

LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 24 April 2017 at 8.00pm
in the Abington Institute, Great Abington

Present: Mr Brunning(Chair), Mr Lightning, Mr Pritchard, Mrs Scoffings, Mrs Simmons, Mrs Dalton (Clerk).

In attendance: Cllr Orgee. There were six members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Mr Adams, Mr Ellis.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2016.** Agreed.
3. **Follow up from previous meeting.**
 - The cycle route through the Babraham Research Institute campus is open.

4. **Chairman's report - Mr Brunning (See Annual report)**

The Chairman's report highlighted successes and issues from the last year. He thanked the parish councillors for their contribution. In particular he thanked Mr Chesham and Mrs Gunning who had resigned. He welcomed Mrs Simmons, Mrs Scoffings and Mr Lightning to the parish council.

Discussion points

- **Speeding and road safety.** The junctions on the A1307 and on Newmarket Road are dangerous. The junction at the International School needs to be improved. Speeding is a problem throughout the village especially in the High Street
- **Flooding.** Improvements to drainage on the road outside the church were noted.
- **Green spaces.** The District Council is reviewing proposals for Local Green Spaces in the draft local plan. In Little Abington this includes the Bowls Green, the former scout camp (Abington Woods)and the Bancroft Farm Meadow
- **Granta Park.** The site continues to develop. Overnight noise and excessive light are ongoing issues.
- **Access to Sluice Wood.** The landowner is willing to continue permissive access Dog fouling is a problem. There might be some benefit in removing trees and ivy.
- **Development on the Bancroft Farm Meadow.** The landowner will keep the parish council informed.

5. **Financial Report – Clerk (See Annual Report)**

- The parish council had agreed the draft annual accounts. Some funding had been set aside for local projects including road safety schemes.
- The Clerk summarised the key elements of income and expenditure over the last year. 2017-18 would be the final year of the parish council's contribution to the Parish/Community Nurse scheme prior to evaluation.
- The increase in the local precept would be 2%.

6. **Reports from Representatives**

Planning (see annual report)

- Several proposals for small housing developments in the Abingtons are being prepared. The public will be kept informed.

Abington Institute Management Committee.

- The Institute is flourishing as a hub for community activity.
- There is a small financial deficit.
- A reserve fund has been set up for maintenance and improvements

Village Maintenance

The Parish Council is working more closely with the contractors. There have been some improvements. Residents should contact Mr Lightning if they have any concerns about standards of work

Recreation Ground Committee

- The Committee has been busy improving the site and installing more tables and seats. A new fence for the children's play area is being considered.
- A proposal for a bicycle pump track is being worked up. The cost might be an issue.
- The outdoor gym has been in use five years.
- The Committee has a good relationship with a local contractor who is starting to do other work around the village

Police Panel

- Local police priorities are cybercrime, domestic violence and sexual abuse. This means they are less visible in the community.
- Recent initiatives include checking cars and the security of houses. If the police can get into your house so can a burglar!

A1307 Parishes Forum

- This is an informal group of parish councils bordering the A1307. There are some common issues such as flooding, speculative housing development and concerns about traffic. It is a useful forum for information sharing and networking

7. Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor (SCDC) - Cllr Orgee.

Cllr Orgee's report covered

- Financial matters. As usual local authority budgets are under pressure. SCDC increased its precept for band D properties by £5.00
- Examination of the Draft Local Plan started in 2014. The process is frustratingly slow. The final plan is unlikely to be completed and published in the next year.
- The Greater Cambridge City Deal is gathering pace. Significant investment is being made in reducing traffic congestion in and around Cambridge. This includes the A428 and the A1307. The goal is to develop practical and affordable solutions to reduce congestion and improve road safety. A Local Liaison Forum has been established to get local input for plans for the A1307. There are concerns about proposals to build a Park-&-Ride at Fourwentways or elsewhere near Abington.

8. Annual report from County Councillor. Not provided

9. Current issues and opportunities for community involvement

- **Parish Nurse.** The team sent a report. They are going to apply for grant funding from the County Council to support a new role of "community navigator".
- **Traffic and speeding.** White lining on Church Lane needs to be renewed
- **Shetland Pony Trust.** The Trust is using the meadow behind Bancroft Farm for grazing. This scheme is run by a local charity. Residents were asked not approach the ponies and to stay on the footpath. Options for getting support towards the cost of looking after the ponies were discussed. They included an item in the village newsletter and a noticeboard with information about the ponies. There might be some value in approaching the school at Abington Woods and the Cambridge International School.

10. Any Other Business. None

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed

Date

23 April 2018

Parish Council Chairman