

BASSINGBOURN-CUM-KNEESWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on the 18th February 2020

Present : Cllrs Douglass (Chairman); Catherall, Dixon; Geraghty, Hallett, Hirtzel, Hodge, Leith, Oakley, Sams, and White.

Also in attendance were Mrs V Tookey (Clerk) and Mrs B Isherwood (Responsible Financial Officer).

County Cllr S Van de Ven, District Cllr N Cathcart and 3 members of the public were also present.

During the public session a representative from the Sports Clubs addressed the Council. Council agreed with his assertion that the pavilion was a public asset and needed now to be given some sense of urgency regarding either rebuild or extend/renovate. Confirmation was given that there is S106 money allocated to the building. Council welcomed the fresh approach and wholeheartedly agreed that the building needed to be brought up to date, not only for the existing sports clubs but for other use by villagers. A meeting would be arranged as soon as possible.

1	Apologies for absence : Apologies were received from Cllr Freeman (annual leave); Cllr Spenceley; Cllr Ridsdale (work commitment).	
2	Declaration of Interests - Cllr Dixon declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11.4.	
3	Minutes of Meeting held on the 21st January having been previously circulated were signed as approved. Proposed by Cllr Hodge, seconded Cllr Hirtzel. An amendment was declined.	
4	Casual Vacancy: Clerk confirmed that Notices are displayed for the vacancy.	VT
5	<p>Pavilion</p> <p>The Clerk and RFO explained that following a report of an accident and questions regarding procedures, a health and safety inspection/risk assessment was undertaken. This had been shared with the Council. The main issue was electrical, with loose leads, sockets uncovered with no way of knowing whether live, floodlighting being used without a socket, PAT testing not evident together with fire equipment untested, fire exits not signposted/lit, one blocked and chemicals left open in several rooms. A deep clean of the showers, testing for legionella and accident book and procedures all need to be organized. When asked Clerk confirmed that Council was not now covered by insurance because of the written incident report.</p> <p>It was pointed out that until certain issues were addressed the building could not be used and so the locks had been changed and the football clubs notified. On proposition of Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr White it was agreed that the pavilion remain closed and the necessary works be put in place as a matter of urgency. Council emphasized the need to reopen as soon as possible.</p>	VT / BI
6	<p>The Limes</p> <p>6.1 An Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 25th February had been requested by Cllrs Catherall and Leith due to their concerns regarding process, and what would be an acceptable lease.</p>	

	<p>6.2 The RFO had circulated quotations from three surveyors for a structural survey of The Limes and a similar survey of the Pavilion. It was pointed out that one of the tenderers was connected to SCDC and would therefore have a conflict of interest. On the proposition of Cllr Hodge, seconded by Cllr White it was agreed that a third quote be made available at the meeting on the 25th February and a decision taken.</p>	BI
7	<p>Cambs County Council C Cllr Van de Ven reported that at its budget meeting last week the County Council agreed to increase council tax by less than the maximum allowed i.e. 1.59% bringing revenue spend for local services down by £1.7 million.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funds established for 'climate action' (£15 million) and 'community capital projects' (£5 million) – most of this goes to creating a new carbon-neutral County Council HQ building at Alconbury. • investment in highways. Additional £200K for Local Highways Initiative (LHI) schemes, and an extra £366K in 2020/21 and a further £1 million in 2024/25 for highways maintenance. To put the latter into context, a study several years ago concluded that £350 million was required to bring the Cambs County Highways network to a decent standard. <p>Park Close road repair: Park Close has been added to a Highways waiting list for a new type of road surface treatment.</p> <p>Bus and community transport subsidies: The subsidy for contracted bus services including the 127 now rests entirely with the Combined Authority. The budget for the coming financial year has been agreed by the CA and remains the same as last year's: £5.8m for concessionary bus pass reimbursements; £300k for Community Transport; and £2.4m for subsidized bus services.</p> <p>Combining county border bus services: Following on from the recent Cam Vale Bus User Group meeting, the proposal for amalgamating the 127 and 90/91 bus services, running in Cambs and Herts respectively, received unanimous support. But the entire route depends on council subsidies.</p> <p>Various options for the new combined service were discussed, including one for connecting to Ashwell Station. Council officers will now look at the detail and get back to the Bus Group on the most viable routing (including most reasonable fares).</p> <p>Bassingbourn Practical Solutions Group: The PSG met on Feb 5th, with three results: (1) Bassingbourn Villages College will be inviting community groups to a concert in March (2) the College, with student leaders, will provide a display and presentation on their vision for Bassingbourn, at the Annual Parish Meeting in April; and (3) the Bassingbourn Conservation Group will organize a whole day community event to take place at the College on Sept 19, focusing on Bassingbourn and the impact of climate change. County Youth Services will look to assist students with small grant applications, and students will be invited to join the village Conservation Group.</p> <p>Royston and Herts Growth and Transport Plan and links over the A505: Councillor Van de Ven urged villagers to take part in the Herts Strategic Growth and Transport consultation that specifically envisages a cycle and walking link over the A505, albeit at the A10, but nevertheless clearly acknowledging and establishing the principle that people must be able to walk and cycle safely over the A505 between Royston and South Cambs villages. The recent announcement of Route E via Cambourne was South Cambs District Council's preferred option, on the basis of least harm and greatest advantage to the environment.</p>	

8	<p>South Cambs District Council</p> <p>District Cllr Cathcart reported that the District Council would be considering its budget at the end of this week with the recommendation that there be a 3.2% increase. He further reported that the average Band D property in villages of a comparable size was paying £95, Bassingbourn's was just over £80.</p> <p>The five-year housing supply is not now considered safe due to the Inspector deeming that a significant number of sites would not be developed in 5 years.</p>										
9	<p>Application to run a Fish and Chip stand Saturday 4 – 8/9 pm</p> <p>The Chairman invited the applicant to explain to the parish council his offer to provide a fish and chip stand in Bassingbourn. He explained his professional background, current employment and his profession in the catering trade together with where he is already offering such a service, and how he endeavours to be environmentally friendly. He also stressed that his menu would be varied, and all food would be prepared from fresh, nothing is frozen. Council were asked where such a mobile unit could be situated, and it was suggested the primary school area. The vendor has the necessary street trading license, environmental health certificates and would need to seek agreement from SCDC for the siting of his unit.</p>	VT									
10	<p>Working Groups:- update from any meetings held through month:-</p> <p><u>10.1 Traffic and Travel</u></p> <p>10.1.1 Mobile Speed sign had been ordered and due for delivery. One of the supports was on delayed dispatch and would be delivered in March. The Group was looking for a team to move the sign on a monthly basis and may need to get quotes for this work if no volunteers were forthcoming.</p> <p>10.1.2 A further quote was being obtained for work at the junction of the A1198 and Chestnut Lane.</p> <p>10.1.3 Group were going to the school to ask the pupils what they should put in by way of speed reducing and safety measures.</p> <p>10.1.4 It is not possible to change the priority at the South End and North End junction.</p> <p><u>10.2 Conservation</u></p> <p>10.2.1 The Climate Emergency Event planning is well underway by the group. Date set is September 19th.</p> <p>10.2.2 At its meeting on the 13th January the members further agreed to request that the name of the group be changed to Environment Working Group. This was agreed by the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>10.3 Neighbourhood Planning</u></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Planning Working Group met on the 5th February.</p> <p>The Group sought agreement of the Council to continue to work with Sally Chapman of Chapman Planning instead of the consultant from CambsAcre. This was agreed by the parish council. The change in consultant means that a rebate back to the Grant Body of £1600 would need to be made, and then the group could reapply for grant aid.</p> <p>County Cllr Van de Ven and District Councillor Cathcart left the meeting at this point at 9.20 pm.</p>										
11	<p>Financial matters:</p> <p><u>11.2 Authorisation of Payments</u></p> <p>The following payments were authorised on the proposition of Cllr Hallett, seconded by Cllr Sams.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="236 1854 1348 2029"> <tr> <td>Chapman Planning</td> <td>Neighbourhood Plan professional planner</td> <td>£321.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AV Home Improvements</td> <td>To install & swap 3 door locks & supply 2 locks</td> <td>£161.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Top Tree Fellas</td> <td>Christmas tree dismantled & chipped</td> <td>£50.00</td> </tr> </table>	Chapman Planning	Neighbourhood Plan professional planner	£321.40	AV Home Improvements	To install & swap 3 door locks & supply 2 locks	£161.98	Top Tree Fellas	Christmas tree dismantled & chipped	£50.00	
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12	<p>Committee Meetings held:-</p> <p><u>12.1 Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 4th February</u> had been circulated to all councillors for information and no items were needed to be raised at this time.</p> <p><u>12.2 Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 4th February</u> had been circulated to all councillors for information and no items were needed to be raised at this time</p> <p><u>12.3 Amenities Committee had met on the 12th of February</u> and minutes will be circulated to all councillors.</p> <p>Councillor White left the meeting at thus point at 9.45 pm</p>																										
13	<p>Annual Parish Meeting : Date set : 28th April</p> <p>Agreement of the agenda for the annual meeting took place. The rooms are booked, new display boards have arrived and Clerk/RFO are to send out invitations as soon as possible.</p>	VT/BI																									
	<p>There being there being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 pm</p> <p>Signed Chairman 17th March 2020.</p>																										

Dates of Meetings :-

Amenities Committee :**2020** – 11th March; 8th April; 13th May; 10th June; 8th July; 12th August; 9th September; 14th October; 11th November; 9th December.

Finance : Planning:- **2020** - 3rd March; 7th April; 5th May; 2nd June; 7th July; 4th August; 1st September; 6th October; 3rd November; 1st December.

Main Council:- **2020** – 17th March; 21st April; **28th April A.P.M.** ; 19th May (plus Annual Meeting) ; 16th June; 21st July; 18th August;15th September; 20th October; 17th November; 15th December.