

WILBURTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Chair: Tracy Newman

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Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Wednesday 22 May 2013 in St Peters Hall

Present: Councillors Fella, Warren, Yarrow, Dodson and Newman. Councillor Hunt and 6 local residents.

1. Apologies

None

2. Chairman's Report

Councillor Yarrow gave his report and confirmed the following:-

The party held on Tuesday 5th June 2012 to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee had a good hardworking committee and was a huge success. Thanks have been received from many Parishioners that attended. 50% of the cost was from the Parish Council and 50% from donations, over 350 hot dogs were served and 130 children had free ice cream.

There was also a children's competition for the drawing of a portrait of the queen and 10 prizes of £5.00 jubilee coins were given.

A new kitchen was installed in St Peters Hall, the units were donated by a friend of Councillor Warren and Councillor Warren fitted everything free of charge. The Parish Council wish to thank both very much for their support and for the money saved.

The Localism Act, New Code of conduct and declarations of interest came into force in the summer of 2012 and caused some concern. Several Councillors objected to their details, and those of their wives, being published on websites and decided to resign. We advertised the vacant positions and now have two new councillors, but are looking for 3 more to complete the number of 9.

A new working group has been set up, with Councillor Fella as Chair, to investigate the possibilities of a new playground at Berristead Close, and/or the updating of the existing area. Glad that the Council decided to buy the area at Berristead Close several years ago which has stopped any development and enabled the playground to be a possibility.

The trees which are the responsibility of the Parish Council were inspected in January with East Cambs Tree Officer Ian Lawson. Some work has been completed and we are waiting for a contractor to complete the rest of the work which is required, once permission has been received.

The Parish Council support extra parking at Bakery Close with disabled bays. As Chair, he was contacted today about ownership of trees near Bakery Close which need work carried out on them so they do not overhang the car parking spaces. Our District Councillor Bill Hunt is also actively supporting this.

Allotments - we are proposing to spray some of the allotments off, to clean the rubbish up and, hopefully this coming autumn, we shall have people wanting to hire them.

3. Annual Accounts – 31st March 2012

The accounts were presented to the meeting and questions raised regarding recreation costs and donations received were answered. It was proposed by Jenny Warren and seconded by Victor Harris that the accounts be approved. All in favour.

4. Pavilion and Recreation Ground

A subcommittee was appointed, consisting of Councillor's Newman, Warren and Camila Hughes to meet with all users (cricket club, beer festival and fireworks committee, (Football Club is no longer using the grounds) regarding the re-furbishment of the pavilion. The lease on the pavilion is now 12 years- Pell Estate want us to re-locate due to anti-social behaviour

Councillor Warren confirmed that quotes are being arranged for urgent work – ceiling, doors, painting cisterns and hand basin in toilets etc. Councillor Fella confirmed that the overgrown grass was also being addressed.

Councillor Dodson confirmed that Councillor Newman had done a tremendous amount of work and the Parish Council were really lucky that she was so committed and had moved things on quickly. Councillor Newman confirmed that she was finalising a date for a meeting with the users to prioritise work required and arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as possible. The target deadline is July/August.

Councillor Dodson confirmed that once the refurbishment had taken place, measures would need to be put into place to ensure that the pavilion was being maintained properly by its users.

Councillor Warren felt that, although there was currently no football club using the facilities, the Parish Council needed to keep renting the football field for negotiations with Pell Estate.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors.

Councillor Bill Hunt gave his reports as follows

On 2nd May he was very pleased to receive a large majority vote (especially in Wilburton – thank you) which has secured me as the County Councillor for Haddenham Division until 2017. He will try to be worthy of that trust.

The 2nd May Elections produced a "hung" administration with 32 Conservatives, 14 Lib Dems, 12 UKIP, 7 Labour and 4 Independents. A total of 35 is needed to carry a vote so 3 are required. This will make it more difficult, but the following are the decisions that were made in 2012/13 with commitments for 2013 and into the future.

Massive A14 improvements which will reduce traffic on A1123. (There will be both national and local carriageways)

Ely southern by-pass to be started in 2015. (Another traffic reducing measure for A1123)

New Railway Station at Cambridge Science Park (and link to guided bus)

90% of the County to get superfast broadband and everybody to get at least basic broadband.

No wind farms on County's 34,000 acre County Farms estate.

Keep all existing Libraries open.

Now that he has been re-elected, he will continue working for:

Any measures that make our roads safer.(Includes weight limit at Earith, reducing HCVs on A1123 and making Soham to Stretham a "B" classification road). Such as 50mph speed limit on A10 at Little Thetford.

Improved Bus service between Haddenham, Stretham and Ely (an hourly service).

Re-laying electrified rail lines between Hitchin and Bedford (will allow direct Norwich, Ely, Cambridge, Oxford, Swindon and Cardiff trains)

Achieving a better "A" level offering in Ely.

There has been a reshuffle at district level East Cambs District Council) with a change in leader and deputy leader (now Charles Roberts). He is the chairman of the asset management scheme and believes that Ely should be promoted as the beautiful City we all know. One of it's assets is Free Car Parking which he believes is an essential tool to preserve and expand the city centre and he is delighted that eventually the charging regime has been rejected.

He supports the proposed district leisure centre and multi-screen Cinema in Downham Road Ely – with the developers putting in an underpass under the A10.

He believes that the Community Land Trusts are a very exciting route to give local homes, run by local people, controlled by local people to local people.

6. Community Land Trust Scheme

Councillor Dodson confirmed that things were starting to move with the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust thanks to Phil Rose and Charles Roberts who have moved things forward considerably. Phil Rose is currently negotiating with land owners around Wilburton, although not progressed as much as hoped.

A piece of land which is owned by one of the Colleges, has been negotiated for development at the far side of Stretham linking onto the Wicken Road. A grant was obtained for a questionnaire/survey of the residents/groups etc in Stretham from which a planning application was put together and will be submitted after the public meeting on Saturday 25th May 2013. The piece of land could potentially hold 240 houses, but the Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust negotiated with the developer to build only 50, of which 15 will be SWCLT, not in a row and no different to the others. There will also be a multifunctional unit which will encompass a doctor's surgery and rooms for physiotherapists and district nurses etc. Possibility of another building for pre-school and 2-3 to rent out. All units will be rented from SWCLT so will be revenue for the Scheme.

There are 4 trustees for Wilburton Parish Council (Paul Freeman, Peter Warren, Anthea Dodson and Tracy Newman), 4 for Stretham Parish Council and 4 community trustees (at present Dr Aniskowicz)

There is also an interested member that attends the meetings who is a solicitor and who goes through the policies and procedures to make sure everything is correct and in place to run efficiently. East Cambs District Council have put monies aside for borrowing for the Trust to bid for. There will be a mixture of

properties owned by the trust for rent, and the decision on who rents them will be made by a group of the trustees, which will be a balanced group, weighted to Stretham for properties in Stretham and weighted towards Wilburton for properties in Wilburton. This scheme gives us control over how the village develops, no developments can be made outside the envelope without us having a say in it, an amount of control over it and a financial benefit from it.

7. Reports from Village Organisations.

Ann Sherwood confirmed that the Theatre Group was established in 1973 by local people with a passion for drama. Over the years, the group has staged many plays, cabarets and more recently musicals. Membership includes people across the County and those that live in the village. The productions involve many people behind the scenes, without whom, they would not be able to produce the shows they do.

They would love to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in any capacity, particularly those that would like to be taught stage management or to learn about lighting, general theatre management, making props, costumes and painting scenery.

It is a great hobby and if you enjoy working as part of a team, come along to the Village Hall on Tuesday nights from 7.30, or alternatively contact Angela Starr or Viv Samuel.

Cricket Club

John Gothard confirmed that the Club was the strongest it has been for many years in terms of both numbers and enthusiasm. Currently have 2 teams, 1 in the junior league and one in the minor league, and 2 colt teams (of which 1 is a girl with a great throw!). He also thanked the Parish Council for its kind attention to the upgrading of the facilities on the recreation ground and pavilion.

Baptist Church

Councillor Dodson confirmed that the Church were keen to be an active part of the community, currently have café church Tuesday daytime, craft church started Tuesday evening (knitting, sewing, cooking etc), youth club, brownies, guides, toddler group – all meet at the Church.

8. Any other business

A local resident felt that to have a surgery at the proposed Stretham and Wilburton Community Land Trust site is too far out of Stretham and needs to be in the centre of the village. Councillor Dodson will raise at the next meeting.

She also wished to thank Alan Burbridge for the excellent work he does at the Cemetery which was echoed by the Parish

A member of the Cricket Club re-iterated the problem of the grass length being too long on the outfield of the cricket field.

A member of the Theatre Group was happy to see a new 30 mile an hour limit now at Haddenham and wanted to raise support to push East Cambs for new controls in Wilburton (ie Twentypence Road)

Councillor Warren confirmed that Councillor Wilson in Haddenham was keen to negotiate speed limits between the villages, and that he was the representative for Wilburton, he could raise this at the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting.

Councillor Fella confirmed that there was a meeting of the Playground working group tomorrow night, that a leaflet drop had been made to the residents of the Village, and that they had had a generally positive response.

Councillor Newman asked residents to contact herself, the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors with any issues or concerns they may have.

Councillor Dodson wanted formal thanks to be recorded on behalf of the Council, to the Parish Councillors that had stood down – Councillors Ann Sherwood, Victor Harris, Chris Day (who had designed the Parish Council's website and is currently designing the website for the SWCLT, Neil Thompson and Martin Barnham.

Ben Furness is now a Parish Councillor, together with Tracy Newman, who has been very enthusiastic and is now Chair. Camilla Hughes wanted to stand as a Councillor and was voted in, but subsequently advised, due to family connections, not to stand.

Councillor Dodson also thanked Councillor Yarrow, on behalf of the Council, for being chair for the last 12 months and Councillor Fella as Vice.

Meeting closed 8.45pm