

## Minutes of the meeting of Fairfield Parish Council held in Fairfield Community Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7:30 pm

**Councillors present:** B E Dack (Chairman), C Bidwell, P Daffarn, N P Hanks S L Jones, T Milliken and P Mitchinson.

**Officer present:** Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk)

**Also present for all or part of the meeting:** Ward Member Councillor S Dixon, Cliff Andrews (BRCC) and one member of the public.

### **230 Apologies for Absence**

230.1 Apologies received from Ward Members Councillors B and J Saunders.

### **231 Disclosures of Interest and Dispensation requests**

231.1 No disclosures of interest and no requests for dispensation were received.

### **232 Council Minutes**

232.1 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 had been circulated to all councillors and it was

#### **RESOLVED**

**That these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman.**

### **233 Public Participation**

233.1 No members of the Public requested to speak.

### **234 Report on Etonbury Green Wheel**

234.1 Cliff Andrews, BRCC advised that the Green Wheel concept was basically an off road multi access corridor around a community.

The Biggleswade Green Wheel is completed with a large proportion of the funding received from Developers. The Stotfold Green Wheel was originally identified in 2008 as part of the Mid Bedfordshire Infrastructure Plan. The Etonbury Green Wheel later started to involve with Etonbury Wood as the central point and includes Arlesey, Fairfield and Stotfold. A Steering Group was formed about two years ago and includes representatives from the three communities, Acorn, Teasel and BRCC.

BRCC is looking to develop a Master Plan. The aim is to have a consultation on the Concept Master Plan during summer 2016. In the meantime BRCC has started implementing parts of the Green Wheel as they become successful in securing funding.

## 235 Parish Crime Update

- 235.1 PCSO Joe Passby has been moved from Fairfield. No replacement has been announced yet. Between 8<sup>th</sup> December and 11<sup>th</sup> January there were four new recorded crimes. These were
- Criminal Damage in Bronte Avenue – Unknown offenders have approached a vehicle which was locked and secured. Offenders have used an unknown implement to cause a large scratch to 3 panels on the driver's side before making off in an unknown direction by unknown means.
  - Domestic related violence with injury reported to the police.
  - One violence without injury reported to the police.
  - One sexual offence reported to the police.

## 236 Central Bedfordshire Council Ward Members Report

- 236.1 Unfortunately it looks like CBC will have to increase the Council Tax as the settlement from the Government was not good. The cashback incentive has been removed and the Government is imposing a compulsory 2% increase for the provision of elderly care. The budget is still in consultation stage but it is expected to have an increase of 3.75% No referendum will be required as the 2% increase for elderly care is ring-fenced.

## 237 Bronte Avenue Trees

- 237.1 The contract has been placed with MBS and work will be done on Friday 15th January.

## 238 Leisure Strategy Document

- 238.1 Councillor Dixon is to conduct a walkabout on 19<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 am with the Chairman and others to produce a new map. **Action: SD / ALL**

## 239 Section S106

- 239.1 FPC has received a letter from E&J Estates (Hotbed agents) confirming they are willing to transfer all the land as requested. They haven't commented on the leases for the Bowls Club and Cricket Club so this needs to be clarified. FPC to find out estimate of solicitor fees. It was agreed to advise residents of this. **Action: BD**

## 240 Orchard

- 240.1 The final draft of Licence has been sent to Livesey.
- 240.2 Planning application for works to the trees was submitted to CBC and FPC has now been granted permission to do the works providing CBC approves of the person doing the works and is given three dates notice of work commencing.
- 240.3 With the delegated powers agreed at the December meeting, Councillors Dack, Bidwell Daffarn and Jones reviewed the tenders received from Colin Carpenter, James Moseley, Maydencroft and MBS. It was

### **RESOLVED**

**That the contract would be awarded to Colin Carpenter subject to him being able to complete the work by 28<sup>th</sup> February.**

### **REASON**

**The quote was best value and he is approved by CBC.**

The clerk to send contract to Colin Carpenter and letters to the unsuccessful companies.  
**Action: KH**

240.4 The Friends of the Orchard meeting held on 7th January was well attended and the proposed workshop for February 6<sup>th</sup> has been oversubscribed. A smaller group has been appointed to produce a re-planting scheme. Volunteers will also be required to help run the next Apple Day (1st October).

#### **241 Superfast Broadband in Fairfield**

241.1 All boxes have been upgraded, demand has been high but orders now being fulfilled.

#### **242 Speed Limit in Fairfield**

242.1 CBC is awaiting a response from Bovis, Taylor Wimpey and David Wilson before CBC can investigate the 20mph zone for the whole of Fairfield.

#### **243 Parking**

243.1 Councillor Hanks to measure the proposed area for additional parking spaces by Kipling Crescent and confirm his proposal meets regulations. **Action: NP**

#### **244 People driving on paths around the school**

244.1 Following a discussion it was

##### **RESOLVED**

**That FPC would install a bollard to prevent people from driving on the footpath.**

##### **REASON**

**To prevent harm coming to pedestrians using the path.**

The clerk to arrange. **Action: KH**

#### **245 Signs**

245.1 New Directional signs to Fairfield from Wilbury Hills Road have been ordered with HCC.

245.2 CBC has installed a new sign at end of Eliot Way to include 'leading to Fairfield Hall'.

#### **246 Allotments and Recreation Space**

246.1 CBC continues to negotiate with the tenant for the land.

246.2 FPC will start looking at local schemes to get an idea on how to fund the project and find out what contractors were used. **Action: BD / PM**

#### **247 Land to the east of Shaftesbury Avenue**

247.1 NHS has advised that the HCA think the site does have some development potential and is running it through their internal initial assessment stage first to confirm.

#### **248 Cemetery**

248.1 Councillors Dack and Mitchinson met with Reverend Whitmill for his views on cemeteries. His initial reaction was that Fairfield is its own community so maybe should have its own cemetery. He will discuss it with the Church Committee and will advise FPC of their views. He did also say that Fairfield did not have a War Memorial and should consider having one as there was 140 people present for the Remembrance Day Parade.

- 248.2 The clerk supplied all Councillors with a summary of how Ickleford Burial Ground was created.
- 248.3 STC has agreed a Cemetery Committee recommendation that Fairfield residents may make use of Stotfold Cemetery at the charges applicable to Stotfold residents with an annual contribution from FPC as follows:-

1. The annual contribution rate is to be 25% of STC's total budgeted expenditure figure for the Cemetery Management Committee, for the year applicable – payable at the start of that financial year.
2. The agreement is to be for an initial three year period.

This would cost FPC £35,640 over three years. Following a discussion it was

**RESOLVED**

**That FPC would not accept STC proposal this year, but will look at it again in future needs if there is a demand.**

**REASON**

**The current usage from Fairfield does not make it a viable financial possibility at the moment.**

The clerk to advise STC. **Action: KH**

Cemeteries are included in the Leisure Strategy so this and a War Memorial to be looked at when FPC walk around Fairfield with Councillor Dixon (Item 238). **Action: SD / ALL**

**249 Blue Lagoon**

- 249.1 FPC waiting for a response from CBC to a meeting to discuss the Blue Lagoon plan and the request for a diagonal path from E as a continuation from F to E that joins permissive path 4 to permissive path 3. The clerk to chase up. **Action: KH**

**250 Fly tipping adjacent to the recycling centre, Dickens Boulevard**

- 250.1 The new sign has been installed.

**251 Christmas Trees collection facility**

- 251.1 The facility is operation and being well used. MBS will be removing the trees at no charge. The clerk to send MBS a letter of thanks. **Action: KH**

**252 The Parish Plan**

- 252.1 The updated action plan has been circulated to all.

- 252.2 Bus Timetables - CBC is unable to fund the installation of a Real-time screen for the bus stop in Dickens Boulevard as the costs is between £5,000 - £7,000 and then approximately £300 per year to keep the screen active, maintained and on the system. Currently there is also a data issue regarding Central Bedfordshire's tracking equipment accepting data from Hertfordshire based buses (the vehicles that operate the service through Fairfield are based at Stevenage) which is hoped to be resolved in the next few months. FPC discussed funding this once the issue has been resolved and it was

**RESOLVED**

**That FPC would not fund this**

**REASON**

**Although it would be useful it was considered an unnecessary expense as there was only one bus through Fairfield. Hopefully, CBC will introduce an APP in the future that will give live information.**

## 253 The Neighbourhood Plan

253.1 The draft of the Green Infrastructure Plan has been circulated to all. Following a discussion it was

### **RESOLVED**

**That FPC would adopt the plan.**

## 254 Public Art Money (S106)

254.1 Councillors Dack and Mitchinson met with Julia Scott, CBC to discuss the new proposals. At present there is a difference of opinion what Public Art includes. Councillors Dack and Mitchinson to have a further meeting with Julia Scott. **Action: BD / PM**

## 255 Transferring Community Hall to FPC

255.1 Templars Building Surveyors Limited met with Linden Homes on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and there is still outstanding works and no timescales fixed.

## 256 Fairfield Hall

256.1 The Directors of FHMC are meeting Sally Wileman on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

256.2 The Directors of FHMC have sent their case to the Ombudsman.

## 257 Planning Applications

257.1 New development on the former Pig Unit site – The generic title is ‘Fairfield Place’. Street names were discussed and it was agreed that FPC would like the Victorian Theme being continued. The clerk to advise Campbell and Buchanan and Peter Keats, CBC. **Action: KH**

257.2 CB/15/04561/VOC Former Pig Unit, Hitchin Road.  
Variation of Condition to planning permission CB/14/04048/FULL (Erection of 116 dwellings and a 70 bedroom care home with access, parking, open space and ancillary works):  
Condition wording.  
FPC has no objections.

257.3 CB/15/04320/OUT Land to the rear and side of East Lodge, Hitchin Road.  
Outline Application: 18 No. dormer bungalows on area of open land.  
FPC has no objections to the proposal based on the information supplied.  
At a planning meeting to discuss the application residents made FPC aware of the following concerns which we hope CBC will note and consider when further more detailed proposals are available.

- Concern regarding the access to the site. Eliot Way is very narrow, has little in the way of adequate street lighting or footpaths. Adequate car parking must be provided within the site as any overspill onto Eliot Way would be a huge problem.
- The provision of 18 bungalows would seem to be the correct density for the site and its location. However, if the principle of residential is approved any change to the house type and increase in numbers would be unacceptable.
- Concern that the extending of the settlement boundary for this scheme is not just the start of further expansion in the future.
- Concern that any S106 agreement or individual agreement tied to the site is adequately worded in a way that is enforceable.
- Concern that the proposals noted in the ecological assessment are implemented.

257.4 CB/15/04801/FULL Fairfield Park Lower School  
Retention of temporary classroom unit with new lean-to canopy.  
FPC has no objections to the application.

- 257.5 CB/15/04759/FULL 1 Paxton Drive  
Single storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory.  
FPC has no objections to the application.

## 258 Planning Decisions

- 258.1 CB/15/03182/FULL Former Pig Unit, Hitchin Road  
131 dwellings with access, parking, landscaping, open space and associated works  
CBC granted full planning permission 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015.
- 258.2 CB/15/04290/FULL 19 Fleming Drive  
Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension  
CBC granted full planning permission 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

## 259 Finance

- 259.1 Bank Account  
It was agreed that FPC will open two new bank accounts. The chairman and clerk to investigate. **Action: BD / KH**
- 259.2 Receipts and Payments  
Councillors were provided with payments totally £3,644.00 and receipts totally £413.09. It was  
**RESOLVED**  
**That all monies on the payments list be paid and receipts be noted.**

## 260 Correspondence

- 260.1 CBC – Budget 2016 consultation which is open until Monday 8th February.
- 260.2 BAPTC - The Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons.

## 261 Any other business

*This is for exchange of information only. No decisions or actions can be agreed at this time.*

- 261.1 The broken street lights on Hitchin Road are scheduled to be repaired by CBC February 2016.
- 261.2 The Emergency Plan training session is 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
- 261.3 The next joint meeting with the Resident / Management Companies is 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016.
- 261.4 The APM is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

## 262 Date of next meeting

- 262.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm