

## COTTENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes

Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Lambs Lane, Cottenham

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 at 7pm

**Present:** Cllrs Mudd (Chair), Berenger, Bristow, Brown, Burton, Collinson, Collier, Leeks, Heydon, Nicholas, Richards, Rodway, Rowley, Wotherspoon; Clerk Jo Brook; SCDC Cllr Edwards, SCDC Cllr Harford, CCC Cllr Gymer, CCC Cllr Jenkins and 22 members of the public;

**Apologies:** RFO Fiona Gooch (personal).

**Chairs Report** – see attached (previously distributed). Cllr Mudd updated the information about the changing rooms to state that the expression of interest form for Cambs FA had been accepted today.

**SCDC Report** – see attached (previously distributed). SCDC Cllr Harford summarised the report for those present. Cllr Wotherspoon distributed some information leaflets about Northstowe.

**CCC Report** – see attached (previously distributed).

**Polly Wilderspin, Area Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator** – Polly gave a presentation about the scheme, what it is and what it entailed. The once informal relationship with the police has changed. Neighbourhood Watch have had to submit a business case as to why they were needed; this was accepted and there is now a formal written agreement which is being rolled out in the whole of Cambridgeshire. E-cops is good but it has flaws. The police are taking on a new messaging system to be used with Neighbourhood Watch. The scheme itself has worked very well in Swavesey to prevent crime. The street co-ordinators are vital and are the contact with the police. Cottenham currently only has 11 co-ordinators at present compared to 42 in Swavesey which is a much smaller village. There also needs to be a village co-ordinator as an overall point of contact. We really need to motivate the village as a whole to get behind the scheme.

**Questions from the public** – Cllr Mudd ran through the various questions which had been received prior to the meeting. Question: Twentypence Road subsidence. CCC Cllr Gymer confirmed that 3 maintenance staff and the portfolio holder had been to out at the site. There are no plans at present to do any substantial work. CCC Cllr Jenkins will check with Highways to see whether repairs in general are warranted since it was considered that some recent work had been substandard. Cllr Collinson also commented on the poor state of some of the pavements in the village and that they should also be looked at. Question: pedestrian safety on the High Street. Cllr Rowley confirmed that the Traffic Working Party are looking at the area from the post office to the village college zebra crossing. County need evidence to prove the need for safety measures. CCC Cllr Jenkins proposed looking at the High Street from the Cottenham Club to the Community Centre and that it potentially needed re-designing. Cllr Rowley highlighted the traffic meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April to discuss parking issues in the vicinity of the Co-op. Question: any plans for a cycle route to the Oakington guided bus and the lack of car parking. The land would need to be purchased for a cycle route. Cllr Heydon mentioned a safer cycle route to Oakington via the Cookcoo Lane bridlepath although it is longer and wouldn't be practical on a road bike. Cllr Wotherspoon mentioned that the full Northstowe application had originally had cycleways included. South Cambs (minus the city) is now the 4<sup>th</sup> largest area of cycling in the UK. One resident pointed out that there would also be drainage issues with the cycleway similar to those on the Histon route and that it would potentially prove very expensive to resolve. Cllr Wotherspoon may be able to push the issue of a new cycleway forward. Question: Lambs Lane flooding. CCC Cllr Jenkins summarised the problems of flooding on the Lambs Lane/High Street junction and pavements. CCC Cllr Gymer confirmed that the scheme to

resolve the problems was the second highest on the list for Highways and work would be undertaken in the second 6 months of the financial year. Question: update on planning issues on the HC Moss site on Millfield. SCDC Cllr Edwards summarised the history of the site and the current issues. Currently the building and occupation are unauthorised. A new application has been submitted but is deficient; the applicant now has a month to submit the rest of the required information. Cllr Berenger asked if the residents could put representations for conditions to any approved application and SCDC Cllr Edwards confirmed this was possible.

**Joel Chalfen, Cambridge Future Transport** – Joel spoke about the review of the 106 and 110 bus services to Ely. The subsidy is being withdrawn in the next few years. It may however be possible to make some minor tweaks to the service to keep it within budget. The service won't be withdrawn until a replacement has been found and a working group has been looking at the services. One option is to trim the 106 service to an off-peak service and keep the 110 Thursday bus as it is. Option 2 shifted the timetable to allow more time in Ely. The 106 also serves Wilburton and Haddenham and the Haddenham working party have provided an alternative option to remove Rampton and Cottenham from the service altogether and provide a more regular service for Haddenham! CCC Cllr Gymer mentioned a previous suggestion of the bus going on to the Milton Park & Ride site instead and Joel will mention this to the working groups. The process regarding the decision is: the working groups will present the preferred option at a public meeting. Officers/portfolio holders will then look at the suggestions. A resident mentioned that there is no active promotion of the services. CCC Cllr Gymer said that County had done a large promotion in Rampton.

#### **Further questions from the public –**

Resident mentioned more antisocial behaviour near the bus stop on the village green and recently the fire brigade had also had to be called out.

It was queried why the Neighbourhood Plan wasn't on the agenda; it was pointed out that this wasn't an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council and therefore the agenda takes a different format. Cllr Burton spoke to say that only 144 responses had been received to the questionnaires and the results are currently being analysed. The results will be published in the village magazine. Additionally Cllr Burton re-iterated that the plans proposed were there simply to stimulate discussions and that they weren't by any means set in stone. The adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan would mean that Cottenham would have more say over how it evolves.

Resident complained about their perceived lack of communication from the Parish Council. Cllr Mudd stated that over the past 12 months we had communicated more than ever with residents via the regular Clerk's reports on the noticeboards and our new Facebook page, which had received good feedback. Additionally the Clerk was working towards a new website for the Parish Council but progress had been slowed by an extreme amount of information requests over the past 3 months which were dominating her time and diverting the Clerk from other Parish duties.

Resident spoke about the recent Chesterton Fen traveller site decision and asked for Parish support in relation to the current appeal. Cllr Bristow commented that the appeal currently appears to be in abeyance and that this was frowned upon by the Inspectorate however it still seems to be allowed to happen. SCDC Cllr Harford stated that she had attended the site the previous week along with PCSO Fuller and the traveller liaison officer; the reason for the visit was to speak to all parents requesting that they keep better control of their young people. Smithy Fen residents also asked for

support in reporting problems to the police in the village in addition to those on the fen. This would be an ideal reason to adopt the Neighbourhood Watch scheme!

Resident requested an update on the noise/vibration monitoring that was undertaken last year. The HCV working party will be writing a case as to what will happen next. Julia Brand asked for monitoring to be done at the Mallory end of the village, in particular relating to odour emissions; she will be writing to the Parish Council shortly regarding issues.

**Close of Meeting – 9.05pm**

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