

WEST WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday

27th November 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.

Those present were: Councillors P Charlton (Chairman), P Grieve, T Hall, D Licence, J Plumb and A Schuilenburg, District Councillor R Turner and some 45 members of the public

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor M Cornish, County Councillor Batchelor and District Councillor Fraser and Mrs J Richards (Clerk)

2. Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2017 were signed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Matters Arising:

(a) In relation to the **overhanging branches at the junction of Dean Road and the A1307**, it was noted that, following a meeting with the estate manager of Horseheath Lodge, the highways department had received an undertaking from him that the offending trees would be cut down when the road was re-surfaced as lane closures would be required for both operations.

(b) In relation to the **hedge/tree cuttings opposite the Village Hall**, the highways department had undertaken to write to the landowner requiring them to be removed, failing which they would be removed by the highways department who would then recoup the costs from the landowner.

5. Planning:

(a) The following planning applications had been received from SCDC since the last meeting for the Parish Council's comments, which are indicated in the final column:

S/1803/17/ FL	S Jorda n	3 High Street	4 Garden sheds & Shepherds hut	Not supported (addit. Info. Requested)
S/3130/17/ FL	A Cham p	15 Burton End	Demolition & replacement of existing outbuilding	Supported
S/3740/10/ 17	W Stone	The Meadow, Streetly End	Outline permission- new dwelling & access	Not supported (o/s development area)
S/3823/17/ RM	E Moon	The Meadow, Streetly End	Reserve matters following appeal ref APP/W0530	Supported
S/3130/17/ FL	A Cham p	15 Burton End	Amendment to plan	Supported (Permission granted)

(b) It was noted that the discharge of conditions in relation to application S/2483 and S1415/17 (Mrs A Stone - Streetly End) was satisfactory to all parties.

6. Correspondence:

A folder had been circulated to all Councillors.

7. Finance:

(a) Authorised payments:

£1330.00	T. Licence	Playground repairs	Chq 806
£2409.60	SWARCO Traffic Ltd	30% deposit for speedwatch indicators	Chq 807
£372.34	Mrs J Richards	Salary October/November	Chq 808
£10.00	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath	Chq 809
£690.00	CGM	Mowing play area and recreation ground	Chq 810
£90.00	JP Gardening	6 Cuts - wildlife area	Chq 811
£29.36	STP	Printing ink & photocopy paper (5 packs)	Chq 812
£5623.24	SWARCO Traffic Ltd	Balance for speedwatch indicators	Chq 813

(b) Monies received;

£141.05 Allotment fees

£479.41 Carlton - contribution for speed indicator

£479.41 Weston Colville - contribution for speed indicator

£1180.00 Open Reach - wayleave payment

£982.52 West Wrattling PC- contribution for speed indicator

£982.52 Horseheath PC - contribution for speed indicator

8. Transport - A1307

Councillor Hall outlined to the meeting the **Greater Cambridge Partnership's** progress in developing proposals for improvements to the A1307 route, most significantly in relation to the section between the Four Wentways roundabout and Addenbrookes hospital, but also with a number of proposals to improve safety and traffic movement on the section heading south east towards Haverhill. The process involved discussions with local County, District and Parish Council representatives through the Local Liaison Forum. Consultants working on behalf of the GCP had developed three options and the board had met very recently to select one of these for consultation, although it was not yet known which of the three had been chosen.

Councillors and members of the public made a number of comments and suggestions about the need for safety improvements on the local section of the A1307, notably the Dean Road crossroads, but also other junctions

at Linton and Hildersham. It was noted that one suggestion made by the consultants involved closing off the Dean Road junction. All present recognised that in its current form it was a dangerous junction but it was felt that improvements could be made without closing it off, and various suggestions were made, including the construction of a roundabout, blocking off a lane of the dual carriageway and widening the central reservation to give sanctuary for right turning vehicles. Also forming an important part of the proposals was the role of public transport, particularly buses. Guided buses and light rail were thought to be longer term ideas. Everyone was urged to be aware of the coming consultation on the chosen preferred option through the media and the GCP's website so as to be able to make comments as appropriate.

Simultaneously, and of more concern to those present, an organisation entitled the **A1307 Strategy Board**, chaired by Matthew Hancock MP and containing members of the Suffolk (Haverhill) Chamber of Commerce had funded a study into alternative routes for the A1307 from Haverhill. One of these, 'the northern route' would have a severe impact on West Wickham and other local villages, cutting past Streetly End and involving the construction of four bridges over Horseheath Road, Dean Road, the Balsham to Linton Road and Balsham to Hildersham Road. It would also adversely affect the Roman Road. All present were unanimous in their opposition to this proposal, and noted that although it currently had no standing, the body putting it forward was being chaired by a Government minister.

The Parish Council agreed to notify the Member of Parliament, Lucy Frazer, of its strong opposition to the 'northern route' proposal of the A1307 Strategy Board and its concern at the way it has been put forward, causing anxiety to many people.

It was agreed that further developments, either in relation to the Greater Cambridge Partnership's proposals, or in relation to the Strategy Board's ideas be communicated to residents through the Village Voice, the village web site and the residents email list..

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hall reported that the Neighbourhood Plan working group had prepared the character assessment of the village, which had been approved by members of the Parish Council subject to minor amendments. A drop-in session to enable residents to view and comment on the document had been arranged for 22nd January 2018. When finalised, along with maps and photographs, the character assessment would form an important part of the overall plan.

The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

10. Maintenance **(a) Speed Indicators**

Councillor Hall reported that all parishes apart from Balsham and the Camps had paid their share of the costs of acquiring the speed

indicators. The Parish Council's insurance covered the use of the signs. Schedules of usage were yet to be agreed.

(b)Footpaths

Repairs to public footpaths had been carried out as requested. It was noted that a number of footpaths that had been ploughed and sown had not been reinstated and landowners were urged to reinstate paths where necessary. It was a legal requirement to reinstate paths no less than 14 days after ploughing.

(c) Pavements/ Dropped kerbs

It was noted that the condition of the pavement outside 71 High Street remained in poor condition. A dropped kerb was required for vehicular access to this property, which was in new ownership.

11. Local Forum Meetings

Councillor Turner indicated that the focus of the next Combined Parishes forum would be on planning. Concern was expressed that the Parish Council was not always informed of decisions on planning applications in the parish.

12. Playground /Recreation

There had been no further development with regard to the suggestion that the rear car park could be used for **tennis**. The Village Hall Management Committee was asked to discuss this at its next meeting.

The **playground** repairs had been carried out and grass strimmed as requested at the last meeting.

13. Mobile Phone Coverage / Broadband

Councillor Schuilenburg reported that mobile phone reception in Streetly End was now poor. Cambridgeshire was now an area for testing 5G coverage.

Connecting Cambridgeshire had indicated that broadband was now available to 97% of households but the objective was to achieve 99% and Councillor Schuilenburg asked anyone who is not getting access to let him know so that Connecting Cambridgeshire could be informed.

14. Meetings attended by Councillors:

Councillor Hall had attended the Greater Cambridge Partnership's 'Big Conversation' at Cambourne on 16th November. The main concerns of parish councils represented at the meeting related to transport, particularly bus services and infrastructure. Councillor Hall suggested that the development of any new infrastructure in the long term needed to address the provision of the necessary education, skills and training.

15. County Councillor Batchelor's Report

This report, dealing with the City Deal, Highways, Children's centres, secondary school teacher recruitment and parking charges, had been circulated prior to the meeting and was available on the village web site.

16. District Councillor Turner's Report

Councillor Turner reported on:

- The progress with the local plan. Consultation was due to take place on recent amendments and it was hoped that the agreed Local Plan would be in place by March 2018. In the meantime, villages were vulnerable to speculative planning applications. Councillor Turner stressed the importance of neighbourhood plans in helping to strengthen the ability of communities to shape their own future development.
- Blue bin collections - paper caddies would only be collected up to 8th December.
- Local Liaison Forum (see 8 above). Consultation on the chosen option of the GCP would take place in February 2018, with the aim of completing work by 2022
- Community awards - nominations were requested for awards in six different categories
- Community chest - some resources were still available
- Community Energy Grants - £55000 was available for energy saving schemes (max. grant £3000)
- Cambridge Ice rink
- Cambridge City football stadium at Sawston
- Planning Forum - 13th February 2018
- SCDC Cabinet/Parish Councils Liaison

17. Any Other Business

(a) Parish Precept

The letter received from SCDC to all parishes regarding precepts was noted. The precept would be set at the next meeting of the Parish Council in January when the budget was decided.

(b) Road sign damage

The 30 mph repeater sign opposite Maypole Croft had been damaged and needed to be replaced by the Highways Department.

(c) Drinks Licence

Councillor Licence reported on a proposal to obtain an annual licence to sell alcohol from the Village Hall rather than obtaining ten separate licences. The Village Hall Management Committee would be considering this at their next meeting but the Parish Council, as freeholder gave its approval to this proposal

(d) Speedwatch

A speedwatch session had been held on the Balsham Road near the church and 10% of vehicles had been travelling at over 35mph. Details of these vehicles had been referred to the police.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 22nd January at 7.30 p. m. All are welcome to attend.