

Bottisham Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 12 of the Council, held in The Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club Bottisham, on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr John Wilson (Chair); Cllr Stephen O'Dell; Cllr John Austin; Cllr Mark Overton; Cllr Savannah Laurent; Cllr Jawahar Swaminathan; Cllr Nadene Cundell; Cllr Maria Socea.

In Attendance : District Councillor Charlotte Cane.

Members 11 (1 vacancy) Quorum 4

Clerk: Mrs S Chambers-Turner

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jon Ogborn; Cllr Rehana Shaker; Cllr Camilia Mihaescu.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Cundell, seconded by Cllr Swaminathan, and resolved that the minutes of Meeting 10 held on 4th March 2024 be signed as a true record.

4. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

5. MATTERS ARISING/CLERKS AND COUNCILLORS REPORTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

- Information relating to the Planning Inspectorate decision on the retirement village is posted to the website and the Facebook page.
- Clerk to raise the asset register.
- Clerk to address the potential need / production of the location maps detailing where the Parish Council wish the Bottisham Greenway to start and stop. This potentially would go to Peter Blake, Director, Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership.

6. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor Sharp was absent from the meeting but provided a report for the Council which included:

- The County Council have implemented a 4.99% increase to the 2024/25 Council Tax.
- A report has been received by the Highways & Transport Committee about the capital maintenance programme for 24/25. There are still gaps where no proposal has been made on which roads are going to be repaired. Further details are expected from the Administration. Only £2m has been allocated to soil affected roads for 24/25.
- The Combined Authority is increasing the precept from £12 to £36 and using the extra funds for funding new bus routes and cheaper fares for under 25's. However, there is already pressure on the current bus services that also need to be addressed and will eat into these extra funds.
- The work on the staggered crossroads was due to start on Monday March 4th. On Friday March 1st, CCC officers advised that due to continuing legal issues, the start date would be delayed.

District Councillors Cane and Trapp had provided a District report which was circulated

prior to the meeting, which included:

- The Internal Audit of ECDC has flagged weaknesses in the Community Infrastructure Levy collections. It was noted that there have been occasions where the levies have not been collected and therefore the Parishes have not been receiving their meaningful proportion.
- ECDC have started on the Local Plan, however the Government have stated that Districts are not allowed to add the clause of building to a higher standard for energy efficiency, which is often considered by District Councils to be of high importance.
- Operational services have been reviewing the service plans for 24/25 and the delivery against the plans for 23/24.
- A service review working party is looking at the possibility of charging parish councils to empty dog bins.

7. FINANCES INCLUDING APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

- It was proposed by Cllr Wilson seconded by Cllr Overton and resolved that the bank reconciliation for February should be approved.**
- To Note Receipts
Bank Interest: £178.00
Bank Interest: £1122.14
VAT Reclaim: £4480.21
Burial Income: £550.00
- It was proposed by Cllr Wilson seconded by Cllr Laurent and resolved that powers will be delegated to the finance group to authorize immediate payments of accounts between meetings after the submission of a to pay account up to the value of £5000 and unanimous approval.**
- It was proposed by Cllr Cundell, seconded by Cllr Socea and resolved that March Accounts are paid. Action: Clerk to arrange payment of outstanding accounts.**

Method	Payee	Item	Net	VAT	Total
Payments made since the last meeting					
BACS	Navigate Planning	Professional Fees	£249.00	£49.80	£298.80
BACS	Cambridgeshire Acre	Professional Fees NP	£2117.10	£423.42	£2540.52
BACS	Mrs S Chambers-Turner	Clerk's Salary			Confidential
BACS	Mr Isaac Swift	Litter Picker			Confidential
Current					
BACS	Balfour Beatty	Street Lighting Replacement	£7,647.52	1,529.50	£9,177.02
BACS	CAPALC	Affiliation Fees	£677.66	£0.00	£677.66
BACS	Rialtas	Accounting Software	£192.00	£38.40	£230.40
BACS	Newton Flags	80th D-Day Flag	£34.80	£0.00	£34.80

8. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Overton and overall majority that Cllr Cundell be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

9. FINANCE WORKING GROUP

It was proposed by Cllr Laurent, seconded by Cllr Overton and resolved that Cllr Swaminathan be appointed to the Finance working group.

10. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for 30th April 2024, it was agreed that the format should follow last years which included a presentation from the Chairman. It was agreed that the following tables would be set up, Bottisham Village College, Police, County Council, District Council, Environment to include Project Play, Planning to include the new Cemetery, and the Neighbourhood Plan.

11. BOTTISHAM GREENWAY

The Parish Council held a meeting with Peter Blake, currently Director of Transport and soon to be Interim Director of the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (GCP). The Parish Council were given the opportunity to speak frankly about our concerns for the Bottisham Greenway and the inadequate communication with residents by the project team. Mr Blake acknowledged that the GCP could have liaised more effectively with villages and expressed a desire to co-operate more fully with the Parish Council and residents in developing a scheme that best meets the needs of the village. Parish Council requested that the GCP consider ending the Greenway at the back entrance to BVC on Bell Rd (just before Wisbech Ave) – which is used by nearly all pupils accessing the school from the A1303. The Parish Council also asked for consideration of a spur off the Swaffham Greenway, from the Lode Rd cross-roads down to the village college. It was felt that an upgrade to the footpath and cycleway here would be well supported by surrounding parishes – with many pupils using this route to get to school. This would therefore leave a gap in the Greenway around the Triangle (and the approaches to it from both Bell Rd and Lode Rd), as it was felt that there was no advantage in continuing the Greenway there from the standpoint of cyclists' safety". Mr Blake expressed willingness to explore the suggestions that the Parish Council had made and would respond in due course. Mr Blake further committed to hold a face-to-face public consultation with residents before any works commenced in the village.

12. NEW CEMETERY & PROJECT PLAY

Discussion on the New Cemetery was deferred until the next meeting due to the unexpected absence of Cllr Ogborn.

Cllr Laurent provided an update on the status of Project Play. The idea of creating a play area at the Spinney has been put on hold whilst other opportunities are being explored. It was noted that the play area at Ox Meadow is due to be installed in the very near future. The land between the end of the Lindum homes development and the Scheduled Ancient Monument is due to be transferred to East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) which is a wooded area. Early discussions are being had with ECDC to see if there would be opportunity for this to be made into an area for older children.

13. MAIN BUS STOP – HIGH STREET

Concerns have been raised about the safety of the bus located near the triangle of Beechwood Avenue/High Street stop due to children sitting on the roof. It was suggested as a matter of urgency that a suitable solution should be sought to prevent anyone from mounting the roof to prevent injuries. **Action:** *Cllr Cundell to provide the Clerk with suggestions for reducing the risk of injury to bus shelter roof.*

14. PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

24/00271/FUL 41 Beechwood Avenue Bottisham. Single storey front extension small ground floor extension. The Parish Council have no objections.

24/00243/TCON Dunkeld 70 Tunbridge Lane Bottisham. To comply with Condition 6 (Tree Topping, Lopping & Felling) of Decision Notice 98/00604/FUL Removal of leylandii trees in garden to improve light. The Parish Council support this application.

24/00182/FUL 19 Pound Close Bottisham Alterations to the ground floor layout to create an enlarged kitchen and study. Extension to porch. Replace flat roof with pitched roof over the altered and extended spaces. Install solar panels and rooflights. The Parish Council have no objections.

15. RETIREMENT VILLAGE

East Cambridgeshire District Council have taken legal advice from King's Counsel about the Planning Inspectorate's decision to grant the application for the 220 homes on the land at the rear of 163 to 187 High Street and east of Rowan Close, CB25 9BJ. The advice given was that there were no grounds for a Judicial Review against the Planning Inspectorates decision. The Parish Council had raised the matter with Michael Gove and have received a response along the same grounds. Lucy Frazer also raised the matter and receive the same response. Therefore, it was agreed that there was little or no action that could be taken and attention should be focused on the mitigation of the development as the reserved matters are presented in due course.

16. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A meeting has been held with the consultant from Cambridgeshire Acre to further the Neighbourhood plan. It was agreed that the surplus monies from the grant funding received during 23/24 would need to be returned as it was unspent during the financial year. **Action:** Clerk to co-ordinate with the working group for the return of the grant funding for 23/24.

17. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Any business and payments to be considered at Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Items to include:

- To approve and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return
- Deferred matter 203 – new cemetery update

18. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Full Council Meeting, **Thursday 16th May 2024**, 7.30pm, The Poppy Room, Bottisham Sports and Social Club.

Meeting Closed at 9.14pm.

Minute Point	Action	By Whom
198 (d)	Set up bank payments	The Clerk
204	To consider suitable solutions for safety of the bus stop on High Street	Cllr Cundell
207	Liaise with Neighborhood Plan working group and return the surplus grant funding for 23/24	The Clerk