

Minutes of the meeting of Fairfield Parish Council held in Fairfield Community Hall on Thursday 10th November 2016 at 7:30 pm

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

Officer present: Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk)

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Ward Member Councillor S Dixon and six members of the public.

158 Apologies for Absence

158.1 Apologies were received from Ward Member Councillor B Saunders.

159 Disclosures of Interest and Dispensation requests

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

160 Council Minutes

160.1 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th October 2016 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.

161 Public Participation

161.1 No members of the Public requested to speak.

162 Central Bedfordshire Council Ward Members Report

162.1 Budget 2017/17 – Currently being discussed.

162.2 Allotments, Recreation Space and Cemetery – A new Assistant Director of Assets has been appointed and Councillor Dixon will arrange a meeting between CBC and FPC shortly to discuss these items.

162.3 Community Planning – The Arlesey, Stotfold, Fairfield session is scheduled for 9th February 2017. Councillor Mitchinson has accepted an after from Councillor Dixon to attend the Biggleswade event on 16th November to gain an insight into the process.

162.4 Travellers on A507 – Section 77 being delivered to court Friday 11th November. Travellers should be gone by Monday.

162.5 Refuse handling at the Hall – The compactor will be replaced by bins which will be emptied more regularly.

162.6 Update of Postal Address – Councillor Dixon is meeting with the Rt Hon Alistair Burt, MP and will ask him to take this issue to the House of Commons.

You stated at the public meeting on 22 August that CBC would commission a report by a specialist consultant. Has this been done and if so where is the report?

The Pollution team contacted a number of consultants to enquire if they would be able to provide expert advice regarding odour abatement, best practice, practical solutions and implementation costs for the sewage treatment works. Only one of the consultants was able to provide a quotation and they were only able to deliver part of the work required, in addition the costs involved were very expensive. Given that Anglian water have made a number of changes on site and have commenced their own monitoring in the meantime (more details on this below) CBC has not pursued this avenue further at this stage.

Since that meeting Anglian Water have made changes to odour control at the site with the installation of a new bloodhound odour neutralising system which gave greater coverage of the raw sludge tank which was completed with all extra nozzles installed on 21st October 2016.

Anglian Water have also held an internal site meeting at Letchworth Sewage Treatment Works with staff from a number of teams present to consider the odour emissions and look at longer term solutions.

Anglian Water identified during site monitoring that a sludge incoming pipe is a potential source of high odour because the pipe discharges above the height of the stored sludge. They have placed an order to extend the sludge tank incoming pipe so that the tank is less turbid when being filled. This should be completed in the next 4 weeks.

Anglian Water have also installed odour loggers at the treatment works to monitor gas emissions at source to enable this information to be analysed and any further mitigation works to be targeted to areas where they would be most effective.

How many meetings have CBC environmental health officers had with Anglian Water?

There have been three onsite meetings and regular contact has also been made through emails and telephone conversations.

How many times have environmental health officers visited the Letchworth WRC?

As above officers have also undertaken 36 proactive monitoring visits in areas of Fairfield Park many of these included monitoring at the Sewage Treatment Works boundary.

What has been the result of their visits?

Of the 36 monitoring visits medium to strong sewage odour was witnessed on 7 occasions. Barely perceptible/slight odour on 7 occasions and no odour was witnessed on the other 22 visits. No odour has been witnessed by officers since the new odour neutralising system was installed on 21st October 2016. Smell complaints on 31st October were as a result of bio solids spreading at Radwell Farm and not the Sewage Treatment Works. Officers investigated the complaints and the farmer ploughed the bio solids in within 24 hours in accordance with best practice.

What action are the EHO's/CBC proposing to take against the site?

CBC has asked residents to contact them to monitor when the smell is present at their property to establish if the smell amounts to a statutory nuisance under The Environmental Protection Act 1990. To date CBC has not witnessed sewage odour within residents' property.

CBC will continue to liaise with Anglian Water regarding the results and analysis of the onsite odour logging and medium term plans to reduce odour emissions.

Have Anglia Water been challenged about the potential effect of their discard for the best environmental solution because of cost?

Officers have enquired if the sludge digesters would be reinstated and Anglian Water have advised that the end product from this process will soon not be permitted to be spread on most agricultural land and therefore a strategic decision has been made to stop sludge digestion at Letchworth STW. As discussed above Anglian Water have implemented some odour control measures on site and have installed odour loggers to investigate the main sources of the odours with a view to identifying a longer term solution.

Anglia Water's current procedure, as we understand it, is to simply release methane gas from sewage into the environment instead of collecting and burning it or selling it for other energy generation uses. Can CBC state categorically that there will be absolutely no risk from this crude process to the health of children who attend the new school to be built next to the sewage works?

The Health and Safety of employees at the Sewage Treatment Works and for the general public that may be affected by the conduct of the STW operations is a matter that is actually enforced by The Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Therefore the HSE may best be contacted regarding these concerns. See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/contact.htm>

CBC has also contacted Anglian Water regarding resident's requests to have gas logging equipment installed at Fairfield Park. Their response is that this is something that they are currently looking into. They have made enquiries with the company who supplied the onsite odour loggers and although they said it can be done they did raise the point that the units used to log odour gas are not reliable at such low levels and they may not give a true picture of the levels of gas in the residential area. The units can read to below 1ppm but become less reliable the lower the level becomes. Anglian Water will continue to look into the possibility of monitoring for odour issues in the estate.

It should be noted that the nose can detect very low levels of gases in air for example the World Health Organisation have stated that the average odour threshold for Hydrogen Sulphide in humans is 0.011 mg/m³ which is 0.000011 parts per million. Hydrogen Sulphide is a sewer gas often associated with a "rotten egg" smell. This raises a concern that gas logging equipment may not accurately report any gases that may be smelt by residents.

Councillor Dixon agreed to ask the following questions:-

Why are loggers only onsite and not in Fairfield?

Does CBC have a contingency plan if the school is not ready for 2017? **Action: SD**

- 162.8 Beeton Court – Residents still have water leaking into their homes and has now been a problem for over three years. There was an enforcement notice issued by CBC but this was withdrawn as the work was scheduled to be done. Councillor Dixon agreed to investigate. **Action: SD**

163 Orchards

- 163.1 FPC awaited a revised draft maintenance plan from BRCC.

- 163.2 Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED

To award the contract to Colin Carpenter for the restoration and remedial pruning of the fruit trees in the orchards.

REASON

- For continuity as Colin Carpenter did the work last year (FPC received three tenders and Colin's was the most competitive price and best value).
- Price remained akin with last year's quotation.

- 163.3 All councillors had been circulated proposals for the initial maintenance works. It was agreed to schedule a volunteer session on Sunday 11th December for re-planting and making the base of trees safe from rabbits and other small creatures. It was also agreed that Sunday 12th February and Sunday 5th March will be the workshops for the volunteer section of the winter work. These dates to be advertised with an appeal for volunteers. **Action: BD**

- 163.4 Now MBS have rough cleared the newly acquired area near Hardy Way it was agreed to seek quotations to tidy the area up. **Action: BD/ NH**

- 163.5 A budget of £12k was agreed for works to orchards over the next twelve months.

- 163.6 A budget of £10k was agreed for clearance and ongoing work of the new area.

164 Transfer of land from Hotbed

164.1 As a result of the letter from FPC to E&J Estates it has confirmed that Hotbed do not wish to dispose of their freehold interest in the Cricket and Bowls clubs. Blandy and Blandy has also received draft papers with a note stating it was all far from complete. Blandy and Blandy supplied FPC with a report and some questions. These were discussed and it was agreed

- Areas 2a, b and 3 need to be revised to take into account scrub land and car parks.
- Areas 4 and 5 need to have footpath added and Icknield House removed.
- Area 12 is correct.
- Area 13 needs to be defined.

It was agreed for FPC to meet with FHMC Directors and representatives from Hotbed (if possible) to agree boundaries. **Action: KH**

It was agreed for FPC to meet with Cricket Club. **Action: KH**

It was agreed to ask Blandy and Blandy for a detailed plan to get the cricket ground changed to Village Green status. **Action: BD**

165 Three Counties Hospital memorabilia

165.1 A list of artefacts was circulated to all councillors and this memorabilia is being sold at a price of £4,750. Following a discussion and vote (5 in favour. 2 abstained) it was

RESOLVED

That FPC should purchase this memorabilia at the cost of £4,750.

REASON

It is part of the history of Fairfield and should remain in Fairfield.

Councillor Jones to lead the project with the support of Councillors Bidwell and Dack. Storage and insurance will need to be investigated. **Action: SJ / CB / BD**

The clerk to arrange purchase of the memorabilia and add to asset register. **Action: KH**

166 No Through Road Sign corner of Hardy Way and Livingstone Way

166.1 CBC think that it just requires an ahead directional sign at the Dickens Boulevard roundabout to show motorists that Arlesey is not via the estate. A sign at Hardy Way / Livingstone Way is too late as vehicles will already be at that point. CBC want to prevent it before they enter the development. There are 'No Through Road' signs at the other two entrances so CBC do not think any more signs are required there. CBC would suggest two signs at Dickens Boulevard. Estimated costs are £500 installed. FPC want a sign that clearly states no access to Arlesey. Councillor Dixon to enquire what Highways will allow (design, wording, sizes and location). **Action: SD**

Councillors Bidwell and Dack to look at options for signage on private land. **Action: CB / BD**

167 Complaints Policy

167.1 It was agreed that Councillor Mitchinson would talk to CBC for guidance on an adding vexatious complaints policy to FPC existing complaints policy. **Action: PM**

168 Christmas Tree Collection Point

168.1 It was agreed to offer this service again this year. Councillor Dack to arrange advertisement and liaise with MBS. **Action: BD**

169 Neighbourhood Plan

169.1 Final submission made. All documentation with CBC. Confirmation of final consultation dates awaited.

170 Dog Control Orders

170.1 Councillor Mitchinson is meeting CBC on 11th November.

171 Dickens Boulevard Roundabout

171.1 Contract to remove the ivy was placed with MBS. Waiting for work to be done.

172 Christmas Tree Lights

172.1 Lights will be on from Friday 2nd December.

173 Additional parking spaces at Kipling Crescent

173.1 FRL has refused permission to carry out works at the moment.

174 Lights on footpath alongside Cricket pitch

174.1 Lights have been installed but some residents do not feel they adequately light the path or offer additional security. The lights were installed just as a way finder and are the same lights as on West Drive. The lights appear to be working properly but FPC will monitor and will contact the manufacturer if necessary.

175 20mph speed limit

175.1 Works delayed until week commencing 12th December.

176 Western Bridleway

176.1 Work has been delayed until the new year as scaffolding for a nearby extension is due to be erected 9th November and is planned to be up for 4 weeks. Although the scaffolding won't encroach directly onto the path working area (apart from the location of the staggered barrier to be created), it will be within just a metre or so of where the contractor would be needing to use machinery for excavation.

177 Planning Applications

177.1 CB/16/03885/OUT Land at East Orchard

Outline Application: 18 No. 2 storey family houses on area of open land, former gravel workings, to the north west of the junction of Hitchin Road and Eliot Way.

The applicant has provided insufficient information with regard to highway impact / access arrangements and as such, the parish council objects to the application on the grounds of insufficient information having been provided and potential severe cumulative impacts upon highway safety and the free flow of traffic.

177.2 CB/16/04272/FULL Former Pig Development

Erection of a care home (Use Class C2) with access, car parking, amenity space, landscaping and other associated works.

FPC had no objections.

177.3 CB/16/04484/FULL 37 Palmerston Way.

Single storey rear extension and raised terrace area.

FPC had no objections.

177.4 CB/16/04733/FULL 29 Copperfield Close.

Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of enlarges single storey side extension.

- 177.5 **CB/16/04773/FULL 1 Franklin Place**
Double storey side (west) extension including additional single storey extension (east) for installation.
- 177.6 **CB CB/16/04317/FULL12 Salisbury Close**
Incorporate existing veranda area into kitchen
- 177.7 **CB/TRE/16/00440 Fairfield Orchards**
Works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

178 Planning Decisions

- 178.1 **CB/16/04215/FULL 25 Dickens Boulevard**
Proposed single storey rear extension, permitted development rights removed from this property.
Application withdrawn 29th September 2016
- 178.2 **CB/16/04044/FULL 101 Bronte Avenue**
Proposed single storey rear extension and loft conversion with velux windows to front and rear.
CBC granted full planning permission 20th October 2016

179 Finance

179.1 Payments

To whom	Description	Total
Katrina Henshaw	October salary	£525.24
HMRC	October tax	£131.40
EE	October mobile phone	£44.98
MBS	Grass verges - October	£706.00
MBS	Dog bins - October	£38.40
MBS	Grass outside Community Hall - October	£64.99
MBS	Fleming Drive - October	£38.00
MBS	Salisbury Close - October	£32.50
MBS	West Orchard	£276.00
MBS	West Orchard	£120.00
Bob Lever	Orchard - Tree survey	£208.00
Now	Updated to Neighbourhood Plan documents	£150.00
Falco	Solar lights to footpath by cricket club	£2,712.00
Total		£5,047.51

It was

RESOLVED

That payments of £5,047.51 be paid.

- 179.2 Precept 2017/18 – To be agreed at December meeting. All councillors to supply the clerk with estimated costs of projects. Councillor Mitchinson and the clerk to draft a proposal. **Action: All**

180 Correspondence

- 180.1 **CBC – Consultation on admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools from the academic year 2018/2019.** The consultation period runs from 17th October – 2nd December 2016.
- 180.2 **CBC – Consultation on payphone removal.** Responses to CBC by 15th November 2016. Details of the payphones potentially affected are on CBC website.

180.3 **Blandy and Blandy** – Land registry has requested the approximate value of the land that has been transferred to FPC from PJ Livesey. FPC to ask CBC and/or the District Valuer to provide a valuation and add land to asset register. **Action: PM /KH**

181 Date of next meeting

181.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 8th December 2016 at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm