## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom On Thursday 11 February 2021

**Present:** - Stephen Roberts (Chairman), Giles Dobson, Kate Homan, Paul Archer, Mary Maitland, Polly Fenwick, Robert Foster, Henry Batchelor - County Councillor, Geoff Harvey -District Councillor

Edith Osborn - Clerk

Caroline Revitt, Josephine Roberts

## 1 Apologies:

There were no apologies.

A quorum was present.

## 2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2020 were reviewed. Further to those minutes the Chairman advised that he had written to Brinkley Parish Council regarding the proposed new housing at Six Mile Bottom but had had no response. Giles Dobson offered to contact the Chairman of the parish council himself.

The weekly bulletins circulated to residents were found to be useful. Stephen Roberts proposed that the minutes be approved and Paul Archer seconded the proposal.

#### **3** Declarations of Interest

No councillor had any new interests to declare.

#### 4 Administration

#### **4.1** Risk assessment

The draft Risk Assessment was reviewed. There were no changes.

Giles Dobson proposed that the Risk assessment be approved and Robert Foster seconded the proposal.

#### 4.2 Internal Control Review 2021

The papers were reviewed. The Chairman noted the use of the term Rood Hall Bridleway and queried which path that referred to. The Clerk advised that the term was used in the past for the green lane but she would investigate.

Stephen Roberts proposed that the Internal Control Review for 2021 be approved and Kate Homan seconded the proposal.

## **4.3** Parish Council website

Polly Fenwick had been liaising with West Wickham parish council regarding a host for the new website. She had rung TSO, the proposed host, but had concerns that the website would not be compliant with WCAG2.1. The website regulations require accessibility, eg, be able to hear what is said somewhere where there is background noise or the size of the print can be adjusted. The clerk agreed to contact CAPALC for advice. It was noted that other councils' websites do not yet comply with the regulations. Polly will update the councillors shortly.

Geoff Harvey offered to find out what the situation was within the rest of south Cambridgeshire. If the cost of complying with the regulations is too high then it becomes a political issue.

## 5 Finance

**5.1** Payments proposed for authorisation were:

**5.1.1** St Peter's Church £ 164.47 **5.1.2** Clerk's salary £ 1,566.24

Stephen Roberts proposed that the above payments be approved and Robert Foster seconded the proposal.

**5.2** Receipts, payments and reconciliation as at 31 January 2021

The Chairman queried the difference in the end of year balance at 31 March 2020 and the balance as 31 January 2021. The Clerk thought it was likely to be a timing issue but she would investigate

Paul Archer proposed that the accounts as at 31 January 2021 be approved and Giles Dobson seconded the proposal.

### 6 Planning.

**6.1** 20/05132/FUL Willingham House Stud – erection of 1 dwelling Not yet determined. It was advised that a new culvert will be built to allow access to

Not yet determined. It was advised that a new culvert will be built to allow access to the new house.

**6.2** Willingham Green Scrapyard update

There had been no activity on site and no updates. It was decided to check when the planning approval for four houses on the site expires.

#### 7 Environmental

7.1 S106 monies and remaining work

As previously discussed, the remaining monies were going to be used to lay planings on the path running alongside the Stour. A working party was to be organised but due to the lockdown this will have to wait until people are allowed to meet up.

7.2 Road surface flooding in Willingham Green

The Chairman advised that there had been a complaint in January about flooding off the main road into the properties at the bend. Robert Foster advised that this problem had actually arisen before Christmas and was a recurrent problem over the three years he had lived in his house which was affected by this water. The storm drain cannot deal with the volume of heavy rain. He had had new drainage laid in his drive and the ditch had been cleared but the ditches on the opposite side of the road on the D'Abo Estate are full and need clearing out. Also, the camber of the road is slanted towards the houses. Henry Batchelor had spoken to the County Council and someone will be contacting D'Abo Estate about clearing the ditches.

The County Council is sending the flood risk team to look at the site. Geoff Harvey advised that the District Council have an emergency supply of sandbags which can be used.

7.3 Footpaths/Road surfaces/drains/gulleys

A complaint had been made by a resident of Weston Colville about Footpath no.3 which is on the D'Abo estate. The Estate had tried to re-instate the path but the ground had been too soft, they will try again at a later date.

A popular walk starts opposite the woodyard and passes along the side of the Stour, however, the ditch had been dug out by the new owner and walkers could not cross to the other bank currently. This was termed a permissive footpath allowed by the previous landowner. The land is part of East Cambridgeshire's footpath officer's area. The new landowner has removed the culvert as so much rubbish had flowed down blocking the small pipes. He had advised that the culvert would be re-instated. On the green lane, it would be useful to have the proposed road planings laid as it is difficult to walk to the ford. It may be the drainage pipe under the path is blocked and the Chairman will speak to Peter Coppen to ask him to look at it. It also seems that more water is coming from the Weston Colville end.

The Chairman re-iterated that any resident can report faults with the roads eg potholes, drain flushing. The B1052 has been resurfaced which looks good but other roads need attention such as Temple End Road which has a broken surface and Acre Road outside the farm.

Henry Batchelor advised that there is a pothole program in which the worst holes are filled first. If more people report the same pothole then the job will be completed quicker. If there is a serious hole it should be raised with Highways directly. Roads in the worst state of repair are resurfaced first so councillors need to lobby Highways about the worst surfaces within the parish.

If replacement signage is required contact is via the Highways website or James Stringer, the Highways Officer. It was noted that Footpath no. 8 needs work.

#### 7.4 LHI application

There is a Panel meeting next Wednesday during which the council can pitch its view regarding a reduction in the speed limit through Willingham Green. Robert Foster will have 3 minutes to put forward the case. The feasibility study had advised that 50mph would be an acceptable speed although 40pmh was what the residents originally had requested. The consensus feeling is that any improvement in the speed limit would be better than nothing. The MVAS devices could be used to lower the speed.

Thanks to Mary and Stephen for their help. A 500 word statement will be provided. The result will be known early March.

Cambridgeshire has set its own rules for speed limits which are not in line with the national limits. Henry Batchelor suggested lobbying the County Council about this. The reasoning for the 50 mph limit was because there was housing on only one side of the road, the properties are set back from the road behind vegetation and people drive at the speed they think it should be on a road. Also, not all of the accidents have been logged for this part of the road. Henry Batchelor advised that there is a review of the LHI process into which the parish council comments could be fed.

The Chairman thanked Rob for all his work on this LHI application.

## **7.5** Climate Change issues

Robert Foster and Kate Homan will be meeting with Josephine and Caroline to catch up with progress on environmental issues.

Thanks to Josephine and Caroline for planting trees locally. The County Council had supplied a digital map to Robert Foster to which he can add the local landowners. It was considered whether the parish council should work collaboratively locally with other parish councils leading to any large initiatives being worked on together. Geoff Harvey advised that the focus had been top down from the District Council until now but he would feed back to the Climate and Environmental committee that they could start with parish council initiatives. It would be interesting to know what councils are doing which border South Cambridgeshire. Robert Foster will obtain a list of contacts for the other parish councils in East Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, Emma Dyer would be the contact at South Cambridgeshire.

#### **7.6** Local environment survey

Thanks to Kate Homan regarding sending out a survey to residents to find out what people would help with in the village eg wildflower planting in the verges. It would be preferable to do an online survey which was approved by the councillors. The Clerk agreed to contact CAPALC regarding the best way to run a survey. The Clerk agreed to provide the Chairman with a copy of the Electoral Roll.

## 8 District Councillor's report

As circulated before the meeting. Geoff Harvey commented as follows:

He agreed to send a copy of the Climate Emergency Toolkit to the Council.

It was noted that Caldicote Parish Council have created a website which complies with the WCAG 2.1 regulations.

The vaccine rollout is going well

Vicky Hoover is the main point of contact for grants. There is still money available for the business rate grant in order to help local business.

SCDC is forming a directory for Cambridgeshire with 'double nature' as the strapline. The aim is for new housing developments to incorporate 20% biodiversity to protect and enhance nature.

Climate and Environment fortnight runs from 22 February.

Anglia Water has selected a new site for its waste water treatment centre.

## 9 County Councillor's report

The joint report with South Cambs had been circulated already.

Henry Batchelor commented as follows:

Anyone over the age of 70 years can now be vaccinated.

There will be local elections in May and an election for the Police and Crime Commissioner. Postal voting is likely to be used to a large extent.

The County Council budgets have been agreed with an increase of 3.99% which is equivalent to an increase of £40 per year for Band D.

The CC are promoting Emergency Plans so that villages are prepared for flooding. Carlton has already got a Plan in place.

# 10 General observations or matters for consideration at the next meeting (formerly AOB)

The Church is under renovation using funds from various grants including a grant from Wadlow Wind Farm.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 13 May 2021 at 7.30pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.54pm.