

**LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on**  
**Monday 25 July 2016 at 7.15pm in the Abington Institute, Great Abington**

**Present.** Mr Brunning, Mr Chesham, Mr Ellis, Mr Pritchard, Mrs Scoffings, Mrs Dalton (Clerk).

**In attendance.** Cllr Orgee, Cllr Topping, Two members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence.** Mrs Simmons, Mr Adams.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2016.** Agreed.  
The SPEP energy event at Abington Institute will now be on 29 October.
3. **Matters arising not on the agenda.**
  - **E-payment.** Still in progress
  - **Sluice Wood.** No discernible progress.
  - **Caravan parked at Greenacres, Bourn Bridge Road.** This is a permitted agricultural development. A member of staff stays there for security following a spate of malicious damage earlier in the year and for management of the site.
  - **The Millennium Footpath** was repaired by Mr Ross. He also helped to remove a fallen branch from the Millennium Bridge. The Parish Council was very grateful.
4. **Declarations of interest.** Mrs Scoffings for agenda item 7.2
5. **Public participation.**

**Noise from the Granta Park**

Mrs Hedge drew the Parish Council's attention to problems with excess noise from the Granta Park/TWI site. She reported that the noise is audible inside her house. In addition to the sound of building work there is a loud, low level hum. The noise has increased over the last six months. Mr Brunning reported that he and Mr Talbot from Great Abington Parish Council met with representatives of the TWI management team. With the exception of building noise, they said there had been no changes on the site and it was proving hard to get to the bottom of the cause of the complaints. The problems may be localised. Several residents in Westfield have commented about the noise. It was agreed that they should be asked to report occurrences - the date, time and a description to the Clerk so that a more complete picture can be built up.

**Speed reduction initiatives and Little Abington Speedwatch**

Mr Garrett attended to request an update on initiatives and the action plan to reduce speeding through the village. Mr Brunning outlined progress on the 2016-17 Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bid which is still in the design phase. There is strong evidence from speedwatch to demonstrate that there is a problem with speeding in Bourn Bridge Road and it was agreed there is some potential to influence the design for the LHI, for example reducing speed from the junction with Newmarket Road and Bourn Bridge Road using this evidence as well as emphasising potential hazards of school traffic and schoolchildren crossing the road to access the playing fields. Mr Brunning agreed to share the information included in the speedwatch report with the Highways Team.

Plans for a LHI application to reduce speeding in the village centre from the ford to the junction with Linton Road and the High Street in Great Abington were discussed. Mr Brunning felt it was unlikely that the Highways Team would support an application for speed reduction throughout the village however it was agreed that there could be some mileage in incorporating the need for buffering at entrances to both Little Abington and Great Abington from roads with higher speed limits. It was understood there had been an incident involving speeding in Great Abington High Street. Several residents from Great Abington have highlighted problems with speeding but to date there has not been any participation in Speedwatch from Great Abington Parish Council and residents; it was disappointing that the school governors felt unable to provide any input to drafting the bid. Mr Garrett asked for an outline of the plan for evidence gathering to support the bid. Whilst he was sure that members of the Little Abington speedwatch team would provide some input it was important to increase membership of the team. This could include staff members, parents and governors from the school. The Parish Council agreed to include Mr Garrett and the Little Abington Speedwatch team in communications about the LHI bid. It was understood that Great Abington Parish Council was actively seeking participants for Speedwatch.

All members of the public left the meeting at 8:05pm

## 6. Finance

### 6.1 Income

Grass cutting Grant (Cambs County Council)	£ 506.44
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### 6.2 Payments

PP proposed and KS seconded payment of all items on the agenda. Little Abington Parish Council's contribution to the cost of the Abingtons Open Day was £175.00 compared to a budget of £192.00.

Plumridge Abingtons Open Day brochure	£ 131.20
Mrs G Dalton Clerk salary, STO July & August 2016	£ 474.68
CGM village maintenance, STO July & August 2 VAT £89.52	£ 537.10
Abington Institute room hire Q1	£ 60.00
Mrs G Dalton. Clerk expenses Q1	£ 103.76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 1175.54</b>

### 6.3 Finance report:

**Q1 Finance report.** In line with the requirements of the Transparency Code the Clerk presented expenditure to date compared to plan and a summary of all expenditure. There were no concerns. Income and expenditure is running close to plan and all variances are understood. The Clerk's hours are above plan. This was attributed to preparation for internal audit and the Annual Return to the Audit Commission and time spent drafting the application for the Local Council Award Scheme.

**Balances year-to-date.**

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Cambridgeshire Building Society</b>
Opening per bank statement	£ 23,998.54	£ 8,998.93	£ 15,041.22
Balances at close of meeting	£ 22,105.61	£ 7,064.39	£ 15,041.22

Note. Bank statement does not included uncleared cheques

**6.4 LAPC Complaints Procedure**

The procedure had been updated to reflect the role of the Compliance Working Group. The Parish Council agreed it.

**6.5 Local Council Award Scheme Accreditation**

As agreed at the last meeting the draft application was reviewed by members of the Compliance Working Group. Problems with formatting were noted and Mr Pritchard had made two comments regarding the risk register and the asset register. The Parish Council noted the minor changes needed and agreed, subject to those points, that the application should go ahead.

**CLERK**

**6.6 Requests to the Parish Council for donations/sponsorship**

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council does not make donations to national charities or sponsor individuals for charitable events. The Parish Council will consider making donations to charities where there are direct benefits to members of the community for example the Bobby Scheme for victims of crime, GAPS and supporting the pilot and evaluation of the Community/Parish Nurse Scheme.

**7. Planning****7.1 Planning applications:**

**S/1617/16/FL**, Double garage with bedroom above, two storey porch, alterations to side and rear elevations, external render and roof lights. 33 Cambridge Rd. The Parish Council recommended approval without referral to SCDC's Planning Committee.

**7.2 Planning updates:**

- **S/1403/16/FL** Installation of above ground Adblue tank and 2 dispensers. Petrol Filling station, Shell Fourwentways, Little Abington. Approved by SCDC.
- **S/1559/15/FL** Discharge of conditions 5 (Tree Protection) & 6 (Tree Fencing) of planning consent for first floor rear extension to provide enlarged bedroom. 49, Cambridge Rd. Noted.

**7.3 Local Developments**

- **Local Development Plan.** Inspection continues. It is likely to be a slow process. Cllr Orgee reported that the inspector published the schedule for September. The Committee for Abington Housing will be asked to attend at some stage. Representation will need to be agreed.
- **Proposed Housing developments in the Abingtons.** It is understood that Great Abington Parish Council (GAPC) is likely to recommend refusal for an application for a housing development at Strawberry Farm. The proposed housing development at the top of the High Street in Great Abington is still under consideration. Discussions with GAPC and SCDC officers on design principles are ongoing and it is expected to be on the agenda for the September Planning Committee meeting. A summary of responses

relating to the public consultation for the proposed Bancroft Farm and Linton Road developments held on 23 June were posted on the Abingtons website and circulated to the parish council. It was understood that Mr Talbot has received a confidential report from the SDC Design Enablement Panel. It broadly reflects the views of local residents.

- **City Deal. A1307 Three Campuses consultation.** The draft response was discussed. It was felt that the proposals did not address the concerns raised by LAPC and other communities on the A1307 between Haverhill and Cambridge about the increasing volume of traffic and in particular goods traffic. Whilst the solutions proposed had the potential to contribute to reducing congestion for traffic travelling from Fourwentways towards Cambridge there was a risk that providing a park-and-ride or a transport hub at Fourwentways would increase the volume of traffic on the A1307 through Little Abington. LAPC did not support the proposal to establish a park-and-ride at Fourwentways. It was agreed there was no value in providing a park-and-ride at Fourwentways to staff who work on Granta Park or on the Babraham Research Institute. It was noted that the park-and-ride at Babraham Road was not fully used. The Clerk agreed to finalise a response based on the discussions and circulate to the parish council ready for submission before the closing date on 1 August. **CLERK**
- **City Deal - Tackling peak-time congestion in Cambridge.** The consultation closes on 10 October 2016. Carry forward to September meeting. **CLERK**
- **City Deal - Transport Hubs.** The letter sent to parish council chairmen was discussed. The purpose of the scheme was not entirely clear; however it was agreed that Whittlesford Railway Station is poorly provided with public transport links despite its proximity to Granta Park, the Hinxton campus and Babraham. LAPC suggested this might be an appropriate site for a traffic hub. **CLERK**

## 8. Highways and traffic

- **2016-17 Highways Improvement Scheme.** Discussed under public participation. The project is in the design phase and as agreed in earlier discussions LAPC would use this as an opportunity to influence the final design.
- **2017-18 Highways Improvement Scheme application.** Discussed under public participation. It was agreed that opportunities to include methods for speed reduction and buffering throughout the village should be included in the application.
- **Correspondence with Police and Crime Commissioner** Mr Chesham wrote to Mr Ablewhite regarding HGV speeds on the A1307. He was waiting for a reply

## 9. Village Environment

- **Protected Roadside verges.** The Parish Council agreed to delay cutting until September. There was a strong view that a formal arrangement to ensure the cutting schedule is followed is required. CGM quoted £300 to cut and to return to pick up the risings. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to seek another quotation. The recreation ground contractor was suggested. **CLERK**
- **Noise on Granta Park** Discussed under public participation.
- **Dropped kerbs.** A proposal to incentivise local residents to apply for dropped kerbs was not supported.
- **Parking.** Residents from Ivan Clarks Corner are parking on the verge in the High Street rather than using the allocated parking spaces. **CLERK**

## 10. Devolution

Local authorities in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough rejected the government's proposal for a combined authority covering East Anglia. The consultation on devolution to a combined authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been launched. It will close on 23 August. There was a lengthy discussion about the anticipated benefits of devolution. LAPC was broadly in support. **CLERK** to draft a response for comment.

## 11 Reports from local authority representatives

**11.1 Cllr Orgee (SCDC)** provided a written report. It covered:

- **Proposed housing development the High Street, Great Abington.** It is anticipated that the SCDC will be able to make a decision by September
- **Agritech proposal Hinxton and A1301/A505.** Emerging principles were shared at recent exhibitions. There is still a lot of work to do before the project can be considered formally.
- **The Cambridge Congestion Study** was commissioned as part of the Greater Cambridge City Deal. It includes proposals to reduce congestion in and around Cambridge. Public exhibitions are planned including Linton on Tuesday 4 October.
- **Devolution.** Cllr Orgee's report summarised the consultation on the proposal to form a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority chaired and led by a directly elected mayor.

**11.2 Cllr Topping (Cambs County Council)** Report awaited. Points discussed

- **The Greater Cambridge City Deal - A1307 Three Campuses consultation.** Discussed earlier in the meeting. He suggested there would be some value in making contact with Bob Menzies, the County Council's Head of Transport Infrastructure.
- **Devolution.** He confirmed that, although they would not be members of the combined authority, neighbouring local authorities would need to work together.

## 12. Reports from representatives

### 12.1 Village maintenance:

- Mr Chesham was concerned that CGM is becoming unreliable although when they do attend their work is to a good standard. Work to tidy up the verge in the High Street which was agreed in May has still not been carried out and it is proving hard to confirm a date with CGM. **CLERK** to follow-up
- The hedge on the boundary of the Housing Association properties at Ivan Clarks Corner needs cutting back urgently. CGM has cut the grass. **CLERK** to follow-up

### 12.2 Lights Roads and Pavements

- Fourwentways - PB contacted the County Council to advise them that a bollard in the plans to improve lighting had been omitted. Balfour Beatty will address it.

### 12.3 Trees.

- The trees at the ford have been cut back
- A large tree branch had fallen across Millennium Bridge and was cleared by volunteers. The landowner will need to carry out some urgent tree work.
- Trees and shrubs are overgrowing pavements causing obstructions and hazards to pedestrians. The Clerk noted that it was impossible to walk on the pavement on Linton Road towards the kennels in Great Abington because of overgrowth.

**12.4 Police.** The notes from the local police panel meeting have not been received.

**12.5 A1307 Committee/Local Forum.** The group will meet in September in Abington.  
Lucy Frazer MP has been invited.

**12.6 Receipt of reports on meetings attended by LAPC reps.**

- PB attended the CAPALC parish councillors and chairman's catch up day on 15 July. He has circulated notes. It was a useful networking event and some contacts were made. The new Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough gave an interesting presentation. A parish conference is being planned for November
- The Clerk attended the SCDC Cabinet and Parish Council Liaison meeting on 13 July. The Greater Cambridge City Deal was discussed at length, there was an item on devolution and in line with usual format there was an opportunity for parish councils to raise specific points. Presentations and meeting notes are awaited.

**12.7 LAPC representation at forthcoming meetings/events.** No meetings scheduled other than A1307 Parishes Forum noted above.

**13. Committee Reports**

**13.1 Institute Management Group.** No update

**13.2 Recreation Ground Committee.** No recent meeting. The heaps of soil have now been spread and fencing has been repaired.

**13.3 Committee for Abington Housing.** The meeting on 12 July was cancelled. Next meeting 10 August.

**14. Correspondence.**

Items requiring action have already been circulated.

**15. Any Other Business/ Items for next agenda.**

Items for next newsletter should include:

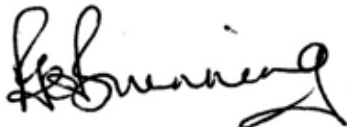
- Date for parish energy day – and volunteers to help
- Request for tree and hedge trimming to clear pavements and streetlights
- Request NOT to park on grass verges or on pavements
- Volunteers for Speedwatch
- Various public consultations including traffic and devolution

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

**Next meeting Monday 12 September 2016 starting at 7.15 pm  
Abington Institute, High Street Great Abington.**

**Signed Parish Council Chairman**

**Date**



12 September 2016