

CAXTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Thursday 12 September 2013 at 7.45 pm

Present: Councillors: K Howard (Chairman), R Millard, M Harrison, K Lyon and K Human.

In attendance: District Councillor Alison Elcox, 5 members of the public and Mrs K Baptie (Minutes Secretary LGS Services)

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Blair, (out of parish) and Cllr Steel (wife unwell).

1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

Cllr Human declared a pecuniary interest in item 5.1.1 as a near neighbour, Cllr Howard and Harrison declared a personal interest as residents of Ermine St.

1.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

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

None

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 11th July 2013 and of the public meeting on the 5th September

RESOLVED that the minutes of 11th July be approved ^(Prop KL, 2nd KHu)

RESOLVED that the minutes of 5th September be amended in the last paragraph at the bottom of page 2 to record that Cllr Elcox had learned that there were 'not' enough funds. ^(Prop KHu, 2nd KL) Both minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the last meeting

3.1 (3.0) Clerk and bus shelter cleaner reviews. Carried forward.

3.2 (9) Proposal for a new notice board

RESOLVED to seek quotes for 3 new notice boards, 2 free standing and weatherproof and 1 for the wall inside the village hall. Approx size 4' X 3'.

3.3 (4.2) SCDC Proposed submission local plan consultation – to consider the response of the public meeting held on 5 September and the Parish Council's formal response to SCDC

Resolved to respond as follows

A recent public meeting in the village showed overwhelming objection against the proposed development at West Cambourne. This also reflects the opinion of the Parish Council who is unanimously opposed to further development. for the following reasons;

Transport

The development is not a viable plan in terms of the corridor between St Neots and Cambridge which is not well serviced and there are currently no plans to dual the A428 from Caxton Gibbet to St Neots. There are no jobs in the surrounding areas, thereby forcing residents to commute to Cambridge, or more than likely London. Further pressure will be put on local roads following the announcement this week by Transport Minister Stephen Hammond, that the A1198 and the A428 are the recommended alternative 'free' route to avoid the proposed A14 Toll. The A428

corridor is presently inadequate and regularly suffers from traffic jams, particularly if there are problems elsewhere on the A1 or A14. The proposed developments at West Cambourne or Bourn Airfield will only exacerbate these problems. This overload is currently causing all surrounding villages to be treated as rat runs. There is no railway servicing this area and bus services have been cut. The proposal includes pedestrian and cycle routes to and from all other villages, but Caxton is not mentioned.

Jobs

The provision of local jobs is currently inadequate and will continue to be so. Currently 80% of Cambourne residents commute out of the village, effectively making Cambourne a commuter development which in turn exacerbates transport problems. The proposal includes some small business units and a store of approximately 500sq metres. This will do little to help employment in the area and even the District Council has admitted that Cambourne Business Park has failed in attracting businesses to the area. Contrary to the Planning Policy Framework the development is too far from local towns, forcing people to commute.

Flooding

Flooding is a considerable issue particularly in light of the fact that Cambourne is unable to cope with its sewerage and water run off drainage problems and this has been a problem since the beginning of the development. These problems have a knock on effect on surrounding villages. Although the submission is full of good intentions, to date all the plans have been ineffectual as Caxton suffers flooding on a regular basis which the planners have recognised as they refer to this under point 3.60 'particularly in view of known problems at Bourn Brook'. The Parish Council has also had many complaints from residents about noise and problems from pumping stations.

Schools

We are currently under schooled in this area, with a secondary school having to be built for Cambourne in the parish of Caxton and now proposals are in hand to build another primary school to service Cambourne, whilst some children in Caxton have to be taken by taxi to the nearest point of education.

Health

The resources supplied at Cambourne are totally inadequate for the current population. Both surgeries at Cambourne and Bourn are full, with Bourn alone servicing 6,000 patients, and it is understood that some Cambourne residents are now having to register with Doctor's practices in St Neots and Fenstanton which are in excess of 10 miles away. This again affects Caxton residents. All service providers will have to pay to expand their services.

Summary

This would be a new settlement without new settlement infrastructure. If it is to go ahead this will set a precedent for ribbon development along the A428 creating a string of villages from Caxton Gibbet to Cambridge, and no amount of landscaping can hide the fact that there is a major conurbation over the hedge. These proposals will not create a traditional South Cambridgeshire village; this would be a major development.

There are also concerns about the possibility of anti-social behaviour such as that in Cambourne which is extending to Caxton.

There are not enough open spaces in relation to the density of housing.

It is felt that the developers have determined the boundary around Caxton in wanting to develop right up to Caxton Gibbet. Cllr Harrison, having attended a public meeting in Bourn, was advised that if the development at Bourn Airfield did not go ahead, the West Cambourne development would still go ahead.

The original plans for Cambourne have proved to be totally inadequate and the current residents suffer the frustrations from a list of broken promises.

The Parish Council feels that the consultation carried out by SCDC was flawed and the plan itself has been reactive to the pressure of developers rather than pro-active and looking at the district as a whole. The original consultation in September 2012 indicated that West Cambourne and Bourn were of limited development potential. The Parish Council feels that sufficient thought has not been given to this proposal and when planners and developers are questioned on these issues, the only answer forthcoming is that problems will be left to the 'Area Action Plan' group to look at finding solutions.

- 3.4 (3.2) Banking arrangements and to consider rates for saving/investment accounts
RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk to choose the savings account with the best fixed interest rate and to arrange the completion of forms between meetings if necessary.
(Prop KHo, 2nd KHu)

The Chairman confirmed that a current account is being opened with Lloyds. Cllrs Harrison and Millard as signatories, would have to visit a Lloyd's branch with some forms of identity.

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk and Chairman had used their delegated powers to spend an extra £200 with Coulsons on better materials with a longer guarantee for the village hall roof work.

4. Local matters and members items

4.1 Broadband update

Carried forward until Cllr Blair is present.

4.2 Bourn Brook Flood report – request that the Council contributes towards the cost

RESOLVED that the Parish Council contribute £200 towards the cost of the flood report.
(Prop RM, 2nd MH)

4.3 Footpaths – proposal for more signage and update on cutting

Resolved to order 2 signs for gates on the bypass saying 'Please close the gate', and also to get the spring fixed on the gate.
(Prop KHo, 2nd KL)

4.4 Proposal that the Parish Council purchase a swing

Cllr Human confirmed that a swing was on the agenda of play equipment to be given further consideration when funds allow.

RESOLVED to purchase the junior goals with the current funds available.

4.5 Anti-social behaviour by the bypass underpass

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would arrange to spread some horse manure over the area once all the glass had been cleared, in order to deter the youths from congregating. The Council should budget for the purchase of soil next year to spread over the area.

5. Planning and Tree Works

5.1 Applications received since the last meeting

5.1.1 S/1504/13/FL – Ermine St Residential development (8 affordable and 2 market dwellings)

Cllr Human spoke as a member of the public and reported that the letters from residents held very strong arguments.

RESOLVED to recommend refusal ^(Prop MH, 2nd KL 4 in favour, 1 abstention) of this application for the following reasons:

- The recent Needs Survey showed a need for 2 and 3 bedroom houses but these are smaller and so not suitable to satisfy the need
- Those who need the houses are likely to be older people, who will put a strain on the Doctors Surgery, and there is a lack of bus provision in the village
- The application does not comply with HG5 or the proposed H10 policy
- The Parish Council has not seen a viability statement. If one has not been submitted this may set a planning precedent

If the Planning Officer is minded to approve this application the Parish Council strongly recommends the application be considered at a Planning Committee meeting. Cllr Elcox will ask for it to be taken to Planning Committee.

5.2 SCDC notifications - to note any received

5.2.1 S/1337/13/FL – Change of use to Class B8 storage and distribution of farm and fencing equipment, former depot, Caxton. Permission granted by SCDC.

5.2.2 S/1600/13/DC – The Cross Keys, 77 Ermine St – Discharge of Condition 4 of S/0152/13. Permission granted by SCDC.

5.3 Tree works applications – to consider any received

None.

6. Finance and procedure

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

RESOLVED to receive the financial report, the invoices and bank statements be checked, at the end of the meeting, before the cheques are signed and the payments as listed, plus LGS Services (Admin support) £401.18 be approved for payment ^(Prop KHu, 2nd RM).

LGS Services (Admin support)	£414.50
Salaries	£125.31
HMRC (PAYE/NI)	£88.80
Buchans (Grass cutting)	£415.20
Came & Co (Insurance)	£611.90

6.2 To consider any quotes for urgent works required because of risk

None.

7. To consider matters arising out of correspondence received including

7.1 Caldecote Parish Council – joint parishes’ letter opposing development at Bourn Airfield

RESOLVED that the Chairman would sign the letter on behalf of the Caxton Parish Council. ^(Prop KHu, 2nd RM)

7.2 Martin Grant Homes – proposal for North Cambourne and request for support

RESOLVED to decline their offer to attend a Parish Council meeting and suggest that a development of this nature should go to full consultation.

7.3 CCC proposal for 4th primary school at Cambourne (in Caxton Parish)

RESOLVED that while it was nice to be consulted on this occasion, unlike the Cambourne Village College application to wait until the plans had been submitted and then invite them to the meeting.

- 7.4 CCC – consultation on draft transport strategy for Cambridge and South Cambs
RESOLVED that the Parish Council would respond when it had a strategy to respond to and not just a questionnaire.
- 7.5 CCC – gritting routes consultation
RESOLVED to note that there is no change for the village.
- 7.6 Atkins A428 environmental impact study questionnaire
RESOLVED not to respond..
- 7.7 Balfour Beatty – street lighting changes
RESOLVED that the Parish Council was pleased that none are being removed.
- 7.8 Cambridge Past Present and Future – invitation to meeting on River Cam Strategy
RESOLVED to thank them for the invitation but to decline to attend on this occasion.
- 7.9 Ex-Caxton Women’s Institute request to donate the village sign money to the Village Hall Committee
RESOLVED to write to Mrs Bradley thanking her for the donation towards the village hall repairs. The Council will pay over the £1155.87 plus interest of £17.40 to the Village Hall Committee which they in turn will use towards either the current or future works on the hall.
RESOLVED that the Parish Council felt it would be reasonable to request the sum of £7,000 from the Village Hall Committee towards the cost of the roof repairs.
- 8. Closure of meeting**
Cllr Lyon has taken over the keys to the notice board and that the notice which says ‘Margaret Harrison has the keys to the notice board’ needs to be amended.
There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

SignedChairmandate.
