

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of Pidley-cum-Fenton 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Robert Johnson, David Hopkins, Tim Ward (Chairman), Paul Robbs de la Hoyde (minute taker). Mike Haines, Mark Wadsworth.

In attendance: District Councillors Graham Bull and Jill Taverner, County Councillor Steve Criswell.

Item	Minute	Actions arising
394.	Apologies for absence had been received from the Clerk to the Parish Council following her delivery of a baby on the previous Thursday	None
395.	Cllr Wadsworth declared a family interest in planning application 20/00419/OUT	None
396.	Chairman position and vacant councillor post. Cllr Ward read out a statement from former Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council, Charlotte Lowe setting out her reasons for resigning as Chairman and as a Councillor. Cllr Ward informed the meeting that a notice in relation to the vacant position was posted on 26 <sup>th</sup> February and asked anyone interested in the position should inform the Clerk. It was noted that correspondence has been received from Huntingdonshire District Council that the requisite number of electors have applied for an election for the vacant councillor post to be held, and that a number of actions are required to be taken in relation to the election by the end of March 2020. It was noted that the cost of the election if contested had been advised as being in the region of £2,000.	Clerk to carry out election actions as required.
397.	The meeting closed for the Public Forum. Notes on the matters raised are appended at the end of this document. Cllr Haines proposed and Cllr Wadsworth seconded a reopening of the meeting which was AGREED unanimously	
398.	<p><b>Cllr Criswell</b> reported that the design work for the preferred traffic light scheme at the Wheatsheaf junction on the B1050 was on hold pending a restoration of normal traffic flow to enable a survey to be taken of the right turning traffic so that the length of right-turn lanes can be established and thus how much land needs to be purchased. The alternative scheme is a staggered junction.</p> <p>Cllr Robbs de la Hoyde asked whether the work on the traffic diamond was progressing. Cllr Criswell reported that the HCV group has been briefed on the diamond and that one of the key elements is the concern over the number of HCVs coming through Pidley and Fenton. He stated that the modelling for the impact of the new A14 was based on the finished scheme and that an assessment of the impact would have to wait until the scheme is finished later in 2020. Cllr Haines observed that the lorries coming through Pidley are larger than previously and other councillors observed that there are other transport companies notably Harradines and Mick George that are using the village more as a result of changes to their business operations. Residents were urged to report vehicle movements not in compliance with commercial traffic plans to Cambridgeshire Highways.</p> <p><b>Cllr Taverner</b> reported that the biomass plant at Warboys is still on hold as Woodfords are selling the land. It appears unlikely that it will be built within the three-year windows that the original application approved.</p>	

	<p>The Fenton traffic calming has been approved. Cllr Ward asked if the 30mph limit could be extended all the way to the existing 30mph limit area. Cllr Taverner stated that this was not possible as the properties there are still classed as rural and therefore a 40mph limit is appropriate.</p> <p>Cllr Taverner reported that the volume of Mick George lorries coming through Pidley could be related to the landscaping works on the landfill site at Warboys.</p> <p><b>Cllr Bull</b> reported that Marshalls have reduced the scope of their search for a new location to Cranfield or Wyton. Huntingdonshire District Council has sent a delegation to Marshalls as part of their efforts to secure Marshalls on the site. He stated that the MOD have unrealistic expectations of the gain of £80m to be secured from selling the site for house building because of the additional infrastructure requirements of £170m. A further response in the process is expected later in 2020.</p> <p>Cllr Hopkins asked what progress was being made in the planning department at HDC. Cllr Bull replied that he was visiting the department on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March to find out how it was dealing with the replacement of significant numbers of staff in a difficult local market which has led to the recruitment of temporary staff from other areas, an action which has been avoided in the past because of the lack of knowledge of the local area.</p> <p>Cllrs Bull and Taverner left the meeting at 8.10 pm</p>	
399.	<p><b>Planning applications</b></p> <p><u>20/00372/PIP</u> Cllr Hopkins observed that the building was not disused at the time of the application under policy LP33 of the district plan. Councillors noted that the housing density was high for the size of the land and that this would be kept under consideration when a full planning application is received. Approval of the application was proposed by Cllr Haines and seconded by Cllr Wadsworth and AGREED unanimously.</p> <p><u>20/00303/FUL</u> This application is under policy LP33 of the local plan. Cllr Hopkins asked that suitable landscaping and tree planting and retention be used to provide screening for the property. It was observed that there is existing residential property on a nearby site on the same road. Approval was proposed by Cllr Hopkins and seconded by Cllr Wadsworth. It was AGREED to approve the application on a majority vote with Cllr Robbs de la Hoyde objecting on the grounds of the extension of the village footprint.</p> <p><u>20/00374/S73</u> Cllr Hopkins asked whether condition 4 of the original planning permission that this application seeks to amend had been complied with. The planning consultant for the application stated that it had been. Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr Ward seconded and it was AGREED on a majority vote with Cllr Haines voting against the proposal that this application should be rejected on the grounds of it being a greenfield site development which would affect existing woodland, that permanent homes are a significant change to the original application. Cllr Haines noted that an application for a change to this site had been made the previous month and that it would be preferable for the owner to discuss the whole plan for the site with the</p>	

**Commented [PRdIH1]:** Tim – can you confirm / amend this section as being correct. I am not as familiar with the planned changes as you.

	<p>Parish Council rather than taking piecemeal approach to planning applications.</p> <p><u>20/00419/OUT</u> Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr Ward seconded and it was AGREED by a majority that this application be rejected because the proposed house was being built in a greenfield site away from other related farm buildings without suitable landscaping and screening. Cllr Haines voted against the proposal. Councillors noted that support would be considered for an application for a property as an addition to the existing North Fen Farm site and with suitable landscaping and tree screening.</p> <p>Cllr Criswell left the meeting at 8.37 pm</p>	
400.	The minutes of the February meeting were noted needing correction (see Public Forum) and therefore were not considered for approval with this matter deferred to the April meeting of the Parish Council.	
401.	There were no matters arising from previous minutes.	
402.	The financial schedule produced for the meeting was the January accounts and therefore could not be approved.	Clerk to provide February accounts
403.	The Clerk was asked to stop the cheque payable to PKF Littlejohn [from December] for which a replacement cheque was brought to the meeting for signing, provided the fees were reasonable. Cllr Hopkins proposed and Cllr Johnson seconded and it was AGREED unanimously that the payments laid before the meeting should be approved and the relevant cheques signed for payment.	Clerk to stop original cheque for PKF Littlejohn.
404.	The Clerk was not present; this matter is deferred to the April meeting.	
405.	Dates available for Councillor training were noted; Cllr Robbs de la Hoyde confirmed his attendance at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> May meeting and Cllr Wadsworth noted the need to book on the 4 <sup>th</sup> July course if possible. The commencement date for the Clerk's training was noted and the requirement to arrange Data Protection update training for all councillors.	Clerk to arrange Data Protection training
406.	Councillors were asked to review the draft County Planning Minerals and Waste Enforcement Plan and provide comments to the Clerk by the end of March 2020.	Councillors to review and provide comment by 31 March 2020.
407.	Cllr Ward reported that no SID data was available this month from the unit based in Fenton due to a failure of the device. The SID will be left in place to monitor the impact of the Fenton traffic calming and speed limit zone changes.	
408.	<p>Cllr Hopkins suggested that work should be done to clear branches that are creating shade in areas around footpaths and stopping grass growth. Cllr Hopkins has grass seed that is particularly for use in shady areas and he suggested that this could be sown during the spring tidy up. Cllr Hopkins also has a grass-cutting machine that can be used by volunteers, who will be covered by his insurance, to cut paths and, for instance, the field next to the Village Hall.</p> <p>The Councillors agreed that a coordinated tidy-up would be held from 9am-12pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	Clerk to inform Sandra Johnson for inclusion in the village email. Cllr Robbs de la Hoyde to provide details of refreshments.

	<p>Residents were asked to provide suggestions of areas to be worked on to the Clerk. Litter picking was noted as a needed activity. The matter of dog-walkers hanging dog waste bags on the post for the previously installed dog waste bins at Stroud Hill was noted with a suggestion of signs being used to ask dog-walkers to take their waste bags home.</p> <p>Cllr Robbs de la Hoyde offered to provide refreshments for volunteers after the tidy up. Details to follow.</p>	
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The meeting closed at 8.57 pm.

#### Notes from the Public Forum

Number	Matters raised	Actions arising
1.	Cllr Hopkins asked that a letter be sent to Charlotte Lowe thanking her for her service and contribution to the activities of the Parish Council.	Clerk to arrange letter for signing by remaining Councillors
2.	Mr Mike Newman asked if it would be possible to have some kind of amplification so that the members of the public attending the meeting can hear clearly the discussions and decisions made.	Include an agenda item on amplification for next meeting
3.	A resident asked when the speed bumps in Oldhurst Road would be installed as they are supposed to be in place this financial year, ending at the end of March. Cllr Haines replied that he has been chasing up the Highways Department and County Councillor Criswell on the matter and was awaiting replies.	
4.	A resident asked whether the minutes of Parish Council meetings will include a record of the matters raised in public forum as this was believed to have been agreed at a previous meeting. The Council agreed to check minutes of previous meetings to check this point. Cllr Criswell observed that the public forum was not part of the meeting so could not be part of the minutes and that a note of the matters raised and actions arising could be included as a separate document.	Clerk to check previous minutes for conclusion.
5.	A resident observed that the minutes of February meeting did not include the discussions around the LHI bid. Another resident noted that some of the minutes sections were incomplete. The Councillors agreed that this was the case and that this matter had already been noted for correction.	
6.	A resident asked why when the December minutes stated that the Parish Council could not contribute to the maintenance of the churchyard for which the Parochial Church Council had asked for support, the February minutes include approval of a payment for this maintenance. Another resident stated that this was permissible as the area of the churchyard being maintained was closed and therefore within the powers of the Parish Council to pay for. The Councillors reported that this was what they had been told by Cllr Lowe at the February meeting and that they would check that understanding and report back.	Clerk to confirm the basis on which the payment was made.

7.	A resident asked whether as stated in the minutes for the December 2019 meeting, the Parish precept would be rising by 2%. The Councillors replied that they believed that the precept had been agreed at £12,000 which the resident observed would be a 4.35% increase. The Councillors agreed to check the minutes of the meeting and what had been communicated to the District Council for the 2020-21 precept and to report back.	Clerk to provide confirmation of the agreement made in meeting and the precept communicated to Huntingdonshire District Council.
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