

CAXTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Thursday 8 March 2012 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors: W Agg (Chairman), E Blair, M Harrison, K Human, K Howard and R Millard.

In attendance: Mrs K Baptie (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Cllr Steel.

Cllr Agg declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 3.6 and a personal interest in Item 7.1 as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

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

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 12 January, 31 January and 16 February 2012

The minutes of 12 January were approved ^(Prop KH, 2nd MH) following an amendment under item 1.apologies, to note that Cllr Blair was out of parish, and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of 31 January were approved ^(Prop RM, 2nd MH) as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the 16 February were approved ^(Prop RM, 2nd EB) as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the last meeting

The Clerk's report on matters arising and background information to items on this agenda was noted.

3.1 (4.3) The Localism Act – Parish and Community Planning

It was agreed that all members should read the details.

3.2 (4.1) New Play Equipment

Cllr Human reported that she hadn't progressed as far as she had hoped, but aimed to get some quotes together for the next meeting.

3.3 (4.6) Emergency Planning timetable for completion

The aim is to try and complete the document by September. By the next meeting in May, the Parish Council hope to have identified key people who are prepared to help and then hold a later meeting, perhaps with these key people.

3.4 (5.2) Tree Preservation Orders – to consider if any applications are required

Guidance from the SCDC's Trees Officer was considered. It was agreed to write to the Tree Officer at SCDC with a map showing where the two trees, both on private land planted at the time of the Queens Coronation were and ask for a TPO to be served.

3.5 (7.5) Appointment of Internal Auditor

As Mrs Chambers was unable to undertake the internal audit it was agreed to appoint Jacquie Wilson of Canalbs Ltd as Internal Auditor and accept her estimated fee which would be based on the time taken and shared mileage costs with the Clerk's other Councils. ^(Prop RM, 2nd KHo)

3.6 (8.7) Caxton Village Hall – Village Hall fabric survey

The survey report which had been received, and has identified 4 areas of damp. Cllr Agg will draw up diagrams of what is required in each area and the cost of the work is not likely to be anymore than £7,000.

The letters from Mr Pearson and also Mrs Gape St Andrews Church PCC saying the PCC would only pay for 10% of the cost of the survey was considered. It was agreed to reply saying the Parish Council was under the impression that as the PCC had commissioned the survey that they ought to be responsible for the costs.

Grant availability was briefly considered.

3.7 (4.5) Affordable Housing – update from Ms Newsted at SCDC

The update from Ms Newstead was considered and there was it was noted that SCDC had not as yet found a development partner.

4. Local matters and members items

4.1 Parish Paths update

The footpath from St Peters St to Eltisley – CCC had previously laid 3 french drains, then a hard surface, but there was always a small problem area where it crossed the drains, where the membrane was showing. However the Electricity people who have recently been cutting back the vegetation in this area had disturbed it further.

Peter Gaskin (CCC) has been out to have a look at it, and agreed that it needed to be put right. He also felt that one of the drains was falling into the ditch. It was suggested that the Electricity people who caused the damage should be asked for a contribution.

4.2 Local Bus

It was agreed that Caxton Parish Council would support other local parishes in supporting the late bus on a Friday and Saturday evening. ^(Prop MH, 2nd BA) This will be carried forward as an agenda item for the next meeting to fully consider what is involved.

4.3 Dog Litter

It was agreed to write to SCDC about the problem of dog fouling in the village, and ask them how it can obtain new signs to replace those that are worn, and also a new dog bin for the top end of Ermine St. Enquiries are also to be made as to whether there is still a dog warden, and who prosecutes and fines those responsible for not picking up dog litter.

4.4 Future of Cross Keys pub

It was understood that the people taking over the pub intend to run it down and develop it as housing. It was felt there was nothing the Parish Council could do about this, but it is good to be aware.

4.5 Update on Superfast Broadband

Telecoms engineers have been working in the area laying cables and indicated that this was to enable faster Broadband. The Parish Council will invite Cllr Hudson to the next meeting for an update on the BT Infinity project.

4.6 Footpath on A1198

A young man had been spotted on a number of occasions walking on the A1198 towards the roundabout. It was felt that if the new MacDonald's is to provide employment for people in the area it would be good if it also provided a safe path from the village as part of its plans.

4.7 Steering Group for new school

Cllr Agg reported that there have been a few minor modifications to the design such as changing windows positions. The developers now had permission and the archaeological dig is to start in April. Work on the access route via Swansley Lane is due to start in August and continue until November, and the developers would communicate directly with the Tomlinsons over any concerns they may have.

Community Involvement of the new school – Cambourne Parish Council was not keen for the school to be used for lots of sporting activities as this might take business away from the new sports facilities. Instead it was keen for it to be used for the arts.

5. Planning and Tree Works

5.1 Applications received since the last meeting

5.1.1 S/0240/12/AD Yim Wah House – 7 Illuminated Facia Signs

The Parish Council recommends approval as it is necessary to the development. ^(Prop EB, 2nd KHo, 5 in favour, 1 abstention) but has concerns about light pollution.

5.1.2 S/0244/12/AD Yim Wah House – Erection of 21 freestanding signs.

It was agreed to recommend approval, however the Parish Council would like to see included, a sign asking customers to dispose of their litter thoughtfully and not litter the verges of the A1198.

5.1.3 S/0241/12/AD Yim Wah House – 8 metre totem pole for golden M.

It was agreed to recommend approval as it is recognised that this is part of corporate signing, however the parish Council is concerned about light pollution, particularly to the south.

5.2 SCDC notifications to note

5.2.1 S/2558/11 – 11 Brook Cottage, St Peters St – Tree Survey. Noted.

5.2.2 Home Farm, off Old North Rd, Longstowe. The Parish Council agreed to recommend approval between meetings.

6. Finance and procedure

6.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

The financial report was received and considered and invoices were checked, at the end of the meeting, before the cheques were signed. The payments as listed in the report were approved for payment ^(Prop BA, 2nd RM), plus HMRC (PAYE) £306.62, LGS Services (printing of newsletter) £120, Award (fixing of water spout) £270.00, P.T. Pinner & Sons (new trees) £132.30.

Buchans (grass cutting)	£273.60
LGS Services (Admin support)	£428.65
XXX (Salary)	£21.11
XXX (Salary)	£183.65
LGS Services (Admin support)	£392.73

6.2 Clerk annual review

Cllr Agg has spoken with the Clerk and was happy with the work LGS Services do. As the Parish Council have a fixed 3yr contract and no changes are required to the present arrangement.

6.3 Bank Mandate and signatories

A letter was signed authorising the bank to remove ex councillors from the list of signatories. It was noted that the present signatories are Cllrs Harrison, Millard, and Howard.

7. To consider matters arising out of correspondence received including

7.1 Shrievity Trust – request for financial support

In accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, it was agreed that the Council donate £200 to the Shrievity Trust which, in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants ^(Prop WA, 2nd RM)

The cheque will be signed at the next meeting.

The Trust is to be asked if they would like to write an article to put in the village magazine to raise awareness about the service they provide.

It was noted that a Neighbourhood Watch Pack was available to whoever wishes to resurrect the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

7.2 Elsworth Parish Council – Retention of Planning Consultant

It was agreed to respond with thanks to Elsworth Parish Council for the opportunity to join them, but that at this stage Caxton Parish Council could not commit to this and would wait to see what happens after the first stage of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

7.3 SCDC Open Spaces Society

It was agreed Cllr Human would complete and submit the survey.

8. **Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.15pm.
The next meeting will be after the APM on 10 May.

SignedChairmandate.

