

**Minutes of the Pidley-cum-Fenton Parish Council Meeting
 Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom**

Present: Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde (Chairman), Mr Tim Ward, Mr Robert Johnson, Mr David Hopkins, Mr Mark Wadsworth, Mrs Louise Clowery (Clerk),

Also, present: 8 x members of the public
 Meeting opened - 19.30pm.

499	Apologies for absence Received from Cllr Jill Taverner	Action to be taken by
500	Declarations of interest for items on the agenda – David for the planning application 20/02030/FUL as the applicant is a family member so therefore will not be voting. Mark for the planning application 20/02019/OUT as he has a potential business interest should this come on the open market.	
501	Public Forum – Meeting closed for the public forum at 19.35. Meeting reopened at 19.35 – Proposer – Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded – Tim Ward Paul explained how members of the public can ask a question in the chat and Louise will co-ordinate.	
502	County Council & District Council reports: November County report to parish councils. Steve Criswell read this out - Annual Parish Conference - I hope as many of you as possible logged on to the conference on the 23 rd October. It will still be available to watch for 30 days for those who registered. The conference was particularly important because it started to describe the huge change taking place around how the County Council delivers many of its' services and engages locally. Ahead of the move from Shire Hall next year, staff will gradually be relocated around the county. Services will operate on a more locally focussed basis in defined areas, responding to varying local demand and priorities. Local partnerships will help develop a unified approach with the opportunity to engage and integrate with parish councils and community groups. This county-wide initiative is being badged 'Cambridgeshire Local'. Our local area will be based on Somersham & Earith and Warboys county divisions, with all partners having an opportunity to join a local conversation. CAPALC is reinventing itself under a new CEO. Its' renewed offer and representation will form an important part of the council's liaison with parishes, so I would encourage all parishes to join and use their service and expertise. Innovate & Cultivate Fund - This will now concentrate on funding for the smaller community projects up to £15k. Due to widespread interest, 'off the peg' schemes will now include provision of a professional youth worker to develop local activities. Villages may wish to collaborate and share a youth worker. Covid – 19 - With safety compliance deteriorating across the country and infection rates rising, further restriction are being introduced nationally. We have been lobbying against this, as thankfully we are one of the least affected areas. Spikes in Cambridge City are confined mainly to the student population. The university has developed its own testing and isolation policy.	

	<p>The County Hub that was set up 7 months ago has continued to offer support to all who need it, including any struggling families during half term. All schools were sent reminders. With increasing restrictions staff are once again being re-deployed to increase capacity and assist District Hubs. Shielding may not be reintroduced, but some vulnerable residents will inevitably be advised to isolate requiring help from the hub as well as local volunteers. All those identified as vulnerable will have received a letter and where appropriate a follow-up phone call.</p> <p>We continue to request that we are allowed to run Test and Trace locally and are given the resources to do so. As a reminder, the contact number for the county hub is 03450 455 219.</p> <p>Budget - In February, as we set the county budget for this year, we were looking at a deficit for next year of around £4.2m. After many years of savings and service transformation, this was challenging, but much less daunting than previous years. Despite Gov't paying out significant sums towards direct Covid costs, our financial challenge has rocketed to almost £40m. This is largely due to loss of income, increased costs and rising demand for social care.</p> <p>Wheatsheaf crossroads - Another tragic fatality weighs heavily on my mind. Whatever the cause I am still very committed to delivering improvements and am frustrated that progress was unavoidably delayed over the Spring/Summer. However, please be assured that design work is ongoing to establish the best achievable solution. The latest position is that multiple utilities, restricted sight lines and lack of sufficient land means that designs for the staggered junction and roundabout options are also being worked on. Additional land acquisition typically causes the biggest delay, which is why I had hoped traffic lights could be accommodated on the existing site.</p> <p>David did ask Cllr Criswell what is happening with the Central Diamond Circle Group as we are still getting an abundance of lorries through the village. Cllr Criswell did confirm that the central diamond is not working as they had hoped. Only 7% are travelling through. This is still in discussions with Highways England about the lack of success.</p> <p>Wheatsheaf Crossroads – Mark asked about the timeline? Cllr Criswell confirmed that the current project for this scheme is only one year old and it is usually a two year process.</p> <p>It was asked what was causing the fatalities? Details of the accidents are not disclosed.</p> <p>Would rumble strips at the junctions on the Woodhurst and Bluntisham sides help? Designs are all in the process with traffic lights and roundabout options being considered.</p> <p>Cllr Graham Bull – Budget implications from the pandemic in HDC are showing a 4-million-pound deficit. This is due to loss of income & providing support services to the vulnerable and shielding residents.</p> <p>Cuckoo Bridge have a planning application in currently which should hopefully resolve a lot of issues that are being raised by the neighbouring villages. Comments welcomed on the application. Cllr Bull did confirm that planning applications are going a lot slower at the moment.</p> <p>Footpaths – Cllr Bull endorses David's comments on the footpaths. David asked if the planning dept could listen to the locals with the increase of young families to the village this is very important to us all.</p>	
503	<p>Approval of minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matters for information. - David said that the minutes show the precise details of the true records of the meeting. - Tim happy with the representation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comments raised by a MOP are to be considered as they did not agree with the points. The clerk confirmed that these will not be changed but the comment is duly noted. - There was a separate email sent to the chairman and clerk to which the MOP is still waiting for a response. The clerk did confirm in an email that this is being dealt with by the Chairman. It was asked by the chairman that his personal email address was not used. - The financial report – The bug in the report has now been fixed. The bank statement was only received the day before and there was not time before the meeting to update. This will be done in the next few days and uploaded on to the website. - Paul is still considering the point on the petition of the lorries. - Paul is also looking into the point raised on several occasions by a MOP about the payment of the maintenance of the churchyard and hopes to report back next month. 	
504	<p>Current year financial report to end of October 2020</p> <p>The financial report had a bug which is now fixed, the bank statement was only received on Monday of this week. The clerk will update the report, completing the reconciliation and will circulate and upload to the website as soon as complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - October income – 2325.67 – CIL Payment. It was asked if a breakdown of the CIL payments could be collated against the planning application reference. The clerk will prepare this. - October expenditure – 680.86 - <i>(Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr David Hopkins.)</i> 	Clerk
505	<p>Approval of payments for November – details of all cheques signed can be found in November accounts sheet.</p> <p><i>(Proposed Mr David Hopkins, Seconded Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde.)</i></p>	
506	<p>Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Returns: This is with the internal auditor to approve and then the clerk will represent to the council for the chairman to sign in the next meeting.</p>	Internal auditor & clerk
507	<p>Financial Planning 2021-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precept – The clerk received an email from a MOP with a good case as to why we should not increase the precept this year. This included the following reasons: The pandemic has caused job losses, loss of earnings for many families and this does not look to improve for the next few months. <p>David did ask if we can get a list of electorates? The clerk will look into this, but confirmed there were 327 on the last count with HDC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget – The clerk is still working on this and will circulate to the councillors before the next meeting. 	
508	<p>Planning for approval and comments to Huntingdonshire District Council</p> <p>Reference: 20/02019/OUT</p> <p>Proposal: Outline planning consent (all matters reserved except means of access) for the erection of 1 no. dwelling.</p> <p>Address: Land at Greenacre, Oldhurst Road, Pidley.</p> <p>Comments: David said that the wall had caused concerns a while ago. Robert and David were unsure if this was listed?</p> <p>There were concerns on the visibility on the entrance. The plans made reference to a 5m wide entrance being made in the wall.</p> <p>Note to HDC – Planned installation to the Oldhurst Road of speed humps. This may implicate where the entrance will be.</p> <p>The footpaths could also cause concern for visibility if you are coming out of the</p>	

	<p>property.</p> <p>Overall there were no objections, but the councillors would like to add concerns of access and visibility and safety of the entrance.</p> <p>Mark abstained from voting on the application due to a potential business interest should this property come on the open market. This was approved by all other councillors.</p> <p><i>(Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr Tim Ward)</i></p> <p>Reference: 20/02030/FUL</p> <p>Proposal: Brick up connecting door between two dwellings to formally split units.</p> <p>Address: Roosters, Fen Road, Pidley, Huntingdon, PE28 3DF</p> <p>Comments: Mark commented that there is 4 parking spaces per dwelling, no extensions requested and had no concerns with this.</p> <p>David abstained from voting on this application due to this being a family members application. No other issues were raised by any of the remaining councillors and this was approved by all.</p> <p><i>(Proposed Mr Paul Robbs de la Hoyde, Seconded Mr Tim Ward)</i></p>	
509	<p>Bank Account – Online application update - The clerk found out that address for all areas of the bank account was not updated. Only the bank statements were coming to the clerk. A form has been completed to rectify this.</p> <p>The mandate form that all councillors completed did not have enough signatures. The form was not returned and no update received. The clerk has been advised to complete a new form and submit this to speed up the process. It was confirmed that the proof of identification was logged on the system though. Once received and processed the individuals will receive an authentication card in order to be able to log on to the internet banking. This is not a bank card.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
510	High Street bollards: Duplication of agenda item. Will be answered in 511.	
511	<p>Proposal that the Parish Council accept the offer of Mr Mike Haines to provide two planters maintained by him in place of two bollards originally agreed at the September 2019 meeting of the Council – Email received by the Chairman and clerk from Mr Mike Haines who is no longer a councillor.</p> <p>In September 2019 it was agreed to install the additional two bollards and planters were installed as advised by Highways that this was more aesthetically pleasing whilst still achieving the same end goal.</p> <p>He has confirmed that he will maintain them whilst he is a resident, not that he has any plans to leave then the maintenance would fall to the Parish Council. It was discussed and agreed that this could become a handyman task.</p> <p>Paul would like to formally accept this offer of the two planters.</p> <p>This was approved by MW, TW, DH.</p> <p>RJ was not in favour of either the bollards or the planters and think this should have been left open.</p>	
512	<p>Councillor vacancy – Following the resignation of Cllr Mike Haines we have a vacancy. HDC have been notified and if an election is not called this time then we can go ahead with the co-option of a new councillor. We are awaiting confirmation from HDC on this.</p> <p>When the clerk researched, she realised that the council do not currently have a Co-option policy, she drafted this and circulated this to all councillors yesterday. Paul asked for this to be taken over to the next meeting to be adopted if approved.</p> <p>Applications to the clerk welcomed. This is advertised on our website, facebook</p>	

	page and notice board. Please email the clerk on pidleycumfenton@gmail.com	
513	Lorry watch update - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lorry group – following the departure of Cllr Haines we no longer have a council representative on the group. Currently it would stand that there is no sanction on them to carry out activities if there is no councillor. David happy to join the group to keep it going if no one else wanted to, but he did feel that someone who lived on the High Street or Warboys Road would be better placed as he does not have the same issue down Fen Road. 	
514	Committee/Village Updates – SID Data – Data still not received from Tim. Once received Louise will upload on to the website. Handyman Tasks – Safety boots purchase approved with a £50 budget. Clerk checked with HDC on the H&S for the handyman, they have gone through how to use the equipment and advised that safety equipment (goggles, hi vis jacket, long sleeve clothing) should be worn at all times. Salt Bin – Insurance company said it would be an excess of £250 to ensure the salt bin but would not cover individual use of the bin itself. A MOP did confirm that they had to undergo training with HDC to receive a scoop and be able to use the salt bin for the footpaths on Oldhurst Road. It was agreed that the clerk would contact HDC to see if this is still required for individual use. It was also agreed that it is appropriate to have an additional salt bin by the entrance to the village and we will put signs on the salt bin. Clerk to also check with CAPALC for guidance. Play Park – No updates	Clerk Handyman Clerk
515	The renewal of the white lines at Mad Cat and Pond junctions. The white lines at the junction of Fen Road need repainting. Whilst the council are doing white lines can it be considered to define a footpath down the first part of Fen Road. Perhaps they could also consider double yellow lining around this area. Clerk to discuss this with Highways.	Clerk
516	Watercourse maintenance around the village especially Drag Lane – This is causing issues again. This was looked into last year with the Environment Agency and it was asked if the clerk could follow up with them for an update as the condition of Drag lane is not improving.	Clerk
517	Safety of Layby's – Warboys Road & Oldhurst Road – It was asked in our last meeting following on from the Old Bakehouse layby being blocked off if the ones on Warboy's Road and Oldhurst Road have been considered. Clerk to discuss this with highways when she meets up with them.	Clerk
518	Cambridgeshire ACRE Conference – Cllr Steve Criswell had given a good account of the conference and the clerk had nothing more to add other than it was a well organised event, the first on line one which was a great success.	
519	Website – This is with the development company for the build. They hope to have this finished by the end of this week/next. The clerk will generate the councillors email addresses and circulate once able to.	Clerk
	Agenda items for next meeting – Highways meeting – update from the clerk meeting up with them.	

Notes from the Public Forum	The Financial report – It was asked where this was. The clerk confirmed that this had been delayed in updating and circulating due to the bank statement only being received the day before. This will be updated and circulated within the week.	
	October minutes – It was questioned why a MOP letter was not included and only mentioned. The chairman agreed that this had been done in the past but as the minutes are not verbatim then the letter does not need to be included.	
	The bollards were raised again by another MOP. They were not happy with the account in the last minutes. They questioned the timeline and the payment of the bollards.	
	The layby's in the village were also raised. We do have this as an item agenda and will address there.	
	Please can the clerk report the tree beside pond close as it is blocking the footpath. Cllr Criswell confirmed the clerk can log this with Brian Murdoch of highways.	
	Tim raised obo of a resident in Fenton asking Cllr Criswell why the speed difference is 30/40mph in some parts of Fenton. Cllr Criswell confirmed that if the houses are sporadically spaced out along the road then this is where it would be a 40mph. David did mention that with all of the planning applications that have come through for Fenton that we always ask for a footpath and street lighting to be considered. The clerk also received correspondence relating to speeding from a resident who lives near the church in Pidley and has had someone drive over the grass verge in front of her house. She would like to have bollards installed. The clerk will discuss this with Highways.	
	Closed the public forum at 19.46 – Proposed by Paul Robbs de la Hoyde and seconded by Tim Ward to re-open the meeting.	

Meeting closed 21.33pm

Next meeting: 9th December 2020

A full copy of the recorded meeting can be found online at Zoom.

Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings –2021

Wednesday	13 th January	2021	Wednesday	14 th July	2021
Wednesday	10 th February	2021	Wednesday	11 th August	2021
Wednesday	10 th March	2021	Wednesday	8 th September	2021
Wednesday	14 th April	2021	Wednesday	13 th October	2021
Wednesday	12 th May	2021	Wednesday	10 th November	2021
Wednesday	9 th June	2021	Wednesday	8 th December	2021