

Longstanton Parish Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council, held at Longstanton
Longstanton Village Hall, Longstanton on Monday 12 July 2021 at 7.35pm.

Present: Cllr de la Mare-Lyon (Chairman), Cllr Baker, Cllr AM Brash-Hall, Cllr Dickens, Cllr Ferreira, Cllr Roman, Cllr Street, Cllr Wycherley.
District Cllr Cheung Johnson
Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

In attendance: 2 members of the public.

21-22/42 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors and Public to the meeting

21-22/43 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Burns (out of parish), Cllr McPhater (health) and Cllr T Brash-Hall (out of parish).

Apologies were received from County Cllr Thompson (self-isolating).

21-22/44 Councillors' Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda:

Cllr Dickens declared a possible interest in item 49e.

Requests to speak: None.

To receive requests for dispensations: None.

Grant of dispensations: None.

21-22/45 Public Participation Session (10 min)

A member of the public outlined his objections to the application for the Phase 2A Northstowe Design Amendment, due to concerns including flooding and drainage issues, and unresolved issues regarding greenways. He highlighted the problem of hydraulic continuity whereby the levels of water in the lakes would rise and fall according to the water levels in the River Terrace Deposits aquifer. The lakes were only designed to hold surface water, and there could be consequent problems for the surrounding area. In addition, he queried whether Anglian Water should be managing the pumping structure for the drainage ponds, and whether this aspect had been considered. He commented that the overall plans for surface water drainage had never been approved by SCDC and expressed the hope that the Parish Council would oppose the application.

21-22/46 Approval of Minutes

a) To approve the minutes from the meeting held on 14 June 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 14 June 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop AW, 2nd JF, unanimous)

b) Matters to report from previous minutes

(21-22/34 b) Meeting with SCDC regarding HR Wallingford report Part 3

It was noted that SCDC were still working on the old planning applications for Northstowe Phase 1 and it would take them a while to go through these. An update is to be sought from Liz Watts this week.

21-22/36 b) Laptops for the School

The Council is to check whether the invoices have yet been received.

21-22/47

Planning

- a) Review and formalise a response to SCDC regarding planning applications at Fews Lane
RESOLVED that the final edits to the draft response would be sent to the Clerk this week, for submission to SCDC along with photographs. (Prop AMB, 2nd BB, unanimous)
- b) 21/02585/S73 – Phase 2A Northstowe Design amendment to layout, appearance, scale, access and landscaping of the age-restricted accommodation as part of the approved reserved matters scheme approved under reference S/3499/19/RM
This application will be discussed at the Northstowe Community Forum. The covering paperwork was laid out clearly and the material changes to buildings were not too onerous, relating to light and space for sheltered housing.
RESOLVED with regard to the water report, that the Parish Council supports the views of Northstowe Town Council and that all members should review their comments and submit them accordingly. (Prop BB, 2nd JF, carried with 1 abstention)
- c) 21/02898/HFUL – 12 Ladywalk – Single storey front and rear extensions and garage conversion
RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the application. (Prop BB, 2nd AW, unanimous)
- d) To note SCDC planning decision notices received since the last meeting
- i) 20/02188/CONDA – Ryecroft Nursery, Station Road - Conditions 3 (Foul water drainage) and 4 (Surface water drainage) of 20/02188/S73 – Permission granted.
- ii) 21/01772/HFUL – 7 Magdalene Close – Single storey front extension – Permission granted.
- iii) 21/01676/FUL – Avalon, Station Road – Erection of replacement stable yard and manege, Change of Use to equine – Permission granted.
- iv) 21/01977/FUL – Avalon, Station Road – Erection of replacement dwelling and adjoining garage – Permission granted.

21-22/48

County and District Council Matters

- a) To receive the report from the County and District Councillors
District Cllr Cheung Johnson conveyed the apologies of County Cllr Thompson, who was self-isolating.

RESOLVED to receive the report. The Parish Council had previously asked to receive separate reports from the District and County Councillors and also queried the lack of a handover between the previous and current County Councillors.
- Wilson’s Road Bridleway
Many concerns had been raised about the proposals to change the surfacing of the Wilsons Road Bridleway to a layered surface composed of various materials, and covered by grass. This was considered to be completely unsuitable for horses and for road cyclists alike. The route would be a single shared surface and would not be multi-use for parts of its length. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of a proper cycle route; the impact on inclusivity as the surface was not suitable for all users; the covering of lovely countryside with tarmac, and the cost of the surfacing, which was new to Cambridgeshire. The Council highlighted the lack of consultation as the route was in Longstanton and the village was entitled to be consulted. There was a lack of information on maintenance. Residents were very concerned at the potential increase in traffic and that Wilson’s Road, much of which was unadopted, would increasingly be used for parking and would become a main thoroughfare. The new surface could encourage an increase in use by scooters and motorcycles.
The proposals did not reflect the views of the recent meeting between CCC and other interested parties. It was understood that CCC was awaiting further information, after which a final decision would be made.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should raise these objections with the County Council, and that an extra-ordinary meeting could be called if necessary, to challenge the proposals.

District Cllr Cheung Johnson arrived during this item.

The Parish Council reiterated its request that the District and County Councillors' reports be submitted separately.

The Council conveyed the willingness of the former County Councillor to undertake a handover with the new County Councillor.

Feedback on the A14 had been collated and sent to County Cllr Thompson.

- b) SCDC – Statement of Gambling Principles Consultation
Noted. The machines in the Pavilion were the tenant's responsibility. The Parish Council did not believe the changes would have a major impact on the village.
- c) Local Highways Improvement Bid
The Parish Council sought more guidance regarding the type of project preferred and the costs of different types of schemes.
Cllr Cheung Johnson suggested contacting another Parish Council which had been successful in the past.
RESOLVED that in the future the Community Engagement working group could ask residents what type of improvement schemes they would prefer.
The Prentice Close Residents' Association had asked that free-standing signs by the School be upgraded as they could be blown over. Cllr Cheung Johnson is to check the cost and eligibility of this suggestion.
- d) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan consultation
The following comments were made:
The Rampton Drift bridleway, connecting up with the Guided Busway, was not really suitable for cyclists, wheelchair users or horses, due to the surface which was currently inadequate. The Parish Council would prefer a suitable surface for all kinds of users and that the bridleway be aligned with Wilson's Road and the B1050 cycleway.
The tarmac surface was slippery when frosty. Four different surfaces were being used in that area.
Clarification on the end of the road would be welcomed. The concrete chicanes were difficult for bikes to negotiate and there was poor visibility.
Comments are to be passed to the Clerk.
- 21-22/49 Parish Council Matters**
- a. To consider and sign the Central Open Space Transfer Papers (if received from the solicitor)
The transfer papers had not yet been received.
- b. To receive and consider the tree survey report
A query was raised about the severing of ivy. RESOLVED to clarify with the authors of the report how the ivy is to be managed and whether the recommended action would kill it. RESOLVED to check when would be the best time of year for the works with regard to the impact on nesting birds and habitats.
Trees on the Home Farm Road – RESOLVED that Brookfield Groundcare are to be asked to carry out the necessary work.
Quotations could also be sought from other contractors.
RESOLVED that Cllr Wycherley should look at the budget. The tree report will receive further consideration at the Finance Committee meeting next week.
- c. To consider the risk assessments and consider any works required
RESOLVED to note that the broken glass in the telephone kiosk glass had been removed.
RESOLVED to receive the two reports from members on works required.

RESOLVED to note that the base of the old water pump in St Michaels appears to be wobbly and should be fastened to the ground. This will be considered along with other works identified when all the risk assessments have been completed.

RESOLVED that the Chairman should re-send the forms and that guidance should be provided on the type of report required and what to include.

- d) To consider arrangements for litter picking and litter bin emptying
RESOLVED that Brookfield Groundcare should be asked to empty the bins twice a week at a cost of £16 per week.
RESOLVED to ask the Co-op and the fish and chip shop if they would be willing to sponsor the emptying of one of the bins on the green and that the village should cover the cost of the other one.
RESOLVED to investigate the option of a bin with three sections to encourage recycling, possibly located at the Pavilion.
The Parish Council recorded its thanks to Cllr Ferreira for emptying the bins.
- e) To consider Village Handyman position
RESOLVED, given that the previous handyman had retired and other Parish Councils did not have sufficient capacity to share a handyman, that after the position regarding the bin emptying had been resolved, Cllr A Brash-Hall should draft an advertisement and that the Chairman should advertise the post locally and in Longstanton Life.
On a proposition by the Chairman, the next two items were taken together.
- f) HR Wallingford Phase 3 Final Report including all comments and
g) Consider any updates on Phase 3 report from HR Wallingford and the associated investigation
The Chairman and Cllr A Brash-Hall had met Liz Watts and Mike Huntington of SCDC to try to find a way forward. SCDC are reviewing all the Phase 1 paperwork with regard to the dewatering position and will report back on whether actions had been carried out as required and in accordance with the planning application.
RESOLVED that the Chairman should chase SCDC for an updated report on the information requested, on receipt of which the Parish Council will consider the next steps.
SCDC had been supportive of the Parish Council's position.
- h) Update on Hatton Road Ponds
The Chairman and Cllr Wycherley reported on a discussion with SCDC regarding the ponds.
The background to the development of the ponds was outlined. This was to be in three phases, namely the built section of the ponds, the water courses between them and the landscaping around them. The developer wished to pass on responsibility for all three phases.
Phase 1 had not been built in accordance with the agreed plans as it had an outfall 10 cm higher than the designs, although this was good for wildlife. A hydraulic review was required by SCDC. The developer wished to pass on the responsibility for the ponds as silt builds up and clearance is costly; however, this issue was not mentioned in the original planning permission. SCDC had not committed to taking on the ponds and waterways.
The Parish Council had declined to take on responsibility for the ponds and the waterways but had expressed an interest in taking on the landscapes. However, the developers were now intending to route the cycleway through the land, which was cheaper than routing it alongside the B1050 as originally planned. This would make the landscape closer to the character of a country park, rather than a wildlife habitat as originally envisaged. The phase 3 landscaping had not been carried out. The Parish Council would have to raise any objections at the planning stage.
Whilst the ponds had not been built to the specification, the developers wanted SCDC to accept them as they were. However, following the decision being challenged, the parties were

reluctant to cover the high costs of the hydraulic report required. The Parish Council asked whether the difference in outfall would make a difference to the risk of flooding, and felt there should be confirmation of the impact on the flood risk as it would want to be confident the departures from the original plans would not adversely affect the residents and the village, or that any surge event might result in water being drained out into the brook.

A suggestion was made that the village be asked whether they wished to retain the landscape or access to it. The Parish Council needed to decide at what stage it should become involved and state its views to SCDC.

RESOLVED that Cllr Wycherley should circulate his notes of the meeting with an update on the comments and that a discussion on the next steps should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

i) Proposal to replace dog bins on High Street near the Bull and Prentice Close
RESOLVED to ask SCDC who owns the bins and ask whether they will replace them free of charge.

j) MAGPAS – Request for funding
RESOLVED to check the budget and how much the Parish Council donated last year, and defer this item to the next meeting.

21-22/50 **Employment matters**

a) To consider the appointment of a Clerk and RFO
No members of the public remained.
RESOLVED to prepare an information pack, based on the Northstowe pack. The role is to be advertised through CAPALC and locally in the village.
RESOLVED to check the position with CAPALC regarding the Parish Council retaining its General Power of Competence and to seek written confirmation of the position.

21-22/51 **Correspondence (for information only)**
It was noted that various items of correspondence had been received and circulated to Councillors since the last meeting.
Thanks were expressed to the Locum Clerk for forwarding the correspondence.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

SignedChairmandate.
