

# **BOTTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting Monday 7 March at 7.45pm, in the Poppy Room, Bottisham Community Sports & Social Club**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr Ogborn- Chair; Cllrs Buchanan, Cundell, O'Dell, di Lorenzo, van Someren, Wilson, Winkcup  
C/Cllr Sharp; D/Cllr Cane

### **APOLOGIES:**

Cllr Marsh

**PRESENTATION FROM RIDGE CLEAN ENERGY:** The presentation was made by Mr Richard Barker, Project Manager, Ms Daniela Jenkins, Community Hub Manager and Mr John Fairlie, Planning Consultant. The content of the presentation can be seen by following this link:

Key factors that emerged from the presentation were that the site is within the Green Belt. Mr Fairlie advised that renewable energy schemes are potentially permissible under the “very special circumstances” provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework. The greatest visibility of the site will be from the Wilbraham Road – there is potential for reducing this with hedging next to the perimeter fence.

Ms Jenkins explained that Ridge Clean Energy works with communities in the locality of their solar farm developments to offer a community benefits package for the duration of the project; she highlighted one opportunity being the development of play facilities. The company will arrange an exhibition either later this month or during April to introduce the proposed scheme and its benefits to the wider community.

Cllr Buchanan highlighted the importance of linking with the Wilbrahams and Ms Jenkins responded that they were already in touch with them and would offer an exhibition in their locality as well. Cllr Buchanan suggested that linking with the Jockey Club would also be important. She asked why this location had been selected and Mr Barker responded that it was because of its easy connectivity to the grid and a response to the commitment of communities in the area to achieve net zero emissions. When asked by Cllr Winkcup about the Sunnica scheme planned for Burwell, he said that this was a large scale development linking into the national grid whereas the Six Oaks proposal would prioritise local communities through the UK Power network. He also confirmed that link to the grid at Fulbourn would be by underground cables.

Cllr Wilson advised that the Council had been approached by Lucy Frazer, MP to understand what questions and concerns had been expressed by the Council and community about the proposal. Cllr Wilson agreed to contact her office to advise that the best time for us to respond to her would be following the planned exhibition. Cllr Ogborn thanked Ridge Clean for travelling to Bottisham to give this helpful presentation.

### **137 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

D/Cllr Cane is a Director of Reach Community Solar Farm

Cllrs Buchanan & Winkcup are Governors of Bottisham Village College

**138 MATTERS ARISING:**

i) **Local Highways Initiative:** Cllr Wilson said that the Council had been advised that the proposal to extend the 30 mph limit to 133 Lode Road was not permissible because this area is not continuous with the development at the centre of the village. We were advised, however, that we should be able to apply for a 20 mph limit while the Cemetery is being constructed and that, once complete, the Cemetery would link the central part of the village with 101-133 Lode Road so that it should then qualify for a permanent 30 mph limit. Cllr Wilson has written a letter to the residents of 101-133 Lode Road to explain the situation.

**139 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2022:** Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Winkcup, seconded by Cllr Cundell and approved by all those present at that meeting. (Cllrs Buchanan, di Lorenzo and O'Dell abstained as they were not present.)

**140 COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** C/Cllr Sharp reported that the County Council had agreed an increase in its precept of 4.99%. 3% of this relates to social care budgets – the rest is largely intended to increase reserves, a move which the Conservative group had opposed. The Highways & Transport Committee is considering setting up a fund to develop 20 mph zones. This will be reconsidered in July and he anticipates that it may be built into budgets for the year 2023-24. The final report into the “Farmgate” affair has now been received – the Audit Committee is seeking to ensure that as much of the report is published as lawyers will permit.

Members of the Parish Council raised the continuing problem of flooding within the village and C/Cllr Sharp agreed to follow up with Bob Rossiter, seeking confirmation of the ongoing maintenance programme for cleaning drains and gullies alongside the specific issues that had been raised regarding potholes.

Cllr Cundell raised the issue of long stay parking in the laybys adjacent to the shops noting that, during a recent visit, the Police had recommended the installation of signs limiting parking to 30 minutes through the hours 8am to 7.30pm as a way of reducing illegal parking in the triangle area.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to request Highways to implement 30 minute maximum waiting time in laybys outside the shops noting that this has been requested by the Police (cc to Police, C/Cllr Sharp, P Cllrs)

**ACTION:** C/Cllr Sharp will request information from Highways on the maintenance programme for drain and gully cleaning.

**141 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** D/Cllr Cane reported that ECDC had frozen the level of Council Tax in its budget. It had also thanked its residents for their support to the community and to the Council during the lockdown. Questions to the Council from the public had highlighted the public interest in electric vehicle charging points in the district. She reminded members that the Council has reviewed its waste collection rounds to improve cost-effectiveness, as well as reducing pollution. This means that local collections will be on a Monday, though there are a number of bank holidays in the period following implementation on 28 March which may make it more complex for people getting used to the new regime. She noted that the potholes she had reported in the approach road to Hilton Park have been repaired.

**142 CHAIR'S REPORT:** Cllr Ogborn proposed setting a date for the Annual Parish Meeting, and having checked that the Main Hall of the Social Club is available, it was resolved that this should take place on Tuesday 24 May at 7.30 pm. It was agreed that the organisations invited to address the meeting would be the Primary School and Village College, the Police, District & County Councillors and the Parish Council.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to confirm the booking of the hall and notify key invitees to save the date.

**143 PLANNING:**

a) **22/00153/FUL - Dunkeld, 70 Tunbridge Lane, CB25 9DU**

**Conversion of existing garage into granny annexe**

The Council has no issues with the application as it stands. It asks that a condition be applied that it is never to be sold or rented separately from the house

b) **22/00121/FUL – Paddocks, North of Chalk Farm, Newmarket Rd, Bottisham**

A check on boundaries revealed that the property in question lies within Swaffham Bulbeck Parish even though the postal address is Bottisham.

c) **22/00204/FUL – Site to south and east of Ox Meadow**

**Proposed agricultural access to land at Bell Road**

The Council considered this application and asks that it be refused on the grounds that the current access from the A1303 remains adequate. This additional access is unnecessary and will bring additional traffic to a road heavily used by local residents and those travelling to the village schools.

d) **22/00984/RMM – Land off Bell Road**

**Approval of reserved matters application for access, landscaping, appearance, scale and layout of 16/01166/OUM, outline planning application for residential development of up to 50 dwellings, new vehicular and pedestrian access from Ox Meadow, public open space including allotments and associated infrastructure**

This consultation was received on the day of the meeting requiring comments by 21 March. The Clerk was asked to seek an extension until 5 April given that nearly 100 additional documents have been added since the original application was considered in August

e) **Millworks storage area on south side of A1303 Newmarket Road**

The Council was advised that the owner has been advised to remove the items stored without consent, otherwise enforcement action may be taken

**144 ENVIRONMENT:**

a) **Path from Beechwood Avenue to Ancient Meadows:**

Cllr Winkcup pointed out that the gravel has now largely disappeared from the narrow section of the path meaning that it can become treacherous in icy weather. The Clerk advised that he had been promised information about the contribution that would be required from the Parish Council to tarmac the section not owned by ECDC but that this had still not been forthcoming.

**ACTION:** The Clerk will chase again

b) **Cotoneaster tree growing in the churchyard wall:**

The Clerk advised that Eastern Tree Surgery have advised that this could be removed for a cost of £90 + VAT when the other tree work is done later in the month. The Council authorised this additional item.

**145 FINANCE:** Approval of the following items of expenditure was proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Winkcup and approved unanimously:

Items for approval	£
Jonathan Giles – Salary, Pension, PAYE and NI	749.60
Backdated pay award for 2021-22 @ 1.75%	151.96
I Swift – Litter picking (4 weeks)	52.50
K Levitt – Litter picking (4 weeks)	52.50
Haven Power – Streetlights (paid by DD)	Invoice awaited

E Cambs Trading Co – Grounds maintenance	218.09
CAPALC – Affiliation & Data Protection Scheme fees	629.89
Navigate Planning Ltd – Cemetery Planning App'n	4,744.32

**146 NEW CEMETERY:** Cllr Ogborn reported that the contacts he and Cllr Wilson have had with Michael Hendry, the Planning Consultant, confirm the wisdom of the decision to engage him. His approach is very thorough and he has identified the key information that will be required to support the application when it is made. The National Trust Board will be making their final decision about the sale of the land on 23 March which should enable the planning application to be lodged by the end April.

Given the complexity of the application and the numerous reports that have to be provided, Cllr Wilson has prepared a detailed budget of the known costs that will arise in the current phase of preparing and submitting the planning application, followed by purchase of the land. Having this approved by the Council will enable the Chair, in consultation with the vice Chair and Clerk to make commitments to expenditure as required to ensure the project can proceed in a timely way. Invoices will still be presented for approval as normal.

Cllr Ogborn has sought advice on the costs that will arise in the construction phase and will report on this at subsequent meetings. For illustrative purposes, he explained that, should the Parish Council need to borrow £200,000 in addition to the amounts held in reserves, the repayment of a loan from the Public Works Loan Board at a fixed rate of 2.44%, would cost £7,114 per year over 50 years. This amount can be afforded within the current precept level.

Cllr Winkcup proposed and Cllr Buchanan seconded the resolution that the budget for the planning application and land purchase phase be approved. This was agreed unanimously.

**147 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE:** Cllr Winkcup, speaking in his role as a Governor of Bottisham Village College, briefed the Council on recent liaison between the Police and the College. He stressed that, while the lead role in managing the issues recently identified lies with the Police and the College, both seek support from the Parish Council in finding and implementing the best solutions to the problems that have arisen. Police have praised the joint work of the College, Community and PC to raise and address the issues, which are similar to issues in other local areas. All parties recognise that there is a lack of appropriate youth services within the village and various options are being considered to fill the gap. Contact has been made with the Cambridgeshire Community Bus Project to consider whether a bus could be located on the site. He noted that this has not yet been budgeted and any provision is likely to be trialed initially to ensure that it is both used and effective in meeting the needs of young people. He pointed out that other options may lie in the repurposing of buildings on the College site. The Village College is probably unique in the range of services that operates on its site: in addition to delivering the curriculum Sports Centre, it offers vocational training for adults, Red to Green operates on the site as does the Community Library. A key way of engaging the village would be for Principal of the College, to set out potential for further offerings that align with both broadening the curriculum, vocational training, adult education - as well as Youth provision, at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Winkcup further explained that over the past ten years, the College has increased in size to 1500 students and over 200 staff. It now serves a much wider catchment area and a group of students with increasingly varied needs. A major factor over the past couple of years has been the impact of Covid on education. This has highlighted the divide between those who benefit from substantial support from their families and community, and those who do not have that advantage, who may have become alienated or struggled within the educational system. Some of the issues arise from former local pupils / young adults. The College, together with the Police, have implemented several actions plus are further exploring how to engage this group, as well as those who are current students at BVC.

It is clear that the issues arising locally are not unique but it is recognised how important it is to tackle them quickly and effectively. The risks that exist from “County lines” now affect rural as well as urban areas. Safeguarding young people is therefore the priority but this needs to include not only immediate actions but diversion away from crime.

**148 PLATINUM JUBILEE:** Cllr Cundell advised that a number of organisations within the village are arranging events. The Council confirmed its commitment to marking the occasion by planting a tree, reflecting the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative which is sponsored by Her Majesty. The Council may also be able to support the events being arranged by village organisations with small grants.

**149 ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING:** Responding to the suggestion raised by Cllr Cundell that the Parish Council have its own Facebook page, he asked that a short paper be prepared setting out any issues arising from this proposal and how it might be resourced

**ACTION:** Cllr Cundell will prepare a short briefing on the benefits, issues and resourcing of Parish Council Facebook page to be circulated with the Agenda

**150 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 4 April at 7.30 pm in the Poppy Room

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom</b>
	Request Highways to implement 30 minute maximum waiting time in laybys outside the shops noting that this has been requested by the Police	Clerk
	Request information from Highways on the maintenance programme for drain and gully cleaning	C/Cllr Sharp
	Confirm booking of BSASC Hall for Annual Parish Meeting on 24 May at 7.30 pm. Send notice of date to BVC/Primary School/Police/County & District Cllrs	Clerk
	Make further representation to ECDC regarding extension to response time for application 21/00984/RMM	Clerk
	Re-contact ECDC officer regarding Ancient Meadows path to obtain quotation for resurfacing. Advise that more gravel is required if this is not planned to take place imminently	Clerk
	Prepare short briefing on benefits, issues and resourcing of Parish Council Facebook page	Cllr Cundell