenue and the need to cut back overgrown hedges in the Cemetery	The Clerk

**District Councillors' Report to Parish Councils November 2021**

At the last Council meeting we had a very interesting presentation from Superintendent James Sutherland (Cambridgeshire Police) about a pilot scheme for speeding and parking enforcement in the District. The Council agreed that that the Cambridgeshire Police Pilot Scheme to integrate community-based enforcement of speeding, anti-social and illegal parking under Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017, be supported. Furthermore, Cambridgeshire Police have proposed to target identified 'hot spots' in the District with enhanced on-street and speeding enforcement in 2021/22 be supported.

Although this pilot scheme won't be operational until the New Year, we think that identification of so-called 'hot spots' in our parishes should be undertaken by Parish Councils, and this will help in the selection and training of personnel for this pilot scheme. It is important to identify not only locations, but also the time of day where infringement of speeding and parking is rampant. Please send the list to one of us, and we shall forward it onto the Superintendent. This pilot scheme, most likely the first in the country, and the responsibility of the police, will be reviewed during the year. Charlotte and I still feel that the Council should take on the responsibility with Civil Parking Enforcement, which is done in almost all other Districts in the country.

The change in the operation of Committees in which members should submit questions in writing before the meeting was useful and more efficient as it was still possible to ask follow-up questions in the Finance & Assets Committee. The papers will also be issued more than a week before the meeting to give members more time to reflect on the contents. We shall see what happens in other Committees, and whether the chairman continues to allow supplementary questions.

A very limited partial update of the Local Plan will be going out to consultation. The update is to the *Housing Requirement* figure; the Council can demonstrate a more than required five-year land supply test, and thus restrict development to areas within the Local Plan or within Neighbourhood Plans. Although our Local Plan needs an update, particularly to incorporate energy efficiency and other climate protection measures, there seems little point in doing so until the Government stops dithering on its housing policy.