

A meeting of the Stukeley's Parish Council held at Great Stukeley village hall on Monday 7th November 2011 at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE	M/s M. Monk, P. Vincent, 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. Raby, who was away on business.
110.COUNTY ISSUES	As both County members had other pressing engagements it was agreed to bring this agenda item forward. Ms Kadic reported that discussions had been held with Mr. Baker in relation to footpath issues on his land in Owl End & specifically footpath nine, she said these had been constructive and that she and the County Officer had left some proposals with him and that they were due to meet again within two weeks. Mr. Brown said he had visited Mr. Field with reference to the noise complaints of the previous meeting, he asked whether there were any developments, the clerk reported that he personally had contacted Mr. Field and that most matters had been settled to 'his' satisfaction and that the harvesting of potatoes was now finished anyway. Cncllr: Brown reported that it was never at this stage the policy to close Huntingdon Fire Station, however there would be a maintenance of the full day watch, but that the night watch was under review and subject to the consultation procedure.
OPEN FORUM	<p>The eleven residents present were all from Owl End and were representing their fellow residents to register to the Council their concerns over the plans to site allotments in the area. Mr. Garner explained that they all felt that traffic movements at their present level presented the maximum that the narrow Country lane could accommodate safely and that any increase would compromise safety as well as having a serious impact on the road structure and also the amenity of the local residents. He also said that there appeared to be a significant traffic flow of vehicles travelling through the area and onward onto the bridleway past Prestley Wood, the chairman added at this point that contact with Mr. Pond who has access rights to Lodge Farm, revealed that he had no objection to the gate at the end of Owl End being re-instated, as long as he was given a key, to restrict all this through traffic. He said that they all appreciated that there was a need for the provision and that the offer of land by Urban & Civic may appear to be 'too good to refuse' for the Council, but he felt that the proposed 16 car park spaces may represent an 'ulterior' motive by the developers to procure an avenue into even more parking in the future to facilitate access to their proposed common areas. He also said that water pressure was already significantly low in the area and that allotment provision would only put extra demand on an already underperforming system.</p> <p>Mr. Monk said on behalf of the Council that both he and the Chairman had met the group of concerned residents on site on Sunday afternoon to assess their fears, he added the 'conspiracy' theory was unfounded and that members were of the opinion that the provision of the facility, along with the community wood would always insure that there was 'green space' between our communities and the development area, he said this, in the worst case scenario, if Urban & Civic were to 'sell on' the site, would protect the village identity. He said the project had always been a Council initiative and that we had contacted U&C to see if they were able to assist. He added that the car park space figure of 16 should be reduced by the Council and possibly be reduced to the NSALG recommended level of 30%, namely six spaces, he added also that the 'non provision' of parking space would possibly not discourage car travel but increase parking on the verges outside the site.</p>

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	<p>Mr. Hulstrom emphasised the need for parking for those with mobility disabilities and added that the Council had the statutory obligation to provide this space if enough requests were received, and this had been the case, the alternative was for land, if it could be found, to be purchased and that the purchase of this type of accommodation land could be extremely expensive, with the only source of this type of revenue being through the Council Tax system and this would mean a significant rise in the household rates over a period of many years.</p> <p>Mr. Ryan and Mrs Sly reported on questioning that a traffic survey had indeed been conducted which revealed an average of seven vehicle movements on average per hour over a twelve hour period and that it was envisaged that if the facility was put in place these movements could have the potential to increase by 1.5 movements per hour, these figures were disputed by the residents and they were advised to conduct their own survey and share the result with members, they were also advised that they were entitled to take up traffic issues with our County members.</p> <p>At this stage Mr. Garner thanked members for taking time to listen to their grievances and hoped that a satisfactory outcome could be achieved.</p>	
107.MINUTES	On a proposal by Mr. Monk, seconded by Mr. Ryan the minutes of the meeting of 3 rd October 2011 were approved and were then signed by the Chairman.	
109. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST	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.	
111.DISTRICT ISSUES	Mr. Baker reported that there was an ongoing review of the voluntary services sector and that although a 20% reduction in funding may be achievable, a 50% reduction in funding would inevitably lead to cuts in services.	
113. ACCOUNTS	<p>The following monthly accounts were agreed for settlement on a proposal by Mr. Hulstrom, seconded by Mr. Monk and approved by the meeting EON Electric for November supply £59.16. Easiprint for November magazine £95.00. M. J. Newman, clerks October Salary £159.57. net. Plus agreed allowances £28.00. Printerbase for ink cartridges £51.11. T&S Gardening for grass maintenance £102.16. British Legion for wreaths £40.00. Nicola Jayne, Florists, for wreath £35.00. Monster Play for the new equipment at Little Stukeley, this cheque only to be released on receipt of the grant funding from Grantscape, £23,997.60.</p> <p>The 2012/13 precept figure was then raised, the clerk suggested that the balances in hand and the budget update revealed that the Council spending for this fiscal year would be well below the precept received, this due in main to the dry summer and greatly reduced grass maintenance costs. He suggested that there was possibly no requirement for an increase. A long debate ensued and it was generally agreed that with a view to inflation forecasts and the huge issues facing the Council in particular as well as the wider area that some form of increase would be prudent in order that the Council were in a sound financial position to address any significant issues and changes that will inevitably have to be faced when the re-development of not only RAF Alconbury but also 'Northbridge' actually come into fruition. It was agreed that members should prepare list of 'priced' projects so that any increased Precept figures can be totally justified. It was also recorded that the Council Precept level as it currently stands is one of the very lowest in the District</p>	
114.RIGHTS OF WAY	Mr. Monk presented the members of the footpath committee with a note from Mr. Daniels of the Stukeleys Walking Group on existing state of certain footpaths.	

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	<p>Mr. Ryan reported that a meeting with John Cooper of the County, together with the clerk and Mr. Hobson in Mill Road revealed the many issues surrounding the possible re-opening of footpath 2 from Mill Close to Alconbury, the path goes through properties in Mill Close and is severed by the A.14. There was a remote possibility that if diversion routes could be agreed with relevant landowners that the path, with significant changes, could possibly be re-opened but that it would take a significant effort from all sides, it was agreed that Mr. Ryan should contact Alconbury PC to see if they would support the re-routing because if they did not it would all prove unworkable.</p> <p>Mr. Ryan reported that although some marker posts had been erected on footpath 11 to indicate the diversionary route, it was not completely clear to him the exact detail, after much discussion it was agreed that the footpath committee should liaise with U&C, who say they are in a position to apply for the diversionary route, to ensure that the route meets with all the Parish Councils requirements.</p>	
115.PLAY EQUIPMENT	<p>Mr. Vincent reported that the new equipment installation at Little Stukeley was now complete and that the work was in his view totally acceptable, this was born out by the chairman, who had also inspected the site, He suggested and was warmly supported by all members that Mr. Vincent was to be sincerely praised for all his efforts to procure these facilities. The completion documents were then signed by the clerk to enable their return to the grantors to facilitate the release of the grant aid cheque.</p>	
116.ALCONBURY	<p>Mr. Monk reported that he and Mrs Sly, along with Mr. Slater had met with Mr. Mumford of the District and it was agreed that there had been a distinct lack of technical development information from Urban & Civic and that the original schedule of information release was now well behind, the disturbing factor being that the date for the submission of the application (April 2012) had not been reviewed in line, thus the period for the Council to consider through their advisor Mr. Slater had been drastically reduced, in addition the lack of information on a consultation strategy from Urban & Civic meant that although it was essential that the public in the villages were included in the form of a public meeting, it was impossible at present to know when to stage that meeting. It was agreed that he and his fellow liaison committee members should press U&C for the early release of this information and also consider delaying the submission dates accordingly.</p>	
117.ALLOTMENTS	<p>Mrs. Sly said she was endeavouring to arrange a meeting with all those parishioners who were unaware of the project or as to where it was going to be, it would comprise a tour of the site followed by a question and answer session to be held in the village hall at Great Stukeley, she was asked to continue and to book the hall, Mr. Pinner said that he would ‘chair’ this informal gathering.</p> <p>Mr. Ryan reported a successful meeting of interested parties held in Gt. Stukeley village hall which was chaired by Mr. Pinner, when ultimately Mr. Vincent agreed to set up a meeting to set up a running committee. Mr. Vincent reported that he was in the process of setting up a meeting of the potential plot holders so that a committee could be formed and so a ‘wish for’ list as to the facilities that may be needed within the site together with plot size and requirement numbers can be compiled to present to the council for consideration, it was envisaged, provided he was elected that Mr. Vincent would ‘chair’ the committee in the initial stages.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Mr. Ryan furnish the clerk with the minutes of the first meeting in the village hall so they may be appended in the minute book.</p>	
118.TRAFFIC ISSUES	<p>Mr. Monk reported that the Traffic group had had its first meeting on 6th</p>	

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	<p>November and that the group was most disappointed that the base authorities had declined to be involved, he said that correspondence from the base RAF commander considered that the base authorities had a responsibility to the wider community and could not be seen to be concentrating their efforts in one direction only. The Council felt that this was a very unreasonable attitude to take especially as the communities in our two villages were the most directly and massively affected by any potential developments and the resultant increase in traffic, specifically on our local village through route, Ermine Street, that take place on RAF Alconbury. On a proposal by Mr. Monk, seconded by Mrs Sly the full Council agreed that the base authorities should be made aware by letter, signed by the chairman, of the grave concerns this Parish Council on their unwillingness to attend the Traffic Group meetings.</p> <p>He reported that one suggestion emanating from Traffic Group meeting and made by the police authorities was that the speed limits through the villages were confusing and that in the interests of conformity these limits should be formalised as 40mph from Huntingdon to Great Stukeley then 30mph through to the northern boundary of Little Stukeley followed by 40mph to the next roundabout, members fully supported this proposition and Mr. Monk agreed to pass this support to the next group meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Monk then proposed that the village road limits, namely, Owl & Green End, Church Road (and all roads off it), Church Way, Pringle Way, Low Road and Mill Road all be reduced to 20mph in a following vote four were in favour, two against with one abstention, Mrs Sly who voted against wanted it minuted that she only opposed the motion on the grounds of potential increased emissions brought about by high powered vehicles travelling at low speeds. It was agreed that Mr. Monk also take this proposition to the next group meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Monk referred to a letter received from the Head of Operations at the District in which he implied that he was not aware of the directive from the Development panel and notwithstanding it had no power to legislate to him how to operate his department efficiently, Ermine Street through the villages was a public road and he had the rights to operate his vehicles as he saw fit. The Council considered that this was a totally unacceptable attitude to take, and on a proposal by Mr. Monk, seconded by Mr. Hulstrom and fully supported by members it was agreed that a letter was to be sent to the Executive Leader of the District Council, signed by the chairman, requesting a formal meeting with him, Mr. Pinner, Mr. Monk and Mr. Hulstrom to discuss the matter.</p>	
119.CORRESPONDENCE	<p>A letter was received from the enforcement officer at the District in which he said contact with Mr. Baker had revealed certain developments at Cartwrights Farm and it had been agreed that a retrospective planning application would suffice to resolve the matters.</p>	
120.ITEMS TO REPORT	<p>Mrs Parkin reported that Mrs Gifford had contacted her to say that an old, now defunct cricket club wished to donate the residue of their funds amounting to some eighty pounds to the provision of two willow trees in the playing field at Great Stukeley, after much discussion on suitability of species it was agreed that a second proposal by Mrs Gifford of a bench for the same area was a better proposition.</p> <p>Mr. Monk reported an armed police raid in Hill Close last Wednesday in which three persons were arrested and that many adjacent people experienced a terrifying ordeal in the process. It was reported that the Luminus Group may now be using these bungalows to re-house problem families. As the area was inhabited primarily by older village people, some of whom were single it was agreed that the clerk should write to Luminus pointing out these facts and also</p>	

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	<p>the fact that the Parish Council had very serious concerns over the companies letting policies.</p> <p>The Chairman advised of the wreath laying times at both churches for the coming Remembrance Sunday.</p>	
121. NEXT MEETINGS	<p>On Monday 5th December 2011 at the village hall, Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.</p> <p>On Monday 9th January 2012 at the village hall, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.</p> <p>On Monday 6th February 2012 at the village hall, Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.</p> <p>On Monday 5th March 2012 at the village hall, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.</p> <p>On Monday 2nd April 2012 at the village hall, Low Road, Little Stukeley commencing at 7.30pm.</p>	

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Great Stukeley Parish Council
Allotments design options meeting
GSVH 2nd Nov 2011 @ 7:30PM

Present:

Rebecca Britton Urban & Civic (U&C)
 Karen Kenny National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG)
 Simon Watkins RGA Landscapes (RGA)
 Terry Pinner Stukeleys Parish Council (SPC)
 Paul Ryan Stukeleys Parish Council (SPC)
 Sue Parkin Stukeleys Parish Council (SPC)

Prospective allotment holders (apologies for E & Os!):

Terry Goodwin
 Linda & ? Hutchings
 Barry & Chris Upchurch
 Andrew Nahajski
 Martin Stephenson
 Richard & Val Halliday
 Alan Fox
 Jim Butter
 Peter & Jennifer Liddell
 Jane Morris & Bob Husltrom

Apologies

Tracey Barker
 Philip Hobson
 Debbie Rodgers

Following introductions by Terry Pinner, Paul Ryan outlined the present situation and the programme:

- Stukeleys PC (SPC) has decided to progress with the project comprising allotments and community wood on the site on Owl End
- Urban and Civic (U&C) are making land available for the project and this is a great opportunity for the whole community
- There have been some objections from residents local to the site, principally regarding concerns about increased traffic and parking
- We held a first public meeting some weeks ago to discuss the project and the conclusion was very positive.
- Next steps are to bring the prospective ploholders together in a group to help progress detailed design of the project; RGA Landscapes need to be given requirements and preferences so they can develop a revised plan.

Karen Kenny (NSALG) explained that "modern" allotments may be very different from peoples' image of conventional allotments, e.g. they are not visually untidy, are "inclusive" of a very wide range of users (not all as ploholders), and are beneficial to society in lots of ways (health, environmentally efficient, community etc.) She outlined recommended and optional features for "modern" allotments such as:

- Storage - both for communal items and for individual ploholders (typically as separate lockers in a central facility)
- Fencing - mainly against rabbits, but optionally for security with gated access
- Water - typically by borehole and distributed as dipping tanks (covered to avoid risk to children)
- Electricity - via solar/wind for borehole pumping and lights in toilets etc.
- Toilet - composting
- Polyunnel - communal often works best, for more flexible use of space & ventilation (see <http://www.capelallotments.co.uk/home/the-site-and-plots/site-pictures/>)
- Chicken run - sites often have "chicken clubs" where the birds are kept in a common enclosure; birds are owned individually by ploholders and management is shared among the ploholders on a rota.
- Parking - little is needed, a number of spaces somewhere around 1/3 of the number of plots.
- Different styles of plots - e.g. smaller plots with raised beds for disabled/elderly ploholders

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- Manure heap - an area that is accessible for a larger delivery truck for delivery; heap should be covered
- trading facility - cannot sell publically, but can buy in bulk and sell among the association (which can include non-plotholders e.g. all local residents as associated members)
- She also strongly recommended setting up an allotment association and NSALG can help with the process and documentation.

Paul Ryan then asked for suggestions for key features to include in our project. Required and optional features proposed were:

- Individual storage for plotholders' tools
- Communal storage for larger equipment (shared barrows? etc.)
- Water
- Parking for allotment holders
- Parking provision for users of the wood was raised, and if this is provided the preference was for this to be separate from the allotments parking
- Electricity
- Toilet
- Cycle parking
- "Drive & Dump" area for bulk (e.g. manure) - question of accessibility for larger vehicles
- Access for emergency vehicles (mainly ambulance & fire)
- Rabbit fencing
- Security fencing and gate
- Chicken club
- Bee hives

Simon Watkins then spoke about the plan he had developed, and its key features:

- Plots arranged around a central communal area, to minimise distance
- Allotments surrounded by (optional) orchard, then edible wood, then native woodland to create screened, sheltered area for the allotments
- Plots, in a variety of sizes, arranged to maximise the number of neighbours and with access paths between them

In a general discussion the following subjects generated the most interest and opinions:

Provision by U&C

Rebecca confirmed that they expect to make the land available and put in the infrastructure free of charge. The details of what this includes needs to be agreed but would, for example, include the access, parking and central buildings.

Management of the optional orchard & edible forest

Clearly there is an issue of responsibility, management work required and beneficiaries. On one hand it would be unfair if a allotments assoc. put the effort in but the produce was stripped by others. On the other hand, the flexibility to expand/contract the allotments into the orchard is valuable to the allotments assoc and management of the orchard need not be onerous (management of the edible forest maybe could be minimal).

Security

Karen explained how it is an issue for some sites, only because they attract and existing problem rather than generating new nuisance. 6ft fencing in combination with hedging and gated access is recommended to reduce the problem. However it is not clear that we would need such security at our site, we should contact other local sites to see what is their experience.

Number and Size of plots

In the existing plan we have allowed for 8 full size (250m²) and 8 half-size (125m²) plots, but it seems that smaller plots are preferred. For reference, the hall of GSVH is 170m² (see attached plan). Karen mentioned that more demand for plots typically arises when the project is underway. Presently we have around 17 expressions of interest for plots and a poll of those present indicated all (or virtually all) would want a half-size plot. The prospective plotholders need to come to a collective view on the desired size and number of plots.

Individual Storage

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Should this be on each plot or in a central facility? There seemed to be a preference for a central facility, but the association needs to discuss this.

Rents/Charges and insurance

Plotholders will rent from SPC who would be responsible for provision and maintenance of plots and communal facilities.

Karen explained that SPC will need to provide insurance for the communal facilities but plotholders need their own liability insurance and insurance of tools etc. if they so wish. This can be arranged via the association.

Typical plot rents range from around £20 to £175 per year, depending on facilities, but Karen explained that the the lower end is "historical" and probably too low to be sustainable. An informal poll of those present thought that £50/year/half plot would be acceptable. It will be necessary to compile a budget to forecast costs, investments and necessary rents. SPC needs to avoid significant extra cost falling on local rate payers.

Formation of an Association

There was consensus to form an Association and meet as soon as possible in order to get on with the project without delay. Paul Vincent kindly offered to coordinate this, and Karen distributed documentation to get started. Immediate actions for the Association:

- Form itself, elect committee & put in place necessary documents
- Contact & visit local allotments to find out about preferred plot sizes, demand, rents, costs, security, facilities etc.
- Discuss and agree requirements and preferences, including: number and sizes of plots, style of storage facilities, parking and security, separate lists of necessary and desired features/facilities