

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 1 October 2013

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman (SD)
Tim Fitzjohn (TF)
Julie Conder (JCo)
Katherine Stalham (KS)
James Clear (JCI)
Peter Stokes, Clerk

Members of the public:

Mark Taylor, First Responder scheme coordinator, Caldecote
Mr and Mrs Macmillan

1. Apologies

None

2. Presentation by Mark Taylor

- 2.1. First Responders are local trained volunteers who may be called out by the Ambulance Service to attend a medical emergency local to them, as they can be on the scene before an ambulance to give a rapid response. An ambulance is always despatched as well as a First Responder.
- 2.2. Mark has previously been a First Responder in Ely. He now works in Cambridge, and wishes to start a scheme covering Caldecote, Kingston, Toft and possibly other villages. He needs to raise funds for the purchase of the equipment required, and recruit volunteers as First Responders. Training is provided at no cost.
- 2.3. Funds are needed for initial equipment such as a normal defibrillator, a training defibrillator and a 'Resuscitation Annie' used for training. Mark has raised about £1000 so far from Caldecote and is asking Kingston to donate £325.
- 2.4. The target response time for a First Responder is 4 minutes, as responses for emergencies such as heart attack, stroke, severe bleeding or anaphylactic shock within this time limit greatly increase the chances of survival. It is hoped to provide cover on a '24/7' basis but in practice the cover available will depend on the commitment volunteers are prepared to make. A rota would be arranged such that one person is on duty at all times. This person would hold the emergency kit whilst they are on duty.
- 2.5. Mark hopes to recruit First Responders in Kingston, and to raise further funds and recruit volunteers from other villages.
- 2.6. It was agreed that KPC will support the scheme and contribute £325. **Action: Clerk.**
- 2.7. It was agreed that Mark will forward publicity material to the Clerk who will put a suitable item in the magazine, and forward to JCo for the website. **Action: Clerk, JCo.**

3. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed with the following correction in para 4.10: *Chairman of Madingley Parish Council* to be changed to *Chairman of Caldecote Parish Council*.

4. Planning application S/1083/13/FL, demolition and re-build of house and garage at North Farm, Church Lane

(Other planning matters are under para 14)

- 4.1. Declarations of pecuniary interest were made by SD, JCI and TF, who all live adjacent to or opposite the site in question. It was agreed that a dispensation be granted to these three councillors to enable them to take part in the discussion and vote on the issue.
- 4.2. After much discussion it was agreed that as there was no clear consensus on the matter, KPC would not respond to the application. Clerk to inform Tumi Hawkins.
Action: Clerk.

5. Matters Arising from minutes of last meeting

- 5.1. **3.1.4 Vacant allotment plot:** this has been taken by Barry Marsh.
- 5.2. **4.5 Speeding through village and Speedwatch**
 - 5.2.1. On further discussion it was agreed that KPC will not change the previous decision not to pursue this scheme.
 - 5.2.2. It was agreed that KPC would increase its contribution as requested to a maximum of £260 for the 40mph buffer zone on Bourn Road.
 - 5.2.3. It was agreed that the police should be asked to try again to measure vehicle speeds at the north end of the village. **Action: Clerk.**
- 5.3. **4.10 Development at Bourn Airfield:**
 - 5.3.1. SD reported that the letter of protest which is to be jointly sent by the Chairs of the parish councils of Caldecote, Bourn, Kingston, Madingley, Toft and Dry Drayton had not yet been sent, but that it should be sent shortly.
 - 5.3.2. A letter has been received from Curtin and Co, consultants involved with proposed developments in the City of Cambridge, suggesting that the proposed houses to be built at Bourn Airfield could be better accommodated at their client's site in Cambridge. Curtin and Co have included details of arguments that could be used by Bourn Airfield development protesters to support this option.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1. **Email from Mark Nicholls:** asking for details of nuisance noise advice given by SCDC on their website. The Clerk has provided the information.
- 6.2. **Email from Cambridgeshire Police:** advising that our new PCSO is Alex Giltinane.
- 6.3. **Email from SCDC:** advising that the consultation period for proposed submission for the Local Plan has been extended by two weeks.

7. County Councillor's report

No report

8. District Councillor's report

See Appendix A

9. Community Plan report

TF reported that the plan is now complete as a rough draft, and after final checking needs to be sent to Linda Brown at SCDC for comments. TF aims to have actioned this by the next meeting (14 November). **Action: TF.**

10. Village Hall upgrade project

An application has been made to WREN for a grant of £49,500. Torrie Smith has been given indications by the WREN representative that the application appears to meet all the criteria and therefore has a high likelihood of success. If granted, this would bring the total secured to approx £118,350, with approx £12,000 still to be found.

11. Open Spaces report

- 11.1. JCI has placed a load of manure at the allotments for the use of tenants.
- 11.2. The drain at the top of Crane's Lane is blocked again – JCI will clear it. **Action: JCI.**

12. Parking on the village green

The Clerk reported that following the receipt of two complaints and the decision at the May meeting he had approached Charlie Richmond, who had declined to stop parking his tractors on the green on Field Road. It was agreed to put a notice in the village magazine requesting villagers to have consideration for other residents when parking vehicles, and not to park vehicles on greens.

13. Clerk's report

- 13.1. **Bi-monthly report** – previously circulated. See Appendix B.
- 13.2. **Invoices for payment**
 - 13.2.1. Buchan's landscapes, grasscutting in July £461.39
 - 13.2.2. Buchan's landscapes, grasscutting in August £461.39
- 13.3. **Changes to online banking**
 - 13.3.1. The Clerk reported that Santander have changed the on-line banking system such that it is no longer possible to have multiple signatories that can all create or authorise transactions. The choice is between a single signatory that can create and execute all transactions, or multiple signatories with 'view' access only. (In the second option, transactions would have to be paper-based.) At present parish councils are required by law to require two signatures for financial transactions.
 - 13.3.2. The Clerk has contacted our MP, Andrew Lansley, regarding recent consultation carried out by the government on a proposal to abolish the legal requirement that parish council transactions must have two signatures. He has received a reply to the effect that the government intends to proceed with the proposal and make it law, when some preliminary work has been completed. Unfortunately there is no indication of a timescale for this, but in the hope and expectation that the timescale will not be lengthy, KPC will return to paper-based transactions until the proposals become law. It will then be possible to revert to on-line banking with one signatory.
 - 13.3.3. It was agreed that KPC does not require two signatures (as distinct from the legal requirement), so when the proposal does become law, it will agree a change to the Financial Regulations to allow financial transactions to be authorised by one signature which under current law must be a councillor.
- 13.4. **Playground report:** the most recent 'monthly report' raises the following points requiring action:
 - 13.4.1. The wood chips under the climbing frame are compacted. It was agreed that a working party would be organised in the spring to dig over the wood chips and carry out any other tasks required. **Action: Clerk.**
 - 13.4.2. There is some damage to the concrete part of the far bench – to be monitored.

14. Planning

- 14.1. **S/1207/13/FL Erect 3 stables, tack room and hay barn at Tinkersfield, Bourn Road, Kingston:** permission has been granted.
- 14.2. **S/0552/12/FL Temporary meteorological mast at land off Ermine Way, Arrington:** the Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate is to hold a hearing so that the issue of air safety can be discussed.
- 14.3. **S/2512/12/LB Various alterations at The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane:** permission has been granted.
- 14.4. **S/2193/12/FL, S/1150/12/LB and S/2624/12/LB Various alterations at The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane:** the appeal has been allowed.
- 14.5. **S/1814/12/FL Demolish house and build two houses at Summerhill, Tinker's Lane:** the appeal has been allowed.
- 14.6. **C/11/40/056 Tree works at Carey Hill, Church Lane:** an application has been made to reduce the height of two trees.
- 14.7. **S/1083/13/FL North Farm demolish existing and build replacement house and garage:** a revised application has been made.

15. Items for next meeting

TF reported that KS had reported to him that there were some 'offensive signs' on Footpath no 1. [NB: a later check showed that these have now been removed].

Also there appear to be no waymarks at the Wimpole end of Footpath no 2. TF to check the actual status of this footpath through Parish Paths Partnership. **Action: TF.**

16. Date of next meeting: 14 November 2013

Meeting ended at 22.15

Signed.....

Date.....

Appendix A

Financial report 01 Oct 2013

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2013-14 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2017	877.92	1139.08	
Insurance	744	677.13	66.87	
Clerk's salary	1089	453.75	634.96	
Grants (section 137)	649	0.00	648.90	
Village Hall upgrade	800	1153.47	-353.47	
Audit fees	45	40.00	5.00	
Village asset maintenance	1000	74.00	926.00	
Subscriptions	304	95.44	208.56	
Parish Magazine	400	0.00	400.00	
Footpath lighting	112	0.00	112.27	
Miscellaneous and expenses	165	88.80	76.20	
Income other than precept	-115	-36.61	-78.39	
Total	7210	3423.90		

Bank balances	Current account:	£522.28	
	Deposit account:	£11,786.88	2nd instalment of precept received

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

September 2013

1. SCDC Local Development Plan – Extension of Consultation period

Big news is that the consultation period has been extended by two weeks. The end date is now 5 pm on Monday 14th October 2013. As a result of the work being done by StopBAD, SCDC was forced to admit that the data contained in one document from earlier assessments had not been updated, and so not included in the documents released for public consultation earlier in July. I have written about it on my blog at <http://bit.ly/LDPCon5>.

In summary, the area quoted in the draft plan for Bourn Airfield is 141.7 Hectares. To get the 3500 houses and associated services such as schools, surgeries, offices, landscaping etc., the site would have had to be developed at about 62 houses per hectare, nearly double the current density in Cambourne, higher density than in Cambridge city, and clearly not feasible.

SCDC released an updated SHLAA document on Monday 2nd September 2013, which shows that the overall development area called the Area Action Plan is now 282 Hectares, and that only 40% or 112 hectares of that will actually be built on. It then goes on to say that the average net density across the new settlement will be 40 dwellings per hectare, which means it expects that some areas will be built at a higher density!! I've summarised the content of the document in my blog at <http://bit.ly/LDPCon6>.

If you are concerned about the proposed development as I am, then please contact the StopBAD campaign team at info@stopbad.org.uk to assist with the campaign or get regular updates

2. Joint Transport Strategy for City and South Cambs

Cambridgeshire County Council has put forward proposals to keep the county traffic moving over the next 15 years. The strategy includes the proposals for the planned new developments of Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne (which is on Caxton land). There are **no plans to create additional roads or increase road capacity**. The focus is on creating a dedicated bus lane from Caxton Gibbet through the ribbon of development up to Childerley Roundabout, down St Neots Road, Madingley Rise and up to the junction of Queens Road in Cambridge. There may be a park and ride installed along the A428 corridor, though no indication of exactly where it may go.

The focus of the strategy is to “force” people out of cars and onto buses and cycles, forcibly trying to change people’s travel habits. The whole strategy falls apart if indeed people refuse to change their travel habits. Our local village roads from Bourn Caldecote and Hardwick, through Toft and Comberton, Kingston and Eversdens/Haslingfield will become rat runs as people from the new development find alternative ways of getting to work in the business and science parks south of the city.

The strategy is also out for consultation now, with closing date of 30 September 2013. The county says “it needs your views to help shape the final strategy”, and I would encourage everyone to send in their comments. You can read the summary of the proposals on my blog at <http://bit.ly/tsCSC13> which also has links to the main document on the county website.

The strategy for the A428 corridor is heavily dependent on funding from the City Deal, this being grant money from central government. If that fails, which it may do, then the County will be looking to the developers to provide funding, which means that the developments will be built first, then the bus lanes, cycle paths etc. will be provided, by which time, our local roads will be either have become rat-runs and/or be grid-locked. That is putting the cart before the horse and is not good for our quality of life.

3. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

Connecting Cambridgeshire are planning to release information about the delivery phases of the roll-out with the launch of a ‘My Area’ roll-over map and A-Z places list in September 2013 on the Connecting

Cambridgeshire website at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk.

This will help people to find out how their parish/area fits in to the multiple phases of the broadband roll-out plan and will be updated regularly as the programme progresses.

4. Proposed Food Bank at South Cambs Hall

The Housing Strategy team are hoping to establish a **Food Bank collection point** at the Council's offices in Cambourne. The housing team regularly refer clients to the Cambridge Food Bank and feels it is important to support this very worthy cause. In addition, it also helps support the work council does on financial inclusion and welfare reform.

The council is keen to support any local food banks in the South Cambs area, and therefore if you are aware of any local banks that could do with some support (other than Cambridge City food bank and Huntingdon's Charity) please contact Emma George, Housing Strategy Officer on 01954 713099 or email: emma.george@scams.gov.uk. The food will be donated to all of the food banks in the district on a rota basis.

5. Under-occupation policy adopted by Housing Portfolio holder

From April 2013 Welfare Reform changes have taken place which means Housing Benefit is potentially reduced for households deemed to be under-occupying a property.

There is no definition of a minimum bedroom size set out in legislation. The Department of Work and Pensions HB/CTB Circular A4/2012 – Adjudication and Operations circular states:- 'We will not be defining what we mean by a bedroom and in legislation there is no definition of a minimum bedroom size set out in regulations. It will be up to the landlord to accurately describe the property in line with the actual rent charged.'

The reduction will be a fixed percentage of the housing benefit eligible rent for the property. The Government has set this at 14% for one extra bedroom and 25% for two or more extra bedrooms.

Any shortfall in rent following a reduction in housing benefit will need to be paid by the tenant to the Council. If a tenant falls into arrears because of non payment of the shortfall, then the normal procedure for collection of rent arrears will be followed, including legal action where no attempt is made to clear the arrears.

Options: downsizing, taking a lodger, approved lodger scheme with KsHS, financial/benefits advice, help with finding work. In some circumstances, DHP is available.

<http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s71530/Appendix%20A%20-%20Under-occupation%20policy.pdf>

<http://www.scams.gov.uk/content/under-occupation-faqs>

6. Casework

Your Councillor is here to help you. Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints. I can be contacted by phone, email or via my website. I hope I can help but even if I can't, then it's highly likely that I know someone who can!

7. Councillor Drop-in surgery

This normally takes place on the second Thursdays of every other month, 7pm – 8pm in the Village Hall. The next surgery is on 14th November 2013. Drop in to talk about any issues that you feel that I may be able to help you with.

8. Dates for your diary

6 September 2013	2.30 – 7.30pm	SCDC Local Plan Exhibition at Bourn Church
7 September 2013	2pm – 5pm	Response Form Help Session, Toft Methodist Chapel by StopBAD to help residents complete the local plan consultation response form
10 September 2013	5pm – 8pm	Response Form Help Session, Caldecote Village Hall As above by StopBAD
14 September 2013	10am – 4pm	Response Form Help Session, Bourn Village Hall As above by StopBAD
26 September 2013	2pm	SCDC Full Council meeting
30 September 2013	5pm	Consultation ends – Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire
2 October 2013	10am	SCDC Planning Committee Meeting
14 October 2013	5pm	Consultation ends – SCDC Draft Local Development Plan
14 November 2013	7pm – 8pm	Councillor Surgery, Kingston Village Hall

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
5-September-13

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