

MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW LONGA PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ST. BOTOLPH'S PARISH CHURCH ON MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 8 PM

Present: Councillors Hayes (Chairman, presiding), Butcher, Humfryes and Young, County Councillor Simon Bywater, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 7 members of the public.

At the start of the meeting, it was resolved to re-arrange the agenda so that County Councillor Bywater and members of the public could leave the meeting early.

023/14 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Allen

024/14 Declarations of Interest in relation to any agenda item – none.

025/14 Public Open Forum – as the only item on the agenda about which members of the public wished to speak was 027/14, the Chairman agreed to take comments from the public at that point.

026/14 Resurfacing of Village Roads – Following the last meeting the Clerk had written to Cllr Bywater informing him of the response from the local Highways Engineer to our request for full resurfacing within the village; that a case will be put forward to carry out the work, but it could be some time in the future before funding could be allocated. At his suggestion Cllr Bywater was asked whether, as our County Councillor, he might be able to obtain funding from other sources for this work to be done earlier.

Cllr Bywater informed the meeting that he had spoken about the matter to the District Highways Manager who confirmed that no funding is currently available. It was suggested that members of the public could help by sending reports of the problems to <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm>

Cllr Bywater also spoke about the following matters:

Future Transport – a meeting is being held on 12 March to consider the results of the recent public consultation.

High Speed Broadband – is expected to be available in Stow Longa between September and December 2015. The progress of this project locally can be viewed at <http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/>

Key Issues – the monthly report sent to the PC may be placed on the Parish website.

027/14 The following new planning application was considered

1400072FUL, Erection of dwelling with garaging, Land at the Old Vicarage.

Prior to the meeting, copies of 7 letters sent to HDC by residents objecting to the application had been circulated to members. At the invitation of the Chairman several residents spoke confirming their reasons for objecting. Council noted these comments and had a discussion on the matter, following which it was resolved to recommend refusal. At the request of the Council, the Clerk later prepared a draft of the reasons for refusal. Following minor amendments agreed by members the following reasons were submitted to HDC:

1. It would neither preserve nor enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area as the proposed dwelling is out of scale with and dominant of the Old Vicarage and its outbuildings. This would thus be in conflict with saved policy En5 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan (1995).

2. It would have a significant overbearing effect on the gardens of Nos 1 and 7 Spaldwick Road and would conflict with saved policy En9 insofar as the views from No 1 out of, and from No 7 into, the Conservation Area would be obscured.

3. The view out of the Conservation Area from Foxearth (Listed grade 2) and the area of Village Green between The Old Vicarage and No 1 Spaldwick would be completely obscured..

4. The site, having no frontage to a road, and the very large height and footprint of the

proposed dwelling, are both out of keeping with the character of the Stow Longa Conservation Area.

The following LPA decision was noted

1302029REM, Conversion of workshop/outbuildings and replacement buildings to provide two dwellings with garaging, Church Farm – **Details approved.**

028/14 Minutes of Meetings held 13th and 27th January were approved and signed.

029/14 Matters arising from the minutes (not on the agenda)

030/14 Finance

The following payment was approved

100355 Stow Longa PCC, additional payment of £50 for churchyard maintenance to bring in line with budget.

Council Tax 2014/15 – It was noted that the Parish element is £52.38, up 1.59% from last year, due to decrease in the Tax base from 64 to 63 Band D equivalent properties.

031/14 Grass Cutting

The Clerk tabled two quotations for cutting the grass in Kimbolton Road previously cut by Mr Royles. It was decided to defer a decision on placing an order for this work until the next meeting. In the meantime the possibility of including this area in that cut by volunteers would be raised with them. The Clerk was asked to obtain confirmation of the insurance situation relating to volunteers.

032/14 Correspondence

CCC January Key Issues Update - received via Cllr Bywater – circulated by email.

CCC February Key Issues Update - received via Cllr Bywater – circulated by email.

It was agreed to place these and future updates on the village website.

033/14 AOB - none

034/14 Date of next meeting

!7 March 2014, 8 pm at St Botolph's Church

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm