

## **Minutes of the Cottenham Annual Parish Meeting**

Held in the Village Hall, Lambs Lane, Cottenham on Tuesday 21st April 2015 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs Morris (Chair), Berenger, Bolitho, Collier, Collinson, Heydon, McCarthy, Mudd, Nicholas, Richards, Ward, Wotherspoon and Young, the Clerk, RFO, SCDC Cllr Harford and CCC Cllr Jenkins

**In attendance:** 20 members of the public

### **Chairman's Introduction and Apologies for absence**

Apologies accepted from Cllr Leeks, SCDC Cllr Edwards and CCC Cllr Mason.

### **Minutes**

2013: amended to say that it was a resident who stated 'road bike' not Cllr Heydon. All agreed to sign as a true record.

2014 - All agreed to sign as a true record.

### **Chair's Report**

Chairman presented report for 2014/15 covering key points. Resident asked why CPC created an asset. A. Any item that will provide for the village is an asset and accounted for accordingly. Councils don't depreciate items but they may be re-valued if legislation changes.

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council Report**

SCDC Cllr Wotherspoon ran through the key areas that SCDC cover. He stressed that the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan strengthens the power of the Parish Council would have over village development.

Cllr Nicholas asked about Northstowe (para 2 of the report); will doubling of meetings mean that progress will be made at the July meeting? A. The 5.5hr and 6hr March meetings were spent listening to various representatives and the Committee interrogated them quite intensively. There was no way of making a decision at that point.

Cllr Heydon queried the civic hub and that Bridget Smith had mentioned that they didn't make a profit. A. The Committee is concerned that it stands on its own two feet but details of how this will be achieved is yet to be decided.

### **County Council Report**

CCC Cllr Jenkins read a report detailing two key points, firstly how CCC was governed. He queried CPC reducing the precept when more decisions could be passed back to the Parish including potholes. Resident stated that they would prefer for CPC to be in control and spend the money how we want it to be spent.

CCC Cllr Jenkins then went on to cover point 2, housing. We are in an economically successful part of the country which in itself brings challenges. Cllr Collinson said that the recasting of County hasn't made any difference. The perception is that County is a shambles and that they don't do anything. It would be nice to feel that County were more on the ball. CCC Cllr Jenkins responded that decisions made were more scrutinised than previously i.e. Balfour Beatty and the guided bus. Residents need to 'make a noise' to get things done.

Cllr Nicholas queried comments on health and that it won't affect us. A. This is because most of us are healthy. Cllr Nicholas said that he hoped the new health trust would live up to its promises.

Cllr Bolitho asked what kind of projects CPC may need to take on in the future? A. This may include youth provision, library and being smart on making sure the roads don't deteriorate. CCC Cllr Jenkins also believed there was mileage in working with neighbouring parishes. Cllr Morris said that whilst there is a firm relationship between CPC and SCDC via panel meetings etc. there isn't the same closeness with County.

Cllr Collier asked about the lack of money for preventative youth work rather than rehab? A. This was probably down to saving money.

Cllr Young asked why infrastructure wasn't addressed until after housing has been built and why County weren't insisting on infrastructure first then houses? A. Some good plans had been developed for public transport.

Cllr Heydon asked if there was much take up for setting up local community bus services (Cambridge Future Transport)? A. CCC Cllr Jenkins to provide details of schemes.

Resident Q. Had County had looked at providing trams? A. This has been considered but was rejected in favour of the guided bus.

#### **Open Forum**

Resident Q. what the status was regarding the Post Office? A. One of the District Cllrs has been liaising and there is no immediate threat to services but we will be keeping a close eye on the situation.

#### **Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair) Date \_\_\_\_\_