

## LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25 April 2016 at 8.00pm  
in the Abington Institute, Great Abington

**Present:** Mr Brunning(Chair), Mr Chesham, Mrs Gunning, Mr Pritchard, Mrs Dalton (Clerk).

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

1. **Apologies for absence.** Mr Adams, Mr Ellis.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2015.** Agreed.
3. **Follow up from previous meeting.**
  - Speeding in the village is an ongoing problem. The interactive speed lights have been in place on the A1307 for about a year. They do seem to be helping to reduce speed and the data logging function is providing further information. The community led Speed Watch scheme has been established. It is helping to raise driver awareness on routes through the village.
  - The final stage of the cycle route from Cambridge to the Abingtons should be completed soon. The route through the Babraham Research Institute campus has been agreed. Hopefully there will some improvements to the cycle route to Linton.
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. He thanked Mr Wigley who had just resigned after seven years as a parish councillor because he was moving to Suffolk. He was vice-chair and chair of the Compliance Working Group
5. **Financial Report – Clerk (See Annual Report)**
  - The draft annual accounts had been agreed. Some funding had been set aside for local projects
  - The Clerk summarised the key elements of income and expenditure over the last year including donations to local schemes such as the GAPS out-of-school club, contributions to the maintenance of the churchyard including the cemetery fence, a donation to the Bobby Scheme to support of victims of crime and a commitment to contribute to the costs of first three years of the Parish/Community nurse scheme
  - Through careful budget planning the Parish Council had been able to keep the increase in the local precept to just under 2%.
6. **Reports from Representatives**

**Planning (see annual report)**

  - The parish council considered 23 planning applications over the last year. Only one had not been supported. These included applications for development of the Perse school playing fields, organic farming in Bourn Bridge Road and development at the Cambridge International School
  - Proposals for small housing developments in the Abingtons are being discussed. A local consultation should happen in June.

**Abington Institute Management Committee.**

- The Institute is flourishing as a hub for community activity. Bookings are strong
- Cafe activity has gone down a little
- The film club has now been running for four years and is very successful

**Village Maintenance**

- After market testing the contract was awarded to CGM who have been providing village maintenance for the last six years. There are some concerns about their performance but this is being addressed.

**Recreation Ground Committee**

- The Committee is working with a new contractor. This is going well
- Facilities met the standards of the annual ROSPA safety inspection and a weekly inspection routine has been established
- As promised last year a table tennis table, picnic tables and benches and an outdoor shelter have been installed.
- Parents and accompanying adults do need to be aware of hazards. There is some concern that young children are using the equipment on the outdoor gym
- There are plans to improve the fencing around the children's play area.
- There was a question about the piles of soil and rubble that have been left on the periphery. Mr Brunning confirmed that this was ready for rabbit proofing

- **Police Panel**

- Mr Wigley was the parish council's representative. The panel met several times.
- The Abington's do not have a high level of crime and the police had not had a strong or visible presence in the village over the last year.
- They profile their activity based on local crime patterns
- LAPC had not supported a proposal for parish councils to fund overtime costs for Community Support Officers

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

Cllr Orgee's report covered

- Financial matters. The County Council and District Councils' budgets are under pressure. They continue to look for opportunities for efficiency savings through, for example, sharing services with neighbouring local authorities.
- SCDC has a very low precept compared to similar local authorities and it has increased its precept by about 4%.
- Inspection of the Draft Local Plan is proceeding very slowly but it is hoped the process will be complete by the end of 2017. It was stalled by a request for more information but this provided an opportunity to update the plan including proposals for small housing developments in the Abingtons.
- The Greater Cambridge City Deal is gathering pace. Key stages include proposals to address traffic congestion and an option appraisal for improving the A1307.
- Cllr Orgee was pleased that after a long wait the road in Church Close has been resurfaced.
- He has been a participant in local schemes including being a referee on the Parish Nurse Project and active member of the Little Abington Speed Watch Team.

**8. Annual report from County Councillor**

Cllr Topping's report covered.

- Cycleways plans for a cycleway through the Babraham Research Institute had been approved.
- This year's round of budget setting has been contentious with a lot of debate the increase includes 2% for social care. He highlighted the potential for savings by sharing services across local authorities
- He strongly recommended that the parish council should walk more closely with the Highways Team Officers and invite them to have a walkabout
- Cllr Topping is keeping a watching brief on strategic infrastructure such as the A1307 and possible developments near the McDonald's roundabout on the A505 at Sawston and their potential impact on local communities
- He had met recently with the headmaster Great Abington School. They had discussed the pressures on school places.

**9. Current issues and opportunities for community involvement**

- **Housing Developments.** There was some discussion about the impact of housing developments. As well as managing the scale of development and retaining the environment and character of the village it was agreed that it was important to ensure there was adequate infrastructure including ensuring school places for children who live in the village.

**Traffic and speeding**

- A Speed Watch team has been established. Volunteers would be welcome
- 37% of the cars logged by speed watch are travelling in excess of 10% of the speed limit. The police have attended at least one occasion when they booked a one driver and provided advice to another.
- The scheme has generated some interest from neighbouring parish councils.
- The Speed Watch Team has produced an annual report. It provides evidence to support Local Highways Improvement scheme initiatives.

**Parish Council priorities /Hot topics**

- Speed reduction on Newmarket Road and improving road safety outside Great Abington School
- Dog fouling. The possibility of providing bag dispensers was considered by the Parish Council Liaison Group. Some parish councils are considering DNA testing.
- Renewing the Parish Plan

**10. Any Other Business.**

There was some discussion about the barbed wire along the boundary of the garden of Bancroft Farm and Sluice Wood. This is a permissive path. It was suggested that use of barbed wire is in contravention of the 1980 Highways Act and the landowner would be liable for any injuries caused. The Parish Councils have offered to help the landowner maintain the paths through Sluice Wood.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm