

CAXTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Thursday 20 September 2011 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Councillors: M Harrison, K Human, R Millard, and R Steel.

In attendance: Cllr Clayton Hudson (District Councillor), Mr Stephen Munday (Principle of Comberton Village College and Academy Trust), Cllr L Wilson (County Councillor), two residents, Mr Mark Rowney (Keir Eastern), Mr Ian Trafford (Cambridgeshire County Council – Children and Young peoples Services), and Mrs Kathleen Baptie (minutes secretary – LGS Services).

Cllr Steel chaired the meeting in the Chairman and Vice-Chairman's absence^(Prop MH, 2nd RM).

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Agg (out of parish) and District Councillor Alison Elcox.

Cllr Human declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 2.1.1 as an employee of Cambridgeshire District Council.

Comments & observations from members of the public and reports from District & County Councillors

Cllr Clayton Hudson started the discussion on the planning application for Cambourne Secondary School by informing the meeting that Cambourne Parish Council approved the plans by 12 votes to 1 and pointing out that its mains concerns were access to the site and disability access within the building.

Mr Stephen Munday advised that by the year 2013 Comberton Village College will have expanded as much as it can on the present site and will be full. This will leave somewhere between 50 -100 children within the catchment area not being able to have a place at the school as things stand at the present. CVC can guarantee that the standards and level of education can be maintained at the new school if it is run in tight partnership with CVC. It would be a great shame to tear up catchment areas and have two schools possibly working against each other if they are run separately.

Mr Ian Trafford spoke of the Council's statutory duty to provide a school place for every child and that this was a needs driven application. The consultation continues into the planning stage and goes to the Developmental Control panel in January.

Q. CVC has a community ethos, it doesn't appear that the new school will provide community facilities.

Mr Munday responded that the same ethos would apply – that the premises would be available to the wider community.

Q. How long ago were the school aware that they would not be big enough to cater for the increase in population at Cambourne?

Mr Munday confirmed that this had become apparent more than 3yrs ago.

Q. If it was know 3yrs ago or more that a secondary school was needed, why wasn't a school included in the development of Cambourne, and not in Caxton, where the local children are not even going to be in the catchment?

Cllr Wilson replied that all the land within Cambourne was already owned and that they got the birth rate very wrong. It is a work in progress. It is felt that the children of Caxton will continue to be able to go to CVC, however if they wish to go to Cambourne they could apply.

Q. Given that the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) has just released details of potential sites, and all the land around the proposed secondary school has been put forward as a potential site, will the new school be big enough in 10yrs time?

Cllr Wilson responded that this might well be the case as there could potentially be an extra 33,000 children in this area, with possible developments of Bourn, Elsworth and Knapwell.

Q. Are the Council then looking at other sites for another secondary school, as clearly this new one will soon be full?

No.

Q. Were the Council offered any other sites for the school?

Mr Trafford confirmed that one other site was offered which was not suitable.

Q. What size of land is needed for a secondary school site?

10 Hectares.

Q. Why wasn't more consideration given to the access of the site and why does there have to be a temporary access road?

Mr Rowney (Kier Eastern) advised that during their 6 month study the Ecologists (ESL) found that there were newt colonies in the tree belt. It was thought that they would be able to apply to English Nature to have them removed, but it was agreed with ESL and the Biodiversity officer at SCDC to wait until November to scrub the land. Therefore a temporary route was sought for 3 months. The contractors want to start the work in Aug/Sept 2012 – if they had to wait until November it would severely affect the schedule. Access off the A428 was not feasible.

The Highways Access team recommended the route as owners of the land and the rest of the route is via land owned by the same farmer that owns the school site.

Q. If the school is in the Parish of Caxton, does the Parish have a liability?

Cllr Wilson responded that the school will be the County Council's responsibility.

2. Planning and tree works

2.1 Application received since the last meeting

2.1.1 S/01898/11/CC – Cambourne Secondary School

It was agreed to recommend the application for approval with comments that ^(Prop RS, 2nd RM, 1 abstention)

- Concerns are raised about the temporary access road and the permanent access road on Sheepfold Lane.
- There are also concerns that the children from Caxton may not have access to the school even though it is in Caxton Parish.
- The Parish Council would be in favour of Caxton children being allowed to attend the school.
- The Parish Council is unhappy about not being consulted in the early stages of the proposals.
- There are concerns about parents dropping off children at Swansley Lane in Lower Cambourne, which is unsuitable as it is a no through road where children are often playing outside.

2.2 Tree works

2.2.1 70a Ermine Street

It was agreed to approve the works. ^(Prop RM, 2nd RS)

2.2.2 The Old Vicarage

It was agreed to approve the works. ^(Prop RM, 2nd RS)

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.50pm

SignedChairmandate.