

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Tuesday 23rd June 2020, via virtual Zoom meeting online

Present: S Lander (SL) (Chair), J Dolan (JD) (Vice-Chair), E Pyle (EP) (Councillor), T Houlihane (TSH) (Councillor), K Cullen (KC) (Councillor)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk/RFO), Cllr L Harford (LH) (County Councillor), Cllr D Delacey (DDL) (District Councillor), Cllr T Bygott (TB) (District Councillor), 1 member of the public

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

SEM received an apology from Cllr Peck

2. To Accept Parish Councillors Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda

Cllr Dolan declared an interest under Matters for Discussion/correspondence received: Item 8 i)

3. To Agree to hold a Public Forum

No items were raised by the public

4. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2020

Minutes were approved by DDPC as a true and accurate copy of the meeting, to be signed when able.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes, Report of any actions and Resolutions from last meeting – See Appendix 1

- a. Ongoing issue
- b. SL confirmed that following agreement at the last parish council meeting he submitted the 2020/21 LHI application for the Oak Crescent area.
- c. Ongoing issue – SL did confirm that highways are to carry out works down Park Lane and to clear mud in the gutter.
- d. Ongoing issue
- e. SL advised that as councillor training is currently being carried out virtually, he believes it is more convenient for councillors to attend. JD advised that he may not be able to attend the virtual training session on 4th July and will re-arrange directly with CAPALC. SL requested that KC attends a session, KC to review dates available.
- f. Discussed under Item 8. f)
- g. SL advised that previous and new signatories are required to resolve this item, therefore action cannot be taken until after the pandemic. SEM has provided EP with the link to register for online banking.
- h. Duplication of Item 5. c.
- i. Ongoing issue
- j. Ongoing issue
- k. JD advised that the allotments rates have now been announced in the newsletter and the resident who manages the allotment has been advised directly. JD confirmed that 6-7 people have volunteered for works required at the Drift so a date for works is needed, JD has not yet had a response from the landowner regarding the hedge so he will follow that up.
- l. Ongoing issue
- m. SL advised that this item should now be removed, if future issues arise, they should be reported to the enforcement team.
- n. There was no update from the Community Support Group
- o. Covered under Item 8. a) – still awaiting an update from A14 legacy fund
- p. This is the same item as 5. b.
- q. TSH advised he is still to arrange a meeting with a Local Highways Officer.
- r. SEM has produced an up to date risk assessment and forwarded to the chairman, SL has reviewed and approved the document – **Action** - Clerk to circulate to all councillors for formal agreement at the next parish council meeting.

KC highlighted concern over rubbish being burnt on bonfires in the village, SL suggested an item be placed in newsletter. SEM advised of a reporting tool on SCDC website, KC advised that it had been previously reported through this tool.

6. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors

LH – see Appendix 3 – LH requested support groups that have committed time and energy during the Covid-19 crisis to try to continue to stay in touch with residents in case of a second wave. LH highlighted that from 29th June in order to visit Milton household recycling centre a booked time slot will be required. LH has liaised with Highways regarding the ongoing issue of the village gate and they have confirmed that they will replace it and LH assumes the Dry Drayton village sign also, however, LH has agreed with the Local Highways Officer that works will not be carried out immediately until there is an outcome as to whether the landowner agrees to release a little piece of land that is required for the cycleway. SL asked LH for progress on the cycle path acquisition, LH advised that she has had to hand back to the agents due to numerous unsuccessful attempts to make contact for negotiations directly, however, she did reassure DDPC that the money is still allocated for the project.

DDL – see Appendix 4. SL asked DDL if there was an outcome to the planning consultation and DDL advised that it has been discussed by several committees and changes are more or less the same system as under the previous administration; legalising to ensure an officer and not a non-executive councillor is taking the final decision as to whether an issue goes to committee or is delegated to officers.

TB – see Appendix 5 – TB highlighted a previous discussion where DDPC have opposed the proposal for the Scotland Road Park & Ride (SRPR), TB confirmed he has made this case for DDPC and believes the best solution is a number of car parks along the route and not one gigantic car park at Scotland Road. Secondly, another issue TB highlighted was the unpopular proposal of cutting down 3,000 trees in Hardwick and the attempt to find an alternative solution to go between St Neots Road and the A428, TB suggested the logical solution would be the other side of the A428 on farmland, SL highlighted the loss of rural amenity that this would create for Dry Drayton. TB emphasised three options to this issue - to go where trees are, next to a major artery road or to cut through the middle of countryside. SL agreed with the options but again highlighted the loss of rural amenity for Dry Drayton and how it is being squeezed on both sides.

LH queried a funding application for DDPC for active travel which at the time included consideration of the SRPR before it was on hold and if DDPC would like her to amend the application to an alternative route that gives better access to the NMU and other parts of the village. SL advised that the link to Scotland Road should still be pursued as it would serve a purpose to get to Hardwick and beyond in the future, LH to pursue with what she currently has as DDPC feel it is still useful cycle access. TB highlighted that a link would be useful to the blue bridge, KC agreed as it is a bridleway already that follows the stream from the A428 down towards the church and it would be great if this was a flat surface for cycling. **Action** – LH to investigate and apply and ask DDPC if assistance is required.

7. To Discuss Planning Matters

Remote decisions on planning applications were made via email and voting records retained.

a. Applications received for consideration

i. **20/02159/FUL – Cambridge City Crematorium, Huntingdon Road CB3 0JJ – New surface car park accessed directly from new access road and new single storey café building with associated landscaping scheme – comments by 24/06/20**

TB left the meeting at this item.

Firstly, SL proposed objecting to this application by reason of loss of rural amenity attributable to a car park and full-scale café being proposed which would be visible from Dry Drayton especially when walking from Beck Brook. TSH advised that the Landscape Consultation Response for the application had been unsupportive on similar grounds advising that proposals should enhance the landscape, parked cars should not be visible and that more landscaping would be required. All councillors agreed to the objection – RESOLVED. TSH suggested that although DDPC object it should still be advised what should be done if the application does proceed such as including electric car charging points which TSH believes all new buildings should have and for the exterior view to be landscaped, all councillors agreed. **Action** – Clerk to object with comments discussed.

- b. **Decisions received from South Cambs District Council**
 - i. **20/01830/FUL – Duck End Farmhouse, Park Lane CB23 8DB – Erection of detached double garage with storage – Granted – condition to be imposed to ensure that the building remains for storage purposes**
 - ii. **20/01635/PRI03Q – Rectory Farm, New Road – Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion – Prior Approval Granted**
 - iii. **20/1204/TTPO - St Giles Cricket Club Scotland Road - (Site Visit Pending) TPO 0015 (1966) A9: T2 - Elm - Fell to ground level (reason: due to the recent storms). (Note: T1 Poplar has no statutory protection)**
 - iv. **20/1315/TTPO - 5 Scotland Road – Tree works**
- 8. Matters for discussion/correspondence received**
- a. **To discuss the proposal from CCC regarding the road scheme for which DDPC successfully received LHI funding for 2020/21**
SL advised that as DDPC's proposal is for a small scheme it should progress quite rapidly once a response is received from the A14 team. SL has liaised with Pam Hobson and is still awaiting a reply, but he will chase if no correspondence is received soon.
 - b. **To review email received from Joshua Rutherford (Highways) re: MVAS LHI details**
SL advised that he has completed the MVAS LHI details and Joshua Rutherford now has all he requires.
DDL left the meeting after this item.
 - c. **SL to discuss email sent to Pam Hobson re: 2020/21 legacy fund and if an update has been received**
Covered under Item 8. a.
 - d. **To discuss scheme of delegation email received from Cllr Bridget Smith re: SCDC planning**
TB has discussed this item at a previous meeting. **Action** – SL to contact TB for an update.
 - e. **For information - GCP Executive Board meeting on 25th June 2020 re: Cambourne to Cambridge report cancelled.**
SL advised that although there was nothing to report or do in relation to this item it is still a concern as in previous months there has been collaboration with other parish councils which DDPC were not part of and if DDPC have the opportunity to join groups they should take part in order to communicate.
 - f. **To discuss response to clerk's email sent to highways re: paths/grass on 'listed to cut'**
SL advised that many paths in the parish are currently unkempt, although no cuts were made in May in order for wildflowers to grow, however, cuts now need to be arranged. SL advised that he would be happy to use equipment owned by DDPC but first DDPC need to find out what areas of the parish are on the 'listed to cut' by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). Clerk advised that she emailed James Broder for this information, then Julie Skinner who forwarded the email to Denis Vacher on 16th June 2020 and as yet no response has been received. LH advised that she would be able to assist and follow up and requested that she is copied into any emails of this nature in the future. LH did highlight Highways are struggling at the moment and there may be some delays as many employees have been redeployed during the Covid-19 crisis. **Action** – Clerk to forward email to LH
 - g. **To discuss email received from Stephen Kelly re :planning conditions on construction hours**
SL stated that he believes that this would not currently be a problem for Dry Drayton although the Pettitts Lane development could be a potential problem zone to be monitored.
 - h. **To discuss allotment fencing**
SL & JD conducted a site meeting at the village allotments due to a problem previously reported relating to deer ruining the site. JD advised that he observed the fencing from both the inside and outside and concluded that if money and time were spent on the inside of the fence deer would still get through. SL highlighted that this a problem that has been squeezed along from further up to this section of fencing and outside fencing would be the best solution as it would be too big a job to carry out inside and there would be a loss of habitat.

JD proposed that 50 metres of fencing at a height of around 5ft outside would be an effective solution to prevent deer jumping, however, this would require a discussion with the landowner (PX Farms) and some land may need to be cleared too. SL proposed that DDPC would have to pay around £100.00 for the fencing and arrange erection, all councillors agreed – RESOLVED. **Action** – JD to forward over photos to send with a letter to the landowner requesting permission for the new fencing.

JD left the meeting due to a declaration of interest in the next item.

i. To discuss and approve document from UK Power Networks in relation to schedule of works for electricity supply change at the allotments

SL advised that he has emailed UK Power Networks (UKPN) with six questions relating to this proposal but unfortunately only three questions have been answered (SL has circulated the email to councillors). UKPN have given DDPC 21 days from 6th June 2020 to respond to their correspondence and sign an agreement, however, SL advised that DDPC have more questions than answers and therefore DDPC are unable to decide. **Action** - SL is to contact UKPN for answers and clarification on outstanding matters and then to circulate to councillors for approval. JD re-joined the meeting.

j. Footpaths and trees and to consider the following:

i. Arrangement of a working party in regard to works needed at The Drift - footpath/cycleway

This was discussed under Item 5. k.

ii. To discuss paths in the parish and Park Street Green – byelaws regarding parked cars and cyclists using footpaths

SL advised that he was involved in an email regarding concerns over cyclists using parts of the parish particularly in relation to Long Lane. There had been an organised event using the footpath from the corner of Pettitts Lane to Oakington Road which may have been acceptable in dry weather however the weather has been very wet. JD believes he is aware of the organiser of this event and will therefore contact them to raise these concerns and try to ensure this does not occur again in the future. **Action** – JD to contact organiser.

SL advised that there is also concern over the parking of cars for sale on the green and byelaws could be obtained but they would then require policing by DDPC.

Action - KC offered to informally approach the perpetrator to discuss an alternative arrangement for sale of vehicles.

iii. Felling of the burnt ash tree and fire damaged branch

SL advised that the tree has not been dealt with however it has now sprouted, KC stated that he assumed that it was dead in March but if it is now sprouting DDPC should leave it for another season and see if it improves.

iv. To consider and discuss resident email re: orchard project for the parish.

SL advised that the Townlands Trust have just purchased the orchard at the end of Duck End Farm and SL has been approached informally by the Townlands Charity to ask for DDPC to consider if they will be willing to help with grass cutting, SL believes this should be a consideration for DDPC as they do not own any other land or know of any land available. **Action** – Clerk to contact resident to advise of this discussion and advise that DDPC are unable to assist his project at present.

9. Consultations

a. Northstowe consultation for Phase 3a and 3b ends at the end of June 2020 – to discuss concerns in relation to traffic and draft a response and consider email from Northstowe in relation to S106 monies and funding for remedial measures.

SL advised that the big concern now that the A14 works have opened is coming down the A428 for access to Milton and Histon, however, there is not access to Bar Hill, Longstowe or Swavesey on that side unless you cut off before at maybe Papworth and then come through Dry Drayton. SL feels that as increased traffic flows are likely through the parish DDPC should approach Northstowe for funding to help implement more traffic calming measures in the

parish such as slower speed limits and installation of more speed gates as there is a 1 mile gap between the current speed gates. KC raised a query regarding diversion or weight limit signage and SL advised that Dry Drayton is the official diversion route for any vehicles unable to use the A14 so it is very unlikely we would get signage therefore should concentrate on managing speeding. SL proposed DDPC approach Northstowe to request funding for traffic measures in the parish, all councillors agreed – RESOLVED. **Action** – SL to draft and circulate a response for approval and submission.

10. Finance and Policy

a. To accept account review to date and bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation (see Appendix 2) and finance spreadsheet were circulated before the meeting – all councillors approved both documents - RESOLVED.

b. To advise of payments received

i. CCC – Grass cutting contribution for 2020/21 - £555.26

c. Remote decisions on the following payments to hand received which were made via email and records retained.

i. VisionICT – 7 Hosted Emails Jun 20 - May 21 - £151.20 - All councillors agreed payment – RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *LGA 1972, s. 142.*

ii. Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 3 of 10 - £360.00 - All councillors agreed payment - RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164; Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10; Commons Act 1899.*

iii. CCC – Final streetlighting energy from 01/10/19 – new supplier start - £161.65 – All councillors agreed payment – RESOLVED. SL and JD approved the payment online. *Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301.*

iv. Haven Power – May 2020 direct debit - £29.14 - *Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301.*

d. To discuss NALC/BHIB – risk assessment guide in relation to Covid-19

SEM circulated the template document to all councillors before the meeting and explained that the template covers parish councils of all sizes, DDPC agreed that as they do not have village amenities such as a play area/cemetery etc they felt there was no need to complete the template.

11. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

No matters proposed for the next agenda.

12. Date and time of next meeting – TBA

Next meeting date was agreed for Tuesday 28th July at 7.30pm.

Meeting including confidential part closed at 8.44pm

Appendix 1

Action Report/Ongoing Issues

a.	Councillor Vacancy (ongoing)	DDPC
b.	Oak Crescent Parking Issues/2021-22 LHI application/consultation (ongoing)	SL/LH
c.	Park Lane Verges/Cycle path upgrade/line painting/drainage (ongoing)	LH/SL
d.	Village Hall Management Committee new members update/KC handyman duties/EP attendance at meetings (ongoing)	JD/EP/KC
e.	Arrangement of new councillor training for JD, FP & KC (ongoing)	SEM
f.	Rod Scammell resignation – quotation from Brookfield/exact location & frequency and grass cutting reimbursement query for CC (SL)/"listed to cut" info (SEM) (ongoing)	SL/SEM
g.	CBS Account – Change of signatories/address etc (ongoing)/online banking access for Lloyds for EP	SL/SEM
h.	Flooding Park Lane/Madingley Rd – KC/FP enquire as to landowner/SL to contact (ongoing)	KC/FP/SL
i.	Recruitment of volunteers for village Speed watch team (Ongoing)	SL/JD
j.	Discussion with resident re: boundary/fencing at Cotton Fields and DDPC to agree action required	TSH
k.	Revised allotment rates/volunteer request for Drift clearance published in newsletter	JD
l.	Old Rectory Windows concerns	SL
m.	65 Pettitts Lane development – planning/work commencement/concerns	SL
n.	Covid-19 Community Support Group – update report	FP
o.	2020/21 LHI and Legacy Fund Application/Works progress update	SL/LH
p.	2021/22 LHI Application submission	SL
q.	LH arrange for TSH to meet with a Local Highways Officer re: potholes, drainage etc	LH/TSH
r.	Production of DDPC Risk Assessment	SEM

Appendix 2

DRY DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL
March 20 - May 20 Bank Reconciliation

	£
Lloyds TSB current account at 31 st March 2020	£15,026.31
<u>Less</u> payments presented from 31 st March 2020 to 29 th May 2020 <i>12 online payments, 2 direct debit and 2 standing orders</i>	£3,090.71
<u>Plus</u> receipts presented from 31 st March 2020 to 29 th May 2020 <i>2 BACS payments</i>	£7,474.50
Closing bank account at 29 th May 2020	£19,410.10
<u>Less outstanding payments not yet subtracted</u>	£0.00
Balance carried forward at 29th May 2020	£19,410.10

<i>Plus</i> NS&I Investment Account as at 1 st April 2020	£5,174.03
CBS S106 Account as at 1 st April 2020	<u>£7,060.61</u>
	£31,644.74

Notes:

Sarah Etherington-Meech

RFO
 23rd June 2020

Appendix 3

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report Dry Drayton Parish Council - 23 June 2020 meeting

Cambridgeshire County Council is already preparing for the gradual exit from lock down. Whilst everyone hopes that there won't be a second wave of the virus, we have to be prepared that there may be new outbreaks as we all begin to enjoy the easing of the restrictions that have been in place since March. On the basis that prevention is better than cure, the Council is already working on setting up an outbreak control plan.

To lead the Test & Trace response work, a local Health Protection Board has been established that includes specialist Public Health England representation, local authority and health membership and representatives from other relevant bodies. It will produce a Local Outbreak Control Plan [LOCP] by the end of June 2020 to achieve the following:

Where someone is instructed to isolate and is also vulnerable, they will be supported through existing community hubs in Cambridge and Peterborough and the districts of South and East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Fenland.

Where the following up of contacts is more complex and cannot be achieved by national call handlers: contact arrangements will be handled by trained staff deployed in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Ensure that Covid-19 outbreaks in care homes, schools and the community are prevented by clear measures identified in the plan including: supporting workplaces, communities and locations at higher risk.

Where outbreaks do occur in care homes, schools and the community, they are effectively managed and controlled using already established infection control measures for outbreaks of infectious diseases.

Ensure that there is sufficient local testing with results coming back in a timely manner to make it quick and easy to get a test for Covid-19 when needed.

Ensure that all data from national, local and NHS sources are brought together to inform clear and decisive decision making that prevents, identifies and controls outbreaks.

Ensure that sufficient staff and volunteers are trained and able to take on the responsibilities described in the LOCP including the setting up of community rapid response teams to take immediate action to prevent and deal with local outbreaks.

A local member-led board will handle engagement and communication with communities to promote understanding of the actions being taken on NHS test and trace. This local board will also take feedback from communities to allow local issues to be addressed.

The work done by local communities to create a support network for vulnerable residents is extremely impressive and is greatly appreciated by the County Council. I have to congratulate members of all the local groups who very quickly set up a network of volunteers and through working with others in the community to make use of existing provision, have been able to offer a wide range of support. As lock down restrictions ease, they will doubtless see changes in the pattern of demand for support. I have every confidence that they will acknowledge the wisdom of maintaining contact with all those who have given of their time and energy so that, in the event that there is a second wave in the winter, the basis of what has been created, will still be there to be called upon.

The Council has also responded to a letter from the Minister of State for Care with details of its Local Care Home Support plan. This includes five key areas of support: infection prevention and control; testing; PPE and equipment supply; workforce support and clinical support. As a member of the Council's Health committee, I have a number of questions to ask about this at its meeting on 25 June. As a member of the liaison groups who meet with the various NHS trusts, I have also asked for relevant items on the participation of each trust to be included in forthcoming agendas.

Libraries: During the crisis many members of the County Council's staff were redeployed to provide Covid-19 related services. With demand for those services now lessening, many are returning to their substantive roles. These include library staff who are returning in a planned way to facilitate the re-opening of libraries. Five hub libraries are currently planned for reopening as soon as regulations permit. The Ely archives building has also been risk-assessed for public access post lock down.

Coroner's Service: Plans are now in place for inquests to recommence at Peterborough Town Hall and a risk assessment is due to be made of a second venue. Having two locations will allow more inquests to take place and help to reduce the inevitable backlog that there is. Consideration is being given to appropriately located provision to deliver a better service for families, jurors and professionals involved in inquests. Consideration is also being given to increasing coroner capacity to avoid the backlog increasing and deal with the current need as quickly as possible.

Registration Service: Restrictions on birth registrations were lifted from 01 June and the service acted quickly to implement the measures necessary for registration offices across the county to reopen safely. Registration of births recommenced from 08 June and, whilst restrictions on marriage and civil partnership notices have also been lifted, commencement of these is being phased to allow the backlog of birth registrations to be dealt with first. The registration pages of the Council's website have been updated to reflect changes in legislation relating to birth registrations.

The success of the limited reopening in early May of its nine **Household Recycling Centres** allowed the Council subsequently to reinstate the service for permit holders. User feedback about the booking system that supported the reintroduction of that service was that it is easy to use. The Milton HRC has been using the Park & Ride site as a holding area but the recent reintroduction of the bus service and the use of the site as a Covid testing facility is making matters complicated for the public. For this reason from Monday 29 June all residents wishing to visit the Milton HRC will need to pre book a time slot through the County Council's website. The booking system will be open from Tuesday 23 June.

Allocation of the second, bigger tranche of government funding for **active travel facilities** is now being considered. I have already written to the officer who is coordinating the large number of applications, with a proposal for Dry Drayton. I have had confirmation that the park and ride application for Scotland Farm includes provision of a cycle path along Scotland Road. I have asked that consideration be given to joining this to the already funded link to the NMU. There are bound to be more applications than money so there is no guarantee of success but I'll keep you advised.

The first set of school data released by DfE shows that 195 of 198 **Cambridgeshire schools** were open on the 08 June; the deficit is accounted for by single site consolidation in a trust/federation. 189 schools were open to core year groups [EY, R, Y1& Y6] and the percentage of children attending in those year groups was 40.3% [20.2%; 37.6%; 32.7% & 36.6% respectively]. I very much welcome the change in the decision to discontinue the school meals voucher system over the summer holidays. I have still to see full details of what is now proposed but warmly welcome anything that helps to ensure that children are fed. Nationally £63m has also been allocated by government for local welfare assistance and the Council waits to hear what its allocation will be.

Planning: the Inspector dismissed the Waterbeach WfE appeal and the Secretary of State upheld his decision and refused permission. I look forward to seeing you all at your meeting.

Lynda

lyndaharford@icloud.com; 01954 251775/07889 131022; follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo

Appendix 4

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey, 11th June 2020.

This has been a very busy month. Now everything is on-line I can attend most of my meetings, but I find virtual meetings more concentrated, and much more tiring, than face to-face.

The Scrutiny Committee has assessed the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan proposals: a blueprint for the development of the area currently dominated by the Milton water treatment plan. I have two major concerns: the first that this was largely completed before covid-19 struck, and it may well be that it is already out of date. But in so far as it is a working blueprint I think we still have to come to terms with the great changes in transport created by electric bikes and scooters, and by mobility carriages. I asked if shared-use paths could be outlawed, and clear guidance given for differing modes of nonmotorised transport. We also scrutinise our performance reports for all our services; I once again asked if we could have more data than meaningless average figures, and at last the administration is seriously looking at providing something like standard deviations to help us understand the significance of the figures.

Between these we had our first full Council meeting since February. As I said last month, this should have been the meeting at which I handed over the chairmanship and then resigned; instead the Council approved my staying in the Chair.

The agenda was massive. The major item, and the majority of the paperwork, was a major revision of our Constitution. This included a revision of our planning scheme of delegation, which has been a great bone of contention. We discovered that for years we have been technically in breach of the law by allowing the Chair of the Planning Committee the say in deciding which planning applications should be decided by officers and which by the Planning Committee; but a non-Executive Councillor is not permitted to take executive decisions. The model which the administration came up with did not please the opposition and there was a sharp and highly politicised debate. The opposition wanted every application to go to Committee if either a Parish Council or a Local Member objected; the administration wanted the Chief Planner to be able to decide if such objection included good reasons in planning law

That apart, we had other weighty matters to decide. We approved variations to the Constitutional regulation of our procedures required by the lockdown; we adopted a Zero Carbon Strategy designed to make the Council carbon-neutral by 2050; we appointed a Chief Operating Officer; we approved a grant to Milton Country Park. The JDCC on 27th May had first to approve conventions for our virtual meetings; we then assessed an outline application for 1200 dwellings and ancillary facilities for land north of Cherry Hinton owned by Marshalls. Although the application states 'all matters reserved except for means of access' we effectively approved the main routes through the site including one past the frontage of the proposed school. Since we had rejected a school proposal elsewhere on precisely these grounds, there was some opposition; but we were told we could not do that here: it would have to be left until the detailed plans for the school came in. So we approved the outline. The next JDCC meeting is in July and it looks as though it will be the last, because the County wishes to withdraw. We shall therefore probably have to disband and produce a new joint committee just between the City and District.

On 10th June the Planning Committee had applications in Madingley and Girton on the agenda: both were approved.

Douglas de Lacey

District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott

Coronavirus update

It's great to see that everyone in the village is continuing to do the right thing to limit the spread of the virus and that the volunteer network is still working hard. It is worth remembering that, although elements of the lockdown are being relaxed, we are still vulnerable to further waves of infection, and will continue to remain so until there is a vaccine. Although we hope that a vaccine can be developed, tested and approved within the next twelve months, there is no guarantee that this will happen, so we should remain vigilant and not become complacent.

Greater Cambridge Partnership suspends Cambourne busway plan

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has temporarily suspended its scheme to build a Guided Busway to Cambourne. Environmental campaigners and local residents have been strongly opposed to the scheme, which requires the clear felling of 3,000 trees, many of which are 85 years old, along a strip of land nearly 3km long between St Neots Road and the A428 past Hardwick, giving residents of St Neots Rd views of eight lanes of uninterrupted concrete and asphalt across St Neots Road, the Busway and the A428 dual carriageway. The scheme also includes a Park and Ride at Scotland Farm, which would concrete over a significant stretch of countryside, and is likely to increase traffic through Dry Drayton.

This is the latest in a series of schemes where the GCP has angered residents by proposals to clear fell trees. The others involve street trees along Histon Rd, Milton Rd and Madingley Rd in the City. Given the level of concern about the environment in recent years, one would have thought that the days were over when woodland and other natural habitats were seen as the cheapest and easiest land to build on. The leadership of South Cambridgeshire District Council have been supporting the busway along the proposed route, despite their stated aim of being "Green to the Core" and despite an election pledge to scrap the project.

The Cambourne to Cambridge Local Liaison Forum (LLF) described the £160M scheme as: "unfit for purpose, anachronistic and environmentally damaging", and called for it to be paused until the routes for East-West Rail (EWR) and the Cambridge Autonomous Metro (CAM) have been published.

Dry Drayton village sign

I have submitted another fault on the Cambridgeshire County website to request a new Dry Drayton village sign on Oakington Road. The submission number is 341586, and replaces 324970 that I submitted last year and on which no action was taken.

Cllr Tom Bygott cllr@bygott.net

07765 475 513