

THE STUKELEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th October 2015 at 7:30pm at the Little Stukeley Village Hall

Present:	Stuart Bell
Councillors:	Karl Gasson Stef van den Haak (left at 8:00pm) Barrie James Michael Monk Sally Smith (arrived at 8:00pm)
Clerk:	Carole Pollock
County and District Councillors:	County Councillor Peter Ashcroft
Members of the Public:	6 members of the public

Councillor Barrie James chaired the meeting.

95 To receive and approve Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Philip Hobson, Paul Vincent and Sue Parkin. Apologies were received from County Councillor Sir Peter Brown.

96 Councillors' Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

Cllr Stuart Bell declared an interest in item 107cii as an employee of HDC.

97 Public Participation Session

A resident advised the meeting that a freedom of information request to CCC with regard to the contract between CCC and Balfour, although it had originally been refused by CCC, the ICO have ruled that a copy of the contract should be provided by CCC.

The Church Warden commented on item 107hii. The St Bartholomew's Church Parochial Council had been surprised to discover that the street lighting column outside the church was removed by Balfour Beatty. He hoped that the Parish Council would take over responsibility for the out-of-action street lighting column within the churchyard. It was also suggested that the street light position could be moved forward towards the fence so the road could also be lit. The Church could contribute towards the cost of provision.

Items 107hii and 109dii were brought forward and discussed.

5 residents left the meeting.

98 County/District Councillors' Update

County Councillor Sir Peter Brown was unable to attend meeting, but had advised the Parish Clerk that the County Council Boundary Commission report had been due on the 29th September but had now been delayed until mid-November. He had also attended a meeting of the governing body of the new school on the Alconbury Weald site and he will report on this issue at the next Parish Council meeting.

County Councillor Peter Ashcroft advised that CCC were having to cut back on its overall budget as more responsibility was being passed to the Council but with no additional funds. There are plans for greater integrations between County Councils. Cllr Stuart Bell advised that Cambridge City Council now provided legal and building control services for Cambridge City, South Cambs and Huntingdon District Councils. Discussions are being held between the Councils with regard to planning services

99 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th September were approved as a correct record after correction item 88h(i)a – Cllr Stuart Bell was not present at the site inspection.

100 Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Matters arising from the previous meeting were reviewed. The Parish Clerk to send a further letter to Agreserves Ltd requesting their views on whether they feel they are in breach of planning conditions and an update request to be sent to the HDC Enforcement team.

101 For Information Only

Cllrs Barrie James and Sally Smith will attend the A14 update meeting on the 12th October.

Item 107cii was brought forward and discussed.

One resident left the meeting

Cllr Sally Smith joined the meeting and Cllr Stef van den Haak left the meeting

102 Alconbury Weald

No report available.

103 Draft Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that no response was to be made.

104 Review of the Committee/Group/Warden Structures

a Planning Group

The Parish Council considered amendment to the group's Terms of Reference to give the group full delegated powers to respond to planning applications, but it was felt that it would be difficult to ensure that such meetings would be in quorum. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that there would be no changes to the Planning Group's Terms of Reference.

b Other Committees/Groups/Wardens

The Parish Council discussed the current committee/group/warden structure and terms of reference and considered any improvements that would improve the efficiency of the Parish Council. It was **RESOLVED** that the Allotment Working Group would consist of Cllrs Paul Vincent, Karl Gasson, Sue Parkin and Sally Smith and that non-councillors could be invited to join the group. The introduction of the system of providing written reports for each Committee/Group for Parish Council Meetings will be reviewed in a couple of months.

105 Village Projects

a Provision of a Bus Shelter in Little Stukeley

This item to be discussed at the next meeting as the Ermine Street enhancement scheme could possibly have an impact on this project.

106 Village Maintenance, Highway Issues, Faults and Repairs

a The Deputy Tree Warden to discuss participating in the Parish Planting Scheme 2015-16 with the Tree Warden.

b Following an inspection of the villages by Cllr Stuart Bell, Highways Warden Mick Reynolds, Brian Murdoch and Les Middleton (CCC) to identify areas where maintenance and repairs were required; Cllr Stuart Bell advised that CCC had now placed orders for all repair work identified during the inspection. The Parish Council thanked Mick Reynolds for all his hard work which was very much appreciated and was a good example of a resident working with the Parish Council.

County Councillor Peter Ashcroft left the meeting.

107 To consider updates and reports received on current issues on the following:

a Playing Fields

i The Parish Council considered the annual inspection reports received. The Little Stukeley Playing Fields reports stated that the play bark was a little thin in the area under the swings. Quotations for additional bark mulch as per the specification in the inspection report will be obtained. Cllr Barrie James to liaise and assist Cllr Paul Vincent to ensure weekly inspections are carried out at the Great Stukeley Playing Fields. New inspection reports will be issued by the Parish Clerk. After Christmas, Cllr Karl Gasson will insert a page on the website to monitor and record weekly playground inspections.

ii No other issues to report.

b Rights of Way (RoW)

The Rights of Way Committee Report was received. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to respond to the Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation as follows:

The Stukeleys Parish Council notes the excellent progress made by Cambridgeshire County Council against the Statements of Action (SOA) contained in the ROWIP 2006 and requests that the draft ROWIP currently under consideration be amended to include a commitment from Cambridgeshire County Council to work with Urban & Civic (the developers of Alconbury Weald), the Stukeleys

Parish Council and Huntingdonshire District Council to ensure that the rights of way lost at the creation of RAF Alconbury are re-instated as part of the development of the released land following closure of the majority of the former air base. This activity would directly align with SOA 5 – Filling in the Gaps and Guiding Principle (GP) 5, which states that ‘Countryside access provisions should build on the platform of the historical network to meet the needs of today’s users and land managers.’

Linked to that requested amendment, we also request that the draft ROWIP be amended to include a commitment under SOA 3 to work with the aforementioned parties to ensure that the Alconbury Weald development responds to GP 3 in SOA 3, which states that ‘development should contribute to the provision of new links and /or improvement of the existing rights of way network’. The development of Alconbury Weald provides an unparalleled opportunity to restore historic rights of way and enhance the network with new rights of way that will help to minimise the impact from the growing population on the existing rights of way.

Urban & Civic has already shown itself to be eager to work with the local authorities to ensure that rights of way are restored wherever possible and the ROWIP should include a commitment from Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure that the opportunity is not missed.

Cllr Karl Gasson to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

c Traffic Group

i The review of street furniture and signs in the villages to be discussed at the next meeting.

ii Update

Cllr Michael Monk had invited several parishioners to attend the next meeting of the Traffic Group and this would give more opportunity to disseminate information to residents. The meeting was to be held on Wednesday 29th October at 10:00am at the incubator building, an agenda to be issued. Cllr Stuart Bell hoped the work at Spittals interchange would discourage traffic from travelling through the village. The Council was disappointed that Urban & Civic did not have plans for the Ermine Street enhancement scheme available for the Parish Council to review. The Council had reviewed a copy of a video of accidents in the village provided by a resident and it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Clerk to write to Huntingdon Policing Team enclosing a link to the videos stating that the Parish felt that these drivers were driving unsafely and that the incidents should be investigated.

d Allotments

i Central Storage Unit

Cllr Karl Gasson had met with a recommended professional expert, and was advised that the base is now level and big enough but does not fully comply with Dunster House’s recommendations. The grid system should be flush with the ground and not as the grids have been installed. Cllr Karl Gasson to check the alignment of the proposed cabin is as per agreed planning consent. A letter of thanks to be sent to the professional expert thanking him for his assistance.

ii Other issues

The Parish Clerk advised the Council that the current allotment rental agreement does not easily permit changes to the allotment rules as it does not include a clause generally included in most allotment agreements permitting changes from time to time. Further advice to be obtained from the National Allotment Society. A separate agreement covering the use of the Central Storage Unit will be drawn up, to include any recommendations received from the National Allotment Society. The Parish Clerk will request payment of this year’s allotment rental fees once Cllr Paul Vincent had checked the list of allotment holders is up to date.

e Training

The Clerk to attend a Clerk Catch Up Day and the 2nd defibrillator training seminar is to be held on the 29th September.

f Website

No Update available.

g Village Broadband

Cllr Sally Smith advised that Little Stukeley Village Hall was unable to obtain funding for the rental cost of broadband for the village hall, therefore it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £180 to cover the six months broadband rental costs. Cllr Barrie James gave an update on the correspondence received and responses made on the issue of the poor broadband speeds in the villages.

h Village Street Lighting

i A report from the Village Street Lighting Committee was received. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Stuart Bell to write to Balfour Beatty detailing all the problems highlighted during the

- The BT free telephone number required for Parish Council street lighting signs to be initially linked to Cllr Karl Gasson home BT telephone account.
 - ii The Parish Council discussed adoption and funding of repairs/maintenance of the church column lamp at St Bartholomew's Church. Cllr Michael Monk felt the church was a community asset and the street light a heritage feature. A partnership scheme with the Parochial Church Council would be considered. Cllr Stuart Bell to investigate further and obtain firm quotations for consideration by the Parish Council.
- i Parish Magazine
No report had been received from the Editor. The Parish Clerk to request again that a report on the Parish Magazine be presented to the Parish Council to include an update on current advertising charges, income and costs. The editor to be asked when printing costs were last reviewed and requested to obtain up to date quotations for comparison and consideration. Details of the District Council Document Centre at Eastfield House (Andy.lusha@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) to be passed to the Editor to contact for a comparative printing quotation.

108 Financial Matters

- i Clerk's salary Chq No 1867 C. Pollock(Sept) £ 427.82
 - ii Clerk's Exps Chq No 1868 Office & General Exps (Sept) £ 34.82
 - iii Easiprint Chq No 1869 Printing Chgs Sept 15 £ 195.00
 - iv E-on Chq No 1870 Street lighting energy costs £ 77.39 plus VAT
 - v Anglian Water Chq No 1871 Water charges £ 14.57
 - vi Allotment Soc Chq No 1872 Membership Renewal £ 55.00 plus VAT
 - vii K&M Lighting Chq No 1873 Street Lighting Repairs £ 60.00 plus VAT
Services
 - viii Play Insp Co. Chq No 1874 Playground inspections £ 125.00 plus VAT
 - ix MJ Newman Chq No 1875 Plants for LS village sign £ 15.00
 - x T&S Gardening Chq No 1876 Grass Cutting £ 372.76
- b It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of up to £50 on wreaths from the Royal British Legion

109 Planning

- a **Outstanding Matters**
The Nook Farm, Low Road appeal was dismissed.
- b **Application determined by HDC**
No outcome to note.
- c **Applications awaiting determination by HDC**
No outcome to note.
- d **New Applications**
 - i **The Old Rectory, Church Way, Little Stukeley – 15/01458/FUL** – Proposed erection of stable building and manure store on existing grazing field adjacent to the applicant's dwelling.
The Planning Group considered that this proposal would not have an adverse impact on the Conservation Area nor on views from the churchyard of the field in which it is to be located, and would not have an adverse impact on any residential properties. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval.
 - ii **Land South West of November Cottage, Green End, Great Stukeley – 15/01420/OUT** – Proposed development for 3 dwellings.

The Planning Group noted that three letters of objection had been submitted by neighbouring residents. The Group considered that there would be little impact on residential amenity but the site was classified as open countryside in the District Council's planning policies. Green End is a quiet rural lane with insufficient dwellings to constitute it being part of the built-up area of Great Stukeley. Although one of the properties is suggested as being intended for a local person wishing to return to his village, there can be no guarantee in planning legislation to ensure that this happens. The Group were also concerned about the impact of additional traffic generated which, with the additional road access could have an adverse impact on the rural character of Green End. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend refusal.

- iii **Montgomery House, 25 Stukeley Park, Chestnut Grove, Great Stukeley – 15/01562/LBC**– Construct new internal wall in current kitchen. Form three new internal

openings. Re-instate former external opening. Enclose loggia with glazed screen. Convert loggia into kitchen.

It was **RESOLVED** to make the following comments as recommended by the Planning Group.

The Parish Council considered that the internal alterations to this Listed Building would not adversely affect its character, but were concerned that the conversion of the open loggia into a kitchen could undermine the quality of the facade as the open loggia is an important feature facing onto Stukeley Park with views onto the House from the Park

iv 40 Church Way, Little Stukeley – 15/01637/TRCA– Removal of sycamore tree.

The Group felt that the loss of this tree would have a minimum adverse impact on the street scene and Conservation Area. It was **RESOLVED** to recommendation approval, Cllr Karl Gasson requested that his vote against recommendation be recorded in the Minutes.

e Implications of the closure of the American Base at RAF Alconbury

The Parish Clerk to confirm that representatives of the Parish Council would meet with the Leader of HDC on Thursday 29th October at preferably at 7:00pm at Pathfinder House. The Planning Group recommend that the agenda should include reference to the Parish Council's recent resolution to embark on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan covering the entire Parish. Councillor Ablewhite might therefore wish to have an appropriate planning officer present.

f Neighbourhood Plan

Pursuant to the decision to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan, the Planning Group discussed some of the implications. It was agreed that this should cover the entire Parish, including therefore the land owned by St John's College adjacent to the Ermine Business Park, Alconbury Weald and RAF Alconbury. It was noted that grants could be available to assist. Two members of the public had come forward to offer assistance to the Parish Council on this matter and it was agreed that these offers should be accepted and the residents thanked for their positive contribution to the community. It was agreed that it would be helpful to discuss the matter with Urban & Civic and Tim Slater, (who works on behalf of the Parish Council), at an early stage. One member of the Planning Group had spoken to representatives of Waterbeach Parish Council who now had agreement from South Cambridgeshire District Council to work together on a similar NP covering an entire parish, including part of the site for a new town. It was suggested that further talks with Waterbeach Parish Council might be helpful. The Planning Group to continue to work on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.

110 Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted as received:

- a** Emails: Rural Services Network- Weekly News Digests
- b** Email: CCC - Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document
- c** Email: B Hulstrom – FOI request
- d** Email: U&C – BT News Release
- f** Email: Play Inspections Co – Annual Playground Reports
- g** Email: B. Hulstrom - Planning Application 15/01420/OUT
- h** Email: U&C – JPCLG Minutes
- i** Email: CCC - Carriageway resurfacing - B1043 Ermine Street, Alconbury
- j** Email: HDC - Invitation to participate in the Parish Planting Scheme 2015
- k** Email: N Sly - Planning Application 15/01420/OUT
- l** Email: A&G Orme - Planning Application 15/01420/OUT

111 Publications Received

112 Matters for Future Consideration

Meeting closed at 10:00pm

Next Meeting:

Monday 2nd November 2015 at 7:30pm – Great Stukeley Village Hall, Great Stukeley