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THE STUKELEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2015 at 7:30pm at the Great Stukeley Village Hall

Present: Stuart Bell
Councillors: Karl Gasson
Philip Hobson,
Barrie James (Vice Chairman)
Michael Monk
Sue Parkin (Chairman)
Sally Smith
Paul Vincent

Clerk: Carole Pollock

County and District Councillors: County Councillor Peter Ashcroft
District Councillor Keith Baker

Members of the Public: 4 members of the public

113 To receive and approve Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from County Councillor Sir Peter Brown.

114 Councillors' Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

Cllr Stuart Bell declared an interest in items 122 and 126cii as an employee of HDC, Cllrs Philip Hobson and Sally Smith declared an interest in item 126h(ii) and Cllr Karl Gasson in item 128d(iv).

115 Public Participation Session

A resident had advised the previous month's meeting that a freedom of information request to CCC, with regard to the contract between CCC and Balfour Beatty that the ICO have ruled that a copy of the contract should be provided by CCC. This information was later found to be incorrect and the applicant was still awaiting a decision for the ICO.

A resident was concerned that the provision of a bus shelter would be delayed until 2019 if the Ermine Street Enhancement Scheme had to be completed first. Cllr Michael Monk advised the meeting that the scheme would have to be in place by the occupation of the 250th house on the site, but Urban & Civic had promised to commence work earlier than this. Urban & Civic were hopeful that the plans for the scheme would be released very soon. The resident was also concerned about the volume of freight traffic using the site if planning permission was granted to continue to use the site for freight storage to 2020. The agent involved with the planning application 15/01704/FUL stated that as the proposed building was for a single storey, it would have less of an impact on the landscape and that he and the applicant were aware of the comments made with regard to drainage and access. They would make sure that any existing drainage was unaffected or upgraded if necessary.

116 County/District Councillors' Update

County Councillor Peter Ashcroft had nothing to report. Cllr Michael Monk was aware that the date for bid submissions to become a combined authority had passed, he asked County Councillor Peter Ashcroft if he knew if CCC had applied, County Councillor Peter Ashcroft did not know.

117 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th October were approved as a correct after amendment to item 107i Cllr Karl Gasson was not tasked with obtaining further quotations for the allotment base.

118 Matters Arising from the previous meeting

Matters arising from the previous meeting were reviewed.

119 For Information Only

Cllr Barrie James gave an update on the A14 Parish's Update meeting with Highways England he attended.

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120 Alconbury Weald

No report available.

Meeting adjourned 8:06pm

Meeting recommenced 8:08pm

121 Cambridgeshire Budget Challenge Consultation

The Parish Council considered a response to the consultation and it was **RESOLVED** to write to CCC stating that the Parish Council had grave concerns about the impact of their budget on essential services but understood their position. A copy of the letter also to be sent to the Parish's MP.

122 Huntingdonshire District Council Elections Consultation

The Parish Council considered a response to the consultation, concern was expressed that if elections were held every four years, when the whole Council could change at same time, it was possible that the Council could lose all its skilled Councillors in one go. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to respond that the Parish Council wish to keep the existing system of 'elections by thirds'.

123 Parish Council welcome to new residents

Cllr Michael Monk suggested the development of a New Residents Welcome Pack for all new residents. The Pack should include a welcoming letter from the Chairman of the Stukeleys Parish Council and information on all the organisation operating in the villages. It was **RESOLVED** to develop a New Residents Welcome Pack, Cllr Michael Monk to prepare a draft pack for review.

124 Village Projects

a Provision of a Bus Shelter in Little Stukeley

It was agreed to defer the issue until the plans for the Ermine Street Enhancement Scheme were available. Cllr Stuart Bell advised the meeting that the cost of provision of a bus shelter would be in the region of £7,500 and suggested that perhaps the provision of the bus shelter could be part of the Enhancement Scheme.

One resident left the meeting.

125 Village Maintenance, Highway Issues, Faults and Repairs

a Possible areas that would benefit from new tree planting under the new Parish Planting Scheme was discussed, possibly the bridleway that runs down from the villages to the A14 and a tree (possibly a Rowan) for the bench on the allotment, Cllr Karl Gasson to discuss with Bridget Halford (HDC).

b It was **RESOLVED** not to participate in CCC Community Gritting Volunteer Scheme.

c Cllr Michael Monk had reviewed the letter and map received from HDC concerning Parish Council land ownership, however HDC had confused ownership and responsibility. HDC to be asked to clarify what they actually require. It was agreed that a working party should consider and review all areas of responsibility and required maintenance in the village. The Open Spaces and Environment Working Party membership to be Cllrs Stuart Bell, Karl Gasson, Philip Hobson, Barrie James, Michael Monk, Sue Parkin and Sally Smith and a meeting to be arranged to be held this month. It was **RESOLVED** to instruct J&P Plant to do this year's final cut to the grass verges covered under the CCC grant. The Parish Clerk to request that Bridget Halford (HDC) to inspect the Ermine Street trees before any remedial work was undertaken.

126 Updates and reports were received on current issues on the following:

a Playing Fields

Cllrs Sue Parkin, Karl Gasson and Philip Hobson to review the boundary plans of the playing fields to identify who is responsible for the fallen tree, and if necessary to contact the appropriate householder. The Parish Clerk to obtain quotations from local tree/arboricultural consultants on a list supplied by Bridget Halford, to inspect all the Parish Council owned trees in the Great Stukeley Playing Fields (6 Chestnut – possibly 10 trees in total).

b Rights of Way

The Rights of Way Report received and reviewed.

c Traffic Group

i Review of street furniture and signs in the villages

To be deferred until the February 2016 Parish Council Meeting.

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- ii The Parish Council considered a response to HDC's request for information on non-compliance with parking restrictions issues in the Parish and **RESOLVED** no response to be made.
- iii General Update
Cllr Michael Monk reported that the meeting due to be held on the 19th October was deferred. Urban & Civic hoped that the plans for the Ermine Street Enhancement Scheme would be released very shortly. Cllr Michael Monk to express to Tim Leathes of Urban & Civic, the Parish council's frustration with the slow progress of the scheme.
- d Allotments
 - i Central Storage Unit
The Allotment Working Party to meet and explore the remedial work needed to the base for the central storage unit and consider whether the ordination should be changed. Also a meeting with R Day to be arranged to review his work on the allotment base and three quotations for a new concrete base to be obtained by the group. The Allotment Working Party to report their findings to the December Parish Council Meeting.
 - ii Other issues
Urban & Civic will remedy the anti-back flow valve on the allotment tap and Cllrs confirmed that no changes had been made to the rainwater harvesting tank since installation.
- e Training
No report received.
- f Website
Draft web page and web forms for playground inspections now up on the Parish Council website, the Playing Fields Committee to review and give feedback to the Webmaster.
- g Village Broadband
 - i Correspondence received from Jonathan Djanogly MP was considered and reluctantly it was agreed that no further action could be taken. Cllr Barrie James was thanked for all his hard work on this issue.
- h Village Street Lighting
 - i Cllr Stuart Bell to chase Balfour Beatty for a response to his email.
 - ii The adoption and funding of repairs/maintenance of the church column lamp at St Bartholomew's Church to be considered at the next meeting.
- i Parish Magazine
A report from the Editor was received and reviewed. The Editor to be asked to provide premium quotations for insurance cover as the Parish Magazine and its Editor are not covered under the Parish Council's insurance.

127 Financial Matters

- a **RESOLVED** that the following accounts be approved and paid:
 - i Clerk's salary Chq No 1877 C. Pollock(Oct) £ 428.02
 - ii Clerk's Exps Chq No 1878 Office & General Exps (Oct) £ 41.68
 - iii Glyn Mould Chq No 1879 Village Sign –varnish &Colour £ 250.00
 - iv E-on Chq No 1880 Street lighting energy costs £ 74.90 plus VAT
 - v Easiprint Chq No 1881 Printing Chgs Sept 15 £ 195.00
- b The quarterly Financial Statements were received and considered

128 Planning

- a **Outstanding Matters**
67 Ermine Street, the appeal had been dismissed.
- b **Application determined by HDC**
To note the outcome
- c **Applications awaiting determination by HDC**
To note the outcome
- d **New Applications**
 - i **Alconbury Weald, Ermine Street, Little Stukeley – 15/01117/REM** – Approval of appearance, layout, landscaping and scale in respect of the construction of 128 dwellings, pocket park, associated highways, landscaping and ancillary works.
The Planning Group reported that the application appeared to be consistent with the higher order requirements from the outline and key phase conditions.
 - the design scale and appearance of the proposed homes appeared good.
 - the layout of the homes, their relationship to each other and the surrounding planned development appeared good.

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- landscaping and the green and hard landscaped 'context' for the built form was very good.

Overall the standard of layout and design was considered to be very good; it set the design level for the development.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval for the reasons above.

- ii **Alconbury Weald, Ermine Street, Little Stukeley – 15/01847/REM** – Approval of appearance, layout, landscaping, scale and access in respect of the construction of 31,893sq.m of mixed B1(a), B1(b), B2 and ancillary B8 floor space and associated highways, drainage, landscaping and ancillary works.

The Planning Group reported that although not high technology use it was hoped would be attracted from the Cambridge area, it was considered an appropriate operation for AW and was consistent with its planning permission and the designation of the site as an Enterprise Zone. The development was anticipated to employ up to 500 people in shifts.

It was a large building (171m by 155m by 15m) but was set to one side of the AW site where its impact was less. It would, however, be visible from distant views, although this was considered acceptable in context of the permission.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval for the reasons above.

- iii **Alconbury Weald, Ermine Street, Little Stukeley – 15/01630/S73** – Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 1000739S73 to enable continued use of the site until 2020.

The Planning Group reported that this application related to the whole of the AW site and seeks to extend the period over which the existing commercial and industrial uses could continue, as currently the condition would expire in Dec 2015; the application seeks to extend this to 2020. The continued use of the existing uses does not prejudice the ongoing development of AW.

However, there was a perception within the villages that the existing temporary uses generate a large proportion of commercial traffic especially HCVs which access the AW site via Ermine Street. The extension of those uses for a further 5 years was therefore a matter of concern to local residents.

It was **RESOLVED** that the temporary permission extension be limited to 12 months only, to be reviewed on an annual basis so that the continuation of these uses extends no longer than absolutely necessary.

- iv **Land South of 10 and 12 West View, Great Stukeley – 15/01704/FUL** – Erection of a bungalow

The Planning Group reported that it considered that this proposal would result in over-development on a cramped site, that it was out of context with the adjacent modest cottages and would have an overbearing impact on the public open space at West View.

There were also strong concerns about the surface water drainage. There was a watercourse which flowed through the site which had caused flooding in the open space and in gardens in Church Close. The watercourse ran generally north-south from Ermine Street to the farmland beyond West View/Church Close. There were problems in a number of places along this culverted route. Chris Allen, Huntingdonshire District Council's Projects and Assets Manager would be aware of these issues and that some remedial works were undertaken in 2013. However, considerable public concern remains about the unresolved and continuing issues.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend refusal for the reasons above and that this should include the comment on surface water drainage.

- v **15 Low Road, Little Stukeley – 15/01702/HHFUL** – Amend existing plan to incorporate a new full height porch and extension to the kitchen, existing approved 14/00465/FUL.

The Planning Group reported that although this would make significant alterations to the appearance of the property it was considered that this would not have any adverse impact on neighbours nor on the street scene.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval for the reasons above.

Two residents left the meeting.

- vi **St Martins Church, Church Way, Little Stukeley - 15/01911/TRCA** - Beech tree- NE corner of church, end of branch growing into church and causing damage to brick work, advised by quinquennial inspection to prune branch back by 2 metres. Oak tree - on South boundary, new growth is causing nuisance to neighbouring property. Church committee are happy to prune tree subject to council's procedure.

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The Planning Group reported that it considered that these tree works were essential to protect the fabric of St Martin's Church (Grade 11* Listed) and a neighbouring property and that there would be no significant adverse impact on the Conservation Area.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval for the reasons above.

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

Cllr Michael Monk reported that the meeting on 29th October with Jason Ablewhite, the Leader of HDC had been a very constructive meeting. Cllr Ablewhite advised that the Parish Council should write to the Dept. of Business, Innovation and Skills and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (James Riley) to request that representatives of the Parish Council be invited to future meetings on the closure of RAF Alconbury as HDC was not empowered to invite the Parish Council. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15th March. Copies of the Minutes for the 2nd and 3rd meeting to be requested.

One resident left the meeting.

District Councillor Keith Baker left the meeting.

f Neighbourhood Plan

Planning Officers Paul Bland, and James Campbell were also present at the meeting with Cllr Ablewhite. Cllr Ablewhite said the Parish Council would be foolish not to have a neighbourhood plan as CIL returns would rise to 25%, if there was a neighbourhood plan and were not capped. Cllr Michael Monk proposed that a Steering Group be set up, and he would consult with Tim Slater, Sally Jackson (CPRE) and Urban & Civic. Grants and funding were available. Michael Womersley-Carter and Paul Ryan to be invited to join the Steering Group. Members of the Group to include the Planning Group, Cllrs Karl Gasson and Sally Smith. A regular article and updates on the neighbourhood plan to be published in the Parish Magazine.

129 Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted as received:

- a** Emails: Rural Services Network- Weekly News Digests
- b** Email: Planning Inspectorate - A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme
- c** Email: Highways England - A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Update October 2015
- d** Email: Luminus: The Essential Councillor Seminar
- f** Email: Michael Womersley-Carter -Traffic concerns
- g** Email: CCC - Community Gritting Scheme
- h** Email: CCC – County Council Budget Consultation
- i** Email: Mr & Mrs Gee – Planning Application 15/01630/S73
- j** Email: Very Cool Events - Tour of Cambridgeshire 2016
- k** Email: Mr & Mrs Gasson – Planning Application 15/01704/FUL
- l** Email: CCC – Timebanking
- m** Email: HDC - Parking Contraventions in Town and Parish Council Areas
- n** Email : Hunts Forum AGM Invitation
- o** Email: HDC – Huntingdonshire District Council Elections Consultation
- p** Letter: J Djanogly Response - Village Broadband
- q** Email: U&C – Alconbury Weald Newsletter
- r** Email: CCC - Briefing regarding Cambridgeshire County Council budget proposal
- s** Email: CCC - Riparian Responsibilities for Flood Risk

130 Publications Received

None

131 Matters for Future Consideration

- a** Budget and precept
- b** Allotment Committee

Meeting closed at 10:30pm

Next Meeting:

Monday 7th December 2015 at 7:30pm – Little Stukeley Village Hall, Little Stukeley
No Meeting scheduled in January 2016