

LONGSTANTON PARISH COUNCIL
Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th October 2007 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)

Cllr.B.Johnston (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr.D.Bull

Cllr. T. Tucker

Cllr. M.Cartwright

Cllr. A.Kessell

District Cllr. A.Riley

Mr.I.Dewar (CALC- CEO)

4 Members of the public.

P.Haywood – Clerk

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1. Apologies received from Cllr. Close, Cllr. Grace and County Cllr. S.Johnston.
 2. Declarations of Interests – Cllr Cartwright stated that he had made Declarations of Interests regarding Home Farm s106 several years ago and did not feel it was now applicable however he would be prepared to leave the room if the Council felt it was appropriate. The Council agreed that Cllr. Cartwright remain and participate in the discussions concerning Home Farm.
 3. Governance of Northstowe (NS) presented by Mr Ian Dewar (ID) - CEO of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC). Mr Dewar issued a handout titled “Northstowe and the Democratic Process” to Councillors, members of the public and Clerk and then gave a brief outline of his background.
One option for consideration, preferred by CPALC in this matter, is that Longstanton (LS) Parish Council Members form a Town Council for interim management of Northstowe (4years) CPALC would provide training and support to the elected members and appointed Clerk.
The alternative option is that non-elected community groups form a Council. Would the Parish Council be prepared to form an interim Town Council?

Cllr. Kessell outlined to ID the lengthy involvement the Parish Council, along with the village community, has had in Northstowe.

D.Cllr Riley stated that the NJC at SCDC is excluded from discussions. Problems are likely to arise from the lack of support from SCDC or CCC for Northstowes infrastructure. Trust facilities in Longstanton could suffer, such as the recreation ground, and is not for the benefit of NS. There are also concerns regarding Longstanton rates.

ID stated that should the management of NS fail it would have an impact on LS and unless hard negotiations are undertaken with Gallaghers it is likely to happen.

D.Cllr. Riley said that the Parish Council currently has three vacancies, it is struggling to fill. The Parish elections are due in 2008. Additional workload costs could be considerable.

ID replied that money was available through the Growth Area Funding.

Cllr. Yarrow asked that if Members decided to accept the responsibility what would Mr Dewar's role be?

ID replied his role would be to train Councillors, give assistance to the Clerk, and assist with funding. He added that the NS infrastructure is here and the occupants of NS will use the facilities in LS.

Cllr. Cartwright stated that NS is mismanaged and ill-conceived.

Longstanton Parish Council would not stand a chance against the Developers.

ID stated that there are 9 members on the board of CPALC to support LPC.

Cllr. Bull said that there had been four and a half years involvement, that an independent body should manage this and for us to take on a new town would be just a token.

ID stated that funding is being sort to pay officers of the Council.

Cllr. Cartwright said that the principal is excellent but not in the present mess NS is in.

Cllr. Tucker stated that he had not been through the NS development phases, having been a Member of the Parish Council for 15 months, but felt it was important to be involved at the same time realising that giving more time, for most, is difficult and that we may regret it if we do not become involved.

Can an officer take the load?

ID replied that a full time officer would work with CPALC at their office or from an office based in the village. Funding is to be obtained to support an officer. Consider placing an officer at the managing table.

Cllr. Johnston stated that the sports facilities are in place at the Immigration Centre.

ID stated that indications are the centre will be knocked down. Building is planned to commence in the North of the Town.

Cllr. Kessell asked if funding could be obtained by CPALC to provide an independent planner to look at Northstowe. ID said it was possible.

Cllr. Riley stated that it is likely the NJC will determine Reserve Planning Applications.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.08pm to allow discussion with members of the public.

The meeting reconvened at 8.22pm.

Cllr Yarrow asked ID if he had approached Oakington.
ID said he will be consulting with Oakington PC next.

D.Cllr Riley asked if LPC does not take on this role what is the other options?

ID said that CPALC would try and elect associated locals and neighbouring Councils giving chances of forming a new Town Council with a depth of knowledge.

The Chairman thanked Ian Dewar and asked Councillors to email the Clerk with their response for forwarding to CPALC.

The meeting was closed for a short break at 8.35pm.

4. Planning applications received - Cllr. Kessell & Cllr.Tucker

S/1873/07/RM - 159 Dwellings phase 3b Home Farm (duplicate application) was discussed.

Cllr Tucker proposed –

Approval, subject to the satisfactory completion of the bypass, upgrading of the sewerage/drainage system by Anglian Water and satisfactory conclusion on handover of the extension to the Recreation ground to the Parish Council.

1) The sewage system currently in place is well in excess of capacity. This is evidenced by frequent pumping into lorries on the High Street and continual reports of garden flooding and backed up toilets. A promise by Anglian Water to upgrade the system is welcome, but a promise is not the same thing as delivery of the improvements, which is not scheduled until later next year. Any assertion that the current system can cope with the current load is not born out by the facts on the ground, and therefore must not be taken as correct. It would be reckless to approve any further development discharging into an already over-capacity system until the system has actually been upgraded.

2) There are already more homes approved than the outline consent permits occupation of until the permanent bypass is in place. This bypass is not scheduled for opening until later next year. Approving more homes without the bypass in place would not permit proper enforcement of the terms of the outline consent.

3) The outline application included an extension to the parish's recreation ground. This extension has not been delivered and there is no schedule for its delivery. Until the District secures a schedule for its delivery under Phase 2 of the development, no further applications should be entertained.

4) We are unclear how this amended application is in any way different from the application that was turned down.

The Parish believes it is vital that the District ensure that the recreation ground extension, sewage improvements, and B1050 bypass are in place before the application is approved.

Seconded by Cllr.Bull and unanimously agreed.

S/1839/07/RM – Business Park- layout, scale, appearance, landscaping under outline planning permission S/0682/95/O was discussed.
Cllr.Tucker proposed – Approval. Comments – There are too many entrances and exits to the Business Park that will impede traffic flow on the bypass.

Seconded by Cllr. Bull. Majority agreed with one abstention.

S/1869/07/F – Extension, 78 High Street was discussed.
Cllr.Kessell proposed - No Recommendation with comments- Concerns on the lack of privacy as the new extension would overlook the existing neighbouring property bedroom windows.

Seconded by Cllr. Johnston and unanimously agreed.

5. Matters for consideration at the next meeting – none received.
6. The Chairman announced that Cllr. Tucker and the Clerk would attend the Guided Busway Forum at Oakington on Wednesday 31st October.
Please email any questions to the Clerk.
The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed..... Date.....2007
Chairman