

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 11th February 2008 at 7.30pm at the
Village Institute, High Street, Longstanton.

Public Forum

Prior to commencement of the meeting from 7.15pm to 7.30pm members of the public and press were invited to put questions to the Council relating to items listed on the agenda.

Present:

Cllr. M.Yarrow (Chairman)	6 Members of the public
Cllr. B.Johnston (Vice-Chairman)	P.Haywood - Clerk
Cllr. N.Grace	
Cllr. D.Bull	
Cllr. T. Tucker	
Cllr. L.Meacher	
Cllr. A.Kessell	

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1. Apologies received from Cllr. Close, Cllr.Cartwright and District Cllr. A.Riley.
 2. Declarations of Interests –
Cllr. Johnston declared a personal interest in item 9.
Cllr. Yarrow declared a pecuniary interest in item 16.
Cllr. Bull declared a personal interest in item 13.
 3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 14th January 2008 were read.
Cllr. Johnston proposed the minutes be approved. Seconded by Cllr. Kessell.
Unanimously agreed.
 4. Matters Arising from Minutes of 14th January 2008 – None.
 5. Reports from Committees/Representatives/Trustees:
 - a) CCC – C.Cllr.Shona Johnstone. No report received.
 - b) SCDC - D.Cllr Alex Riley. No report received.
 - c) Police Matters - Cllr.A.Kessell
Spate of damage to vehicles through the village.
BT cables stolen, telephone and computer lines have been out of order since Saturday.
 - d) Sports & Social Club - Cllr.D.Bull. Nothing to report.
 - e) Immigration Centre - Cllr.Yarrow
Cllr. Yarrow and the Clerk met last week with Mr Hodgkins, the Immigration Centre Manager. Councillors wanting to tour the Centre please advise the Clerk. Interest received from Cllrs.Bull,Tucker,Meacher,Kessell and Johnston. District Cllr Riley previously expressed a tour interest. Clerk to advise on dates available.

f) Parish Plan - Cllr. Close. No report received.

g) Joint Parishes Group - Cllr. Grace

The group agreed that its response to the Northstowe Planning Applications are secondary to that of the individual Councils. Should time allow the group would consider a response.

h) Minor Works - Cllr. M. Yarrow. Nothing to report.

i) Tree Warden - Cllr. B. Johnston. Nothing to report.

j) Parish Paths - Cllr. Tucker

Footpath bridge at Few's Lane is closed as it is deemed unsafe. Notice has been put up and SCDC officer, John Cooper is aware.

The condition of Long Lane is disgraceful. The clearing of the vegetation works were inspected by Cllr. Yarrow, Steve Wright and the Clerk. Peter Duthie has also inspected and sent an email to EP. Caroline Clapson of EP have been made aware of the conditions. The ditch contain a great deal of debris, tree shavings have been left in large piles, the path is obstructed with logs and the residue from bonfires. EP are meeting with their Contractor (Sam Freakly).

Cllr. Johnston said that the Northstowe plans show Long Lane as a Bridleway. Gallaghers have stated that they have no opposition to Long Lane being a Bridleway. We need to ask at what point Gallaghers will apply for the change of use.

Path 3 is closed completely.

Wilson's Road was also inspected and Peter Duthie is looking into placing 'No Vehicle' signs at the start of the bridleway and the possibility of installing a gate to limit surface damage caused by vehicles. Gate and anti-vehicle step installed at the new bridleway, top end of Wilson's Road.

k) Burial Ground - Cllr. Johnston

There has been some surface flooding in the ground.

The chain for the memorial garden will be in place this week.

The 'For Sale' signs left in the ground have now been cleared.

l) Home Farm Working Party -

Following a meeting with David Rush last year, Cllr. Tucker has been told that Jane Lampshire (JL) looked at the recreation ground extension. It has been agreed that the land is not up to spec. and not safe for ball games. JL will be working with SCDC Legal Dept. to expedite matters. Cllr. Tucker will follow up. Cllr. Kessell reported that rats had been sited on several occasions in the Recreation Ground ditch and the clearance and other debris appears to provide the rats with a refuge. Clerk to follow up with Environmental Health Dept.

Cllr. Johnston to follow up on report that trees had been damaged on the

Recreation Ground, near the tennis courts.

Cllr. Tucker's proposal that the Council follow up on its letter, sent last year to Persimmon concerning the Village Green, was agreed. Clerk to action.

The Cofton open space on Home Farm was water logged and puddling within a few meters of the drain.

Cllr. Tucker's proposal that the Council request Cofton to put in drainage was agreed.

The sunken gravel footpaths are yet to be finished in a tarmac surface. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange a site meeting with Coftons and Cllrs. Yarrow and Tucker.

m) Northstowe Working Party - Cllr. Grace

On 28th January we held a public consultation in the Village Institute.

On Tuesday 29th January we met with Alan Joyner of Gallaghers and Caroline Clapson of English Partnerships. We did not obtain much new information from the meeting but EP did seem interested in our news. We raised the point that the village needed consideration on the issue of compulsory purchase and that it should be treated with delicately. Gallaghers and EP stated they would be happy to review and polish any application for funding of a community centre. It was agreed that a Working Party would draft an application for approval by the Parish Council. Members of the WP - Cllrs. Johnston (Chair), Meacher, Kessell, Tucker and Yarrow.

Joint Development Control meeting to be held on 4th March to agree a response to Northstowe Applications. There are approximately 10 members from Planning, SCDC and CCC.

The meetings held with SCDC on the 4th & 9th February at the Village Institute for Parish Councils gave an overview of what we should include in our response, also information was available regarding the Trust.

It was agreed that the Northstowe Working Party would meet to consider its recommendation to the Parish Council on Thursday 21st February at 7pm in the Parish Office.

n) Guided Busway -Cllr. Johnston

Minutes of meeting 31st October 2007 were circulated.

Car Park will be completed by the end of the development.

There will be a new bridge over the Gt. Ouze River.

1900mtrs of track has now been laid.

Details of tour of the GBW (lunch provided) were circulated.

6. Planning Matters -

S/0077/08/F – Extension – 6 Hattons Park were discussed. Cllr. Tucker proposed Approval, no comments. Seconded by Cllr. Johnston and unanimously agreed.

S/0101/08/A – Sales Hoarding, Home Farm. (Retrospective) Notice received today that this application was approved by SCDC last Thursday.

C/11/40/67 - Application for Tree Works at 55 Woodside -Four Horse Chestnut Trees 30% Crown Removal. Following discussion Cllr. Johnston proposed Approval, no comment.

Planning for Information only- NOTED

S/0996/07/F – House, Adj.14 Thatchers Wood, revised plan showing revised site area.

S/0077/08/F. The Clerk apologised, this application should have reference number S/0996/07/F– House, Adj. 14 Thatchers Wood, permission granted.

S/0077/08/F – Extension, 6 Hattons Park, amended plan showing top hung window on the front elevation.

S/2135/07/F – Extensions, 51 St Michaels, permission granted.

S/1837/07/RM – Phase 3B Home Farm, approved details of reserved matters for the layout, access, scale and appearance (duplicate Application).

7. Finance-

Bank Statement balances at 31st January 2008 were noted.

Reserve account £64096.81

Current Account £ 500.00

Information: Audit Commission appointed Moore Stephens Auditors 2008.

Prior to approval of the cheques for payment the Council reviewed the 2007 Budget and following discussion, Cllr. Bull proposed to transfer the legal fees budget of £2000 to the Audit Fees Budget. Seconded by Cllr. Grace.

Unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Grace proposed that the Cheques be approved and signed. Seconded by Cllr.Kessell and unanimously agreed. Cheques were signed by Councillors Bull and Kessell.

BT Telephone(direct debit) January 08	£ 70.69	Paid
Mr.M.McAvoy (Christmas Crib)	£ 35.25	(PCM 14/1/08)
G.Lovell – Playground maintenance	£ 75.00	
G.Lovell – Litter (inc. Village Green)	£ 140.00	
S.F.Wright – Burial Ground Maintenance	£ 425.94	
S.F.Wright – Tree works on Rec.Ground	£ 152.75	
CALC – Planning Workshop (training)	£ 40.00	
SLCC – Cemetery Management	£ 27.00	
P.Haywood Salary & Expenses	£1444.17	
Village Institute – Hall Hire & Rent. Dec & Jan	£ 756.00	
W.Sellwood – Salary & Expenses	£ 321.87	
Campaign to Protect Rural England Subscription	£ 28.00	
Staples Stationery	£ 111.57	
S.F.Wright – Tree Planting (Grant)	£1269.00	
Moore Stephens (Audit 2005/6/7)	£1551.95	
HMRC – Tax & NI	£ 671.79	

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a short break at 8.35pm.
The meeting resumed at 8.45pm.

8. The External Audit Certificates and Auditors Reports for 2005, 2006 & 2007 were circulated, read to the meeting and noted. Cllr. Yarrow said that the accounts are now up to date and audit fees should be within budget next year.

The Council noted that the copy certificates were posted on the notice board 16th January 2008.

9. Parish Council Office – to decide on renting new office premises.
Copies of the plans, options and costs were circulated. The Chairman outlined the options to the meeting. Option A, previously agreed by the Village Institute Trustees, that the Parish Council rent the rear room (shared facility with the public computers).
Option B, to take a 5yrs lease of the premises at 37 High St. the rent being negotiable (£5000), the rates would be in the region of £ 946 after discount. The 2008/9 budget makes provision for both the options.
During discussion consideration was given to costs, public access, meeting facility, long term arrangements, additional funding and working conditions.

Cllr. Bull proposed Option B with rent negotiation on the lease up to a ceiling of £5k. per annum. Should this option not be possible Option A to be undertaken.

Seconded by Cllr. Tucker.

Vote 4 For, 2 Against, 1 Abstention. Majority decision in favour.

It was noted that there is another party interested in the premises.

10. Recreation Ground (including Playground) Maintenance report and costs was presented and considered. Following discussion on matters of health & safety, grass cutting of the playground it was agreed that the Parish Council would maintain the playground and the Recreation Ground hedge/tree/fencing maintenance is also the responsibility of the Parish Council.
Cllr. Bull stated that the maintenance of the ground /turf is agreed in the lease with the Longstanton Sports and Social Club and proposed that the matter be referred to its Committee. Council agreed that the matter be referred to the LSSC Committee.
Cllr. Johnston stated that the Pauline Haywood had just become the Hon. Secretary of LSSC.

11. SCDC Public Notice & Consultation –
Site Specific policies DPD Public Examination.
Representations on behalf of Countryside Properties PLC in relation to the proposed expansion of Cambourne to the East.
Noted without comment.

12. The Lead Inspector of the Audit Commission is inviting the views of the Parish Council on the progress you think SCDC has made or not made over the past year. Noted without comment.

13. Friends of All Saints' Church – request to use the Recreation Ground for St George's Day Event. Request for an attraction donation. Following brief discussion, Cllr. Yarrow proposed a donation of £100 to provide an event. Seconded by Cllr. Kessell. Unanimously agreed.
14. Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England. Parish Council comments invited. Noted without comment.
15. Northstowe Rights of Way Project –
 - a) Request from Peter Duthie to address the Parish Council. It was agreed to invite Peter Duthie to the 14th April meeting.
 - b) Permission requested to install an information board at the Recreation Ground, Village Green or other site. The Parish Council thought that the Village Green would be a more appropriate site. Decision deferred to April Meeting to obtain more information from Peter Duthie.
16. Cllr. Johnston reported on the parking conditions on the High Street in the Post Office area, the matter had been reported by the County Cllr. in the latest edition of Longstanton Life following last months meeting and discussion to consider restricted waiting parking signs at an estimated cost of £2000. During discussion consideration was given to the restrictions relocating the problems to another part of the High St, restrictions enforcement and suggestions that a zebra crossing may be more beneficial. Cllr. Bull pointed out the restrictions for parking, speed and overtaking that come with a zebra crossing. Cllr. Johnston agreed to look into the options and report back to the Council at a later date.
17. Invitation to attend a Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Event 2008 on Saturday 1st March at Shire Hall. Copy of invites circulated to the Council to enable those interested in attending to send acceptance direct. Cllrs. Tucker & Johnston stated they may be attending.
18. Correspondence received noted without comment.
 - a. Mr. F. Turner - copy letters re: A14 repair works.
 - b. CCC – Introduction to Registered Trader Scheme.
 - c. Andrew Lansley MP – re: A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton.
 - d. NHS – cases re: application to open a pharmacy at Longstanton Medical Practice is now closed.
 - e. MHB Services Ltd – Street Lighting Maintenance.
19. Date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting- Monday 10th March 2008.

Date of Gravel Pit Village Consultation – Monday 25th February at 7.30pm.

Date agreed for the Northstowe Planning Applications response – 17th March 2008 **to be confirmed with the Village Institute Manager.**

Date of an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting to consider Planning Applications in the rear room of the Institute on Monday 18th February 2008 at 7.30pm.

Date of Northstowe Working Party Thursday 21st February 2008 at 7pm in the Parish Office.

20. Matters for consideration at the next meeting – None received.

21. Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed.....Date.....