

A meeting of the Stukeley's Parish Council held at Little Stukeley village hall on Monday 3rd October 2011 at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE	M/s M. Monk, H. Raby, P. Hobson, R. Hulstrom, Mrs. S. Parkin, Mrs. N. Sly, P.Ryan, T. Pinner, District Councillor K. Baker, County Councillors Ms Kadic and Sir Peter Brown together with eleven members of the public.
APOLOGIES	Were received from Mr. Vincent, who was away on business.
OPEN FORUM	<p>Eleven residents of Mill Road and Low Road attended to register their concerns about the excessive hours being employed at Nook Farm in Low Road. At this stage the Clerk said he felt obliged to register an interest due to his close proximity to the site in question and felt it was totally inappropriate that he recorded the discussion of this issue, Mr. Monk agreed to 'minute' this part of the meeting.</p> <p>One resident said that the hours of working, sometimes in excess of twenty hours a day, the noise and light pollution meant that their family had had very little sleep over the past two weeks, they added that a work schedule of say 6am to 8pm would be a more acceptable answer. It was suggested that the acreage of potatoes had grown significantly since planning permission was granted by the District Council in 2003 and with this had come the longer working hours, noise and light pollution and high levels of heavy traffic. Ms Kadic said that the only answer was for contact with the Environmental Health Department of the District Council who were the only authority, who with the required evidence, could take any action to control the activities. Another resident implied that this is what the Parish Council were concerned about when they actually refused a planning application on this site in 2003, and because of the time it may take the District to 'act' it could be too late for this year, they suggested a periodic 'road block' to remind the owners of the residents concerns. Sir Peter Brown said, and it was agreed, that the main issue was the working hours during the late evening and early morning. Another resident asked whether any planning conditions were being broken, the County Councillors said investigations had not revealed any. A question was asked as to whether the planning permission actually stated, potato store and covered the processing activities of washing and grading, the answer was 'an agricultural store' which covered any farm produce and associated activities. Another concern was of speed of the HGV's servicing the site on this narrow lane with no dedicated footpaths on either side of Low Road, Ms Kadic said that with evidence that too could be investigated.</p> <p>In conclusion the County members agreed to work with the residents and the Environmental Dept; of the District to achieve a satisfactory outcome, that was both economically practicable to the business and environmentally acceptable to the residents, specifically as it was agreed that there was no particular wish to disrupt legitimate farm business any more than was deemed reasonably acceptable. It was emphasised that as many residents as possible should keep a log of times and movements as evidence to supply to the District Council. A member of the public recorded all present's gratitude to both County and Parish members for listening to their complaints. The Clerk then resumed his delegated duties.</p>
92.MINUTES	On a proposal by Mr. Raby, seconded by Mr. Ryan the minutes of the meeting of 5 th September 2011 were approved and were then signed by the Chairman.
94. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST	Mr. Monk declared an interest in item 97(b) of the evenings agenda in that he would take no active part in any discussions on that item. Mr Ryan declared again an interest due to his charity work at the Alconbury site and also any issues that may arise from discussions about footpath nine in the village.

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95. COUNTY ISSUES	Ms Kadic said that progress was being made with issues surrounding footpath nine at Cartwrights farm and that a meeting between John Cooper of County, Ms Kadic and the owner was provisionally arranged with the owner for 21st October at Gt. Stukeley village hall.	
96.DISTRICT ISSUES	Mr. Baker said that issues surrounding aroma from the Brampton re-cycling plant seem to have been resolved, he was informed that this was not the case in the villages, so he advised that the responsibility for enforcement was that of the Environment Agency and contact with any concerns should be made directly to them at Brampton.	
97.PLANNING	<p>(a) Mr Monk addressed members on issues relating to ‘preliminary enquiries’ He said the District Council through Andy Moffat , Planning Services & Development Control Manager inform that they will not consult with any neighbours or the local Town/Parish Council, although prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to do this themselves... Enquirers have to sign a form accepting that pre-application enquiries will be revealed upon request, but many, for many reasons, would rather their enquiry is not revealed in advance of the submission of the application, indeed many enquiries are not followed by an application. Clearly, resources and proportionality are considerations, but as ‘Localism’ rises further up the agenda, we will continue to look at ways of engaging with Town & Parish Councils. Current Government proposals would require those proposing major developments to engage with communities before submitting applications. This was as he said the route Urban & Civic were following. It was said the only way the Parish could access the information required was through the ‘Freedom of Information’ Act, but it was hoped that as this was a costly procedure for the District a compromise of some sought could be achieved in the future, Mr Monk was asked to continue his enquiries on the matter.</p> <p>(b)RAF Brampton Urban Design & Framework, Mr. Ryan outlined the proposals for this area which briefly involve mixed housing, small businesses and a community building provision on the site including the retention of the ‘Brampton Park’ building and the central playing fields. He suggested that the following response be sent;</p> <p>The Stukeley’s Parish Council welcomes the interconnection of neighbourhoods, towns and areas for leisure by non-vehicular routes. Walking and Cycling are very important and should be supported, but also horse riding is a significant leisure pursuit and industry within the District and is often neglected in new developments. We would like to see bridleway connections established to support movements between existing and likely future developments, towns and leisure areas. In particular, this development could contribute to improved access along the corridor of the Stukeleys, Brampton Racecourse, Brampton, Buckden, Paxton Pits and St. Neots.</p> <p>The Stukeleys Parish Council also supports improved pedestrian and cycle links to the wider landscape, but would like to see improved provision for horse riding. Note in particular that the nearby section of the Ouse Valley Way is not a cycle route(but should be) and that there is no off-road cycle access from Brampton through Buckden to the important wildlife and leisure area of Paxton Pits and beyond to St. Neots. Presently the cycle route from Brampton to Paxton is along the A.1. We would like to see this development contribute to improved cycle and horse riding links in this direction.</p> <p>The Stukeleys PC welcomes the proposal for a community building but is disappointed to see no specific proposals regarding ‘performance space’. There is no mention of the existing theatre on the site and we are concerned that it’s</p>	

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	<p>valuable function will be lost. The District does not have many smaller scale performance venues that are accessible to community groups at affordable cost. We would like to see specific protected provision for performance and rehearsal space of an appropriate scale within the development.</p> <p>Mr. Raby did question the need to comment on development within another community but was assured that our opinions were requested and that that it was needed as a policy 'statement' should any similar development should be proposed in the Parishes when similar comments could be raised, in other words conformity. It was agreed however as a matter of courtesy that the response should be copied to Brampton Parish Council.</p>	
98. ACCOUNTS	<p>The following monthly accounts were agreed for settlement on a proposal by Mr. Raby, seconded by Mr. Monk and approved by the meeting EON Electric for October supply £59.16. Easiprint for October magazine £95.00. M. J. Newman, clerks September Salary £159.57. net. Plus agreed allowances £28.00. MP Windows for cleaning bus shelters £50.00. HMRC for income tax £119.67. Archant newspapers for public announcement £109.32. Cranbrook Plants for flowers for village signs £40.00. GSVHMC for hall hire(allotments meeting) £10.00. Woodford Community Group for facilitation fee £ 1491.00.(they had mislaid previous cheque) NSALG for allotments subs £66.10. And receipts of £7500.00 being precept monies from District Council.</p> <p>The Clerk did supply all members with both bank reconciliation and budget update figures to the period ended 30th September 2011. It was explained that higher than expected balances had been achieved because grass maintenance was lower, due to lower prices and very dry season and also that the lottery receipts for play equipment funding of £5006 had been banked but not as yet apportioned. These figures were accepted by the members.</p>	
99.RIGHTS OF WAY	<p>It was resolved that as the Rights of Way committee could see no satisfactory resolution to issues surrounding footpath two at Lt. Stukeley, Mr. Ryan should seek the advice of John Cooper of the County to see if there was a possible way forward. Issues about footpath nine had been dealt with in County Issues.</p> <p>Mr. Ryan said that he would contact Urban & Civic to check on the progress of the diversion plans regarding footpath eleven at Grange Farm.</p>	
100.PLAY EQUIPMENT	<p>In the absence of Mr. Vincent the clerk reported that he had now authorised and signed a purchase order to Monster Play for the selected new equipment for the Little Stukeley play area, this was to include a completion date of no later than 31st December 2011.</p>	
101.ALCONBURY	<p>M/s M. Monk and P. Ryan together addressed this item. They said that at the recent presentation Urban & Civic made ten specific pledges over their development proposals, one being up to a million trees on the site with planting starting this autumn. They said the Council needed to consider all the issues that may arise from a development of this magnitude, how to respond to the 'Master Plan', how to engage with local residents to ensure that any responses made reflect their views as well. There was a need for a public meeting, perhaps as early as December, to discuss the emerging Master Plan. Is the process in place appropriate to be able to discuss issues specific to the villages, namely traffic flows. As there were some huge issues to consider it may be appropriate to initiate a series of dedicated meetings to discuss only issues relating to the proposals, these would warrant the attendance of our planning advisor Mr. Slater. Mr. Raby asked at what stage should discussions commence with the District Planners, Mr. Monk said that the dedicated officer was Mr. Mumford and asked for authority to set up a meeting with him, the planning group and our advisor, this was sanctioned. The Chairman said there huge challenges ahead</p>	

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	with the proposals having huge implications for our communities in the future, he asked the committee to keep the full Council ‘up to speed’ with a regular progress report.	
102.ALLOTMENTS	Mr. Ryan reported that he and Mrs. Parkin had visited the ‘Green Back Yard’ project in Peterborough with Brigit Halford, whilst interesting there were few things that could have been associated to our allotment project. He advised also that he had arranged a meeting for all those who have expressed an interest in taking an allotment and Urban & Civic in the village hall at Great Stukeley on 2 nd November when it was hoped that an allotment committee could be established, existing mainly of persons who will be using the facility, Mr. Hulstrom & Mrs. Parkin said they would also like to attend. As for finance issues, the clerk suggested that the control of all financial matters should really remain the responsibility of the Council, this it was agreed should be the case.	
103.TRAFFIC GROUP	Mr. Monk reported that the first meeting of the group was to be held in the Urban & Civic offices at 10am on Tuesday 4 th October 2011, with representatives of the Parish Council, County & District Councils, Police & Emergency Services but that the representative from USAF was unable to attend, he said he was also extremely disappointed that no ‘officers’ from the County Council had deemed it necessary to be present, he felt that this was totally unacceptable, and was intending to make his feelings known to the authority.	
105.ITEMS TO REPORT	Mrs. Parkin asked if the Council wanted two wreaths again this year for Remembrance Sunday, the answer was yes and that she should advise the clerk of cost so a cheque can be raised at the next meeting. Mr. Raby advised that recently there had been several instances of theft of lead from church roves, he asked the members to advise parishioners to be vigilant in watching for unexplained vehicular movements, especially in the evenings. He was made aware by Mr. Monk that the vicarage hedge at Gt. Stukeley was now quite high and thus obscured a clear view of the church from the road, he said he would speak with the diocesan board to see what could be done.	
106. NEXT MEETINGS	On Monday 7 th November 2011 at the village hall, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm. On Monday 5 th December 2011 at the village hall, Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm. On Monday 9 th January 2012 at the village hall, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm. On Monday 6 th February 2012 at the village hall, Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm. On Monday 5 th March 2012 at the village hall, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm. On Monday 2 nd April 2012 at the village hall, Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.	