

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SWAVESEY BYE-WAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, SWAVESEY ON

TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.30 PM

Present:

Councillor Mrs Ellington	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Councillor Robert Turner	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Mr J Dodson	Charge-payers' Representative
Mr G Wedd	Charge-payers' Representative
Mr J Johnson	Charge-payers' Representative
Mr A Day	Charge-payers' Representative
Mr K Wilderspin	Charge-payers' Representative
Ms S Rogers	Parish Council Representative
Ms H Parish	Parish Representative

In Attendance Mr P C Matthews – South Cambridgeshire District Council's Drainage Manager

Apologies: Mr J Shepperson, Mr D Morgan and Ms Lisa Boys

1. Introduction and Election of Chairman

- 1.1. It was agreed that C'llr Turner should act as chairman for the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

- 2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting of 28 January 2014 had already been circulated. It was unanimously accepted that the contents should be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Report of the Executive Director – Corporate Services

- 3.1. The meeting received a report on expenditure for the year 2014/15 (to 10 February 2015).
- 3.2. The Executive Director had shown, in his report, that there would be a balance of £6157 in the contingency account at the end of 2014/15 and suggested that £205 is taken from the contingency account in 2015-2016.
- 3.3. If £2,400 was allowed for maintenance in 2015/16, then a rate of 90p per hectare could be levied.
- 3.4. A continuation of the current levels of maintenance would, therefore, give a breakdown of income and expenditure as indicated in the report.

4. **Report of the Corporate Manager, Health and Environmental Services**

- 4.1. This report indicated the current year's expenditure and the last five years' average annual expenditure per byeway (see appendix 1).
- 4.2. An extended discussion took place regarding the current levels of expenditure and the potential for a shortage of future funds due to increases in materials cost. It was noted that the chargepayers' rate had not increased since 1984 and the meeting agreed a recommendation by a majority of six votes to two that South Cambs Council should increase the Byeways rate from 90p per hectare to £1 per hectare.
- 4.3. It was reported that Councillor Ellington and the Drainage Manager carried out an inspection of all byeways on 10 February 2015 in order to assess their current condition and the likely level of maintenance for the forthcoming year. It was anticipated that the following bye-ways would require allocations of materials:
- ❖ Cow Fen/Lairstall Drove
 - ❖ Hale Road
 - ❖ Mow Fen
 - ❖ Uttons/Tiplers Drove
 - ❖ Middle Fen
- 4.4. It was proposed by Mr Wilderspin and seconded by Mr Dodson that the above byeways should be allocated materials and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.
- 4.5. Detailed discussions took place on the condition of both Mow Fen and Middle Fen drives. The drives have deteriorated and large holes exist at a number of locations. As a result, it is likely that heavy plant will be required to reinstate the surface. The Council's Drainage Manager agreed to investigate possible low-cost methods of repair.

5. **Voluntary Maintenance**

- 5.1. Members were reminded that the voluntary arrangements whereby the Charge-payers provide labour and plant to spread materials enables the maximum amount to be spent on materials. All were in agreement that this approach has worked very well in the past and that the current voluntary arrangements should continue.
- 5.2. The Charge-payers' Representatives will undertake periodic monitoring of the Bye-ways and ordering and spreading of materials as follows:

Bye-way	Charge-payer responsible
Cow Fen/Lairstall	Mr Wilderspin
Hale/Mow Fen	Mr Johnson
Scotland Drove	Under review
Uttons/Tiplers Drove	Mr Wedd and Mr Kerley
Middle/River Fen	Ms Rogers

- 5.3. It was proposed by Mr Wedd and seconded by Mr Johnson that the voluntary arrangements on the spreading of materials should continue while the District Council would order and allocate these materials.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 Discussions took place on the proposed laying of the new sewer along Uttons Drove Byeway that will be associated with the Northstowe development. Great concern was expressed that the proposed sewer would cause long-term damage to the fabric of both the drove itself and the adjacent award drain. The Drainage Manager agreed to liaise with the sewerage undertaker with a view to discussing alternative routes.
- 6.2 A number of members of the committee questioned whether Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) would be prepared to contribute towards the upkeep of the Byeways. It was pointed out in particular that most of the Byeways are also classified as CCC footpaths or bridleways. The Council's Drainage Manager agreed to approach the Public Rights of Way section at the County with a request for a contribution of either materials or finance.
- 6.3 The meeting closed at 20.45