

A MEETING OF COTON PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON AUGUST 12TH 2003 IN THE W.I. HALL, COMMENCING AT 7.00PM

Members present: Messrs G. Diplock(chairman), G. Kinsey, Dr Connolley,
Mesdames P. Brown, B. Smart, R. Darling, Councillor Hughes, Mrs D. Wilson
(Clerk)

OPEN SESSION – There was only one parishioner attending who had no wish to speak.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms Baumgarten, Mr Chandler and Mr Lewis.

2. CONFIRMING AND SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS HELD ON JUNE 10TH, JULY 1ST, JULY 8TH, AND JULY 29TH 2003

The Minutes of the above meetings were confirmed and signed.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declaration of interests.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Bennys Way Play Area – “No Ball Games” Sign Letter had been received from Mr Clark stating his department was not willing to remove the sign, but would be willing to re-locate it. It was proposed by Mr Kinsey and seconded by Mrs Brown that the Parish Council leave the sign where it is at the moment and inform Mr Clark that the PC have decided to leave the matter for further consideration. This was agreed with 5 for and 1 against.
- b) Bennys Way Play Area – Children Playing Ball Games Leave on agenda for next meeting so Mr Chandler can report on it.
- c) Crossing – Brook Lane Letter received from Mr Sharp stating that when planning the crossing place for Brook Lane he will see what other safety issues can be used. Clerk to write and ask him for a draft of his plans for the crossing.
- d) Car Parking – Silverdale Avenue/Whitwell Way Corner Letter received from Mr Clark stating he is waiting a response from the 2 tenants in Whitwell Way to agree to make their gardens ready for car parking. He also said the suggested parking area plan was on hold awaiting the response of these two tenants. It was agreed Clerk write and ask him to proceed now with the Silverdale Avenue parking area as this was urgent.

- e) Wildlife Reserve Councillor Hughes reported that planning permission had been given on Wednesday. – Remove from agenda.
- f) Parking Outside Rectory Nothing further . Write and ask Mr Sharp when the marking will be done.
- g) Potholes in Village Edge of The Footpath still to be done.
- h) Madingley Road Crossroads Clerk to write to Highways about overhanging trees on the right when leaving Cambridge Road ,Madingley, which are obscuring the sight of vehicles travelling down Madingley Hill. Also to report the trees (possibly The Orchards) to the right when exiting Cambridge Road Coton which obscure the view.
- i) Ditch Clearing – Off Grantchester Road Letter had been sent to University Farms who Mrs Raven said was responsible for the ditch.
- j) Twinning Village with Ostra Nothing further.
- k) New Signs on Road for 30mph Speed Limit Clerk to write and remind Mr Sharp about this.
- l) Overhanging Hedges Most now done. Grays briars overhanging – write again. Also Mrs Raven needs another letter about hedge along Brook Lane.

4a CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Mrs Clarke – Street Name Plate – St Peter’s Road Needs repairing – Clerk to report to SCDC.
Clerk also to report “Silverdale Close” sign at top of Silverdale Avenue.
- b) Pat Nichols – Ditch Clearing Along Grantchester Road Reporting ditch, on the opposite side of the road to hers, needs clearing out. She has already cleared hers. Clerk has written to University Farms.
- c) Pat Nichols – Bus Timetables Requesting PC to look into bus timetables being put up in bus shelters and at Madingley Road bus stop. Clerk to write to Bus Company to request this.
- d) County Council – Footpath Grant Now received £294.00.
- e) County Council – Jointly Funded Minor Authority Paperwork going round councillors for suggestions.
- f) Internal Auditor Report Minor comments from internal auditor – some to be rectified in these minutes as follows:
Internal auditor advised to save becoming overdrawn and incurring bank charges to have only the current account as the interest is so small and not as much as the bank charges. Clerk to look into Lloyds accounts and interest rates.

Clerk reported there was an advert in CALC Bulletin asking if any Internal auditors would like a training meeting and Miss Skempton was interested in this. It was proposed by Mr Kinsey and seconded by Mrs Smart that the Parish Council pay costs, if any, for her to go. This was unanimously agreed.

- g) County Council – Changes to Local Bus Services
- h) Clerks and Councils Direct
- i) SCDC – Event of Young People in South Cambs.
- j) Police Authority – Histon Newsletter and Crimes
- k) ACRE – Harvest July/August
- l) Standards Board – Registering Interests

5. PARISH PLAN

Nothing further had been done about this and Councillor Hughes suggested it be delayed because of the things going on in South Cambs at the moment. Dr Connolley had been looking at literature from Comberton who have been doing a Parish Plan.

It was proposed by Mr Kinsey and seconded by Mrs Darling to leave this until the October meeting and decide then. All agreed. Councillor Hughes will get more info and give to Dr Connolley.

6. VILLAGE GREEN CUTTING

Clerk reported note had been received from Herald contract acknowledging they will not cut the village green any more. Mr S. Mitchell has agreed cut it at the same rate as his brother Mr G. Mitchell. To be paid at the end of the season.

7. INSPECTION OF PLAY AREA – BENNY'S WAY

Play Area Weekly Inspection Book needs to be brought to each meeting so it can appear on minutes that the play equipment has been inspected and any faults and remedies logged.

Up to date weekly inspections had been carried out by Dr Conolley – all well apart from the following:

- a) Fraying rope. This had been showed to representative from RSS who said it was normal and nothing to worry about.
- b) Loose screw – this had been reported to representative from RSS but he had not been able to see it because it had been re-screwed in when he came. It keeps coming loose. Clerk to report to representative again.

8. INSPECTION OF ASSETS

Clerk reported an Asset Register has to be kept and assets inspected regularly. It was proposed by Dr Connolley and seconded by Mr Kinsey to defer doing anything until Charles Arnold-Baker book had been received. This was agreed.

It was reported that some of the vision mirror erected by Mr Smethers , which had been vandalised, was still there. This could be dangerous. Clerk to request Mr Smethers to remove these remains.

9. PERMISSION TO PURCHASE – CHARLES ARNOLD-BAKER

It was proposed by Mr Kinsey and seconded by Mrs Darling that new version of Charles Arnold-Baker book on Local Government be purchased. This was agreed.

10. COUNCILLOR REYNOLD'S REPORT

Councillor Reynolds reported that there was still some of the cycle path along Madingley Road to be finished – still to be resolved. Most is completed. Also discussed was the enforcing of the 40mph speed limit along Madingley Road, and the cutting back of vegetation obscuring approaching vehicles from traffic exiting Cambridge Road, from Madingley.

11. COUNCILLOR HUGHES' REPORT

Councillor Hughes had very little to report. She said that the Wildlife Reserve plans had been granted
She also reported that the “No Ball Games” sign at the back of the flats was now up.

12. FOOTPATHS

- a) Footpath Beside School it had been reported to Clerk that work still needed to be done on this path. Mrs Smart reported she had recently walked it and it was all right. Some work is needed to cut some of the grass along this path. It was agreed she will contact Greens to do this.
- b) Footpath Walk Mrs Smart reported that the Walk was very enjoyable and those who took part learnt a lot about the history of the paths etc. She said it was disappointing that not many people turned up. It was agreed to defer a walk next year to see how the Wildlife Reserve develops.
- c) Overhanging Hedges – Footpath No 5 Mrs Smart reported that the Council had been written to asking that the hedge be cut. Some has been done but not all.

13. ALLOTMENTS

- a) Clearing of Vacant Piece of Allotments Mr Kinsey reported that area had been cultivated 3 times and there were still some remaining stones to pick up.

Mr Kinsey proposed that Clerk write to CPS stating what has been done and saying the Council think it is in a condition to hand back, and asking if we could meet on site to discuss takeover and subsequent reduction in rental. This was seconded by Mrs Darling and agreed by all.

- b) Water on Allotments Dr Connolley reported he had seen Terry Spencer who thought best way was to dig a well. Dig a test well 2 metres deep at first. It was suggested best place to dig a well was near the gate. It was proposed by Mr Kinsey and seconded by Mrs Brown that council wait and see what happens with Cambridge Preservation about vacant piece. This was agreed.
- c) Allotment Rents It was agreed to keep allotment rents the same.
- d) Allotment Inspection Allotment representatives to inspect allotments in preparation for letters to be sent to those tenants who are not keeping their allotments clean.

14. PLANNING

There were two new planning applications which will be decided at a meeting on August 18th

R/O 11 Cambridge Road, Coton – New House in rear garden. This is going to appeal. Original comments still stand.

15. ACCOUNTS

Mrs D. Wilson	Clerk's Salary	134.00
Mrs D. Wilson	Petty Cash	68.00
Mrs D. Wilson	Photocopying x 862 x 7p	60.34 (1year)
Herald Contract Services	Green Cutting x 2	70.50
CALC	Audit Training	30.00
M. Skempton	Internal Audit	75.00
(cheque to be made out to Coton Village Hall Fund)		

Letter of thanks to go to Ms Skempton for carrying out internal audit

It was agreed :

The following payments are recorded as recommended by Internal auditor – missed off minutes in 2002-03 accounts:

CALC 29/3/02	Subs	159.03
Cornhill Insurance 14/8/02	Insurance extra premium	69.00
CALC 14/10/02	Training	25.00
CALC 5/3/03	Training	30.00

Payment now re-recorded as recommended by internal auditor– hand written in minutes and no signature:

Herald Contract 1/5/02	Allotment clearing	3347.00
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Payments deleted as recommended by internal auditor – duplicated in July and August 2002 minutes:

G. Mitchell 21/8/02	Footpath cut	14.00
Coton Community News 21/8/02		500.00

It was agreed the Council pay for Mr Chandler and Dr Connolley to attend a training meeting on September 27th 2003 .

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

. October 14th 2003

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported there is a brass stopcock in the surface of the road outside the Plough. Clerk to report to County Council.

Clerk to ask for verges to be cut before the first week of school.

Next Agenda – ivy growing onto path outside The Rectory.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.20PM