
Swavesey Parish Council

7.30pm

Public Open Forum – comments put forward:

Mr Hutchins, Ramper Road – Stated that on behalf of the residents of Ramper Road, he wished to implore the Parish Council to consider physical traffic calming installations for Ramper Road.

Ramper Road resident – Stated that countdown markers and speed cushions would not be sufficient to slow down the traffic, a physical stop is required before traffic enters the residential section of Ramper Road.

Physical measures are required in Boxworth End, the interactive flashing signs are not slowing down the speed of traffic as it enters the village and travels along Boxworth End.

Diesel spills occurring at the Cambridge Services around the roundabout cause serious danger to other traffic, could something please be done to control and prevent this?

7.40pm

Minutes

Parish Council Meeting, held at The Memorial Hall
Monday 24 October 2005, 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr M Johnston (Chairman)

Councillors : A Day, J Dodson, S Ellington, J Foster, J Pook, S Rogers, J Shepperson, J Tait,
W Wright

Clerk : Mrs L Miller

Parishioners : 24

County Cllr Ms M Smith

Mr G Elliott, Fens Area Manager, RSPB

Mr M Kemp, Director of Highways, Cambridgeshire County Council

APOLOGIES

P Marriott (holiday)

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Sue Ellington to the Parish Council, for her first meeting as a Parish Councillor.

AGENDA 2

Minutes and Matters to Report from the Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2005 were signed by the Chairman as a true record, with one amendment: to remove Mr R Owen from the list of those in attendance.

The Clerk reported that following the letter sent to BT re the proposals to remove the payphone at Boxworth End, BT has agreed to retain the red kiosk and replace the payphone with a cashless, card phone installation.

AGENDA 3

Declarations of Interest

Mr W Wright declared an interest in Agenda item 10.5 (ii) Fireworks display, Market Street Green.

AGENDA 4

Future Development of Fen Drayton Lakes

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr Graham Elliott, Fens Area Manager for the RSPB to the meeting. Mr Elliott informed the Parish Council of current proposals from the RSPB to acquire the Lakes site. A recent announcement from Cambridgeshire Horizons implies that £1.12M has been made available to the RSPB following their submission of an 'expression of interest' to Cambridgeshire Horizons to acquire the Fen Drayton Lakes and surrounding land. The bid from the RSPB has been accepted pending receipt of a detailed proposal, which is to be submitted within the next two months. If successful then funding should be available from April 2006. The RSPB intends to develop the area as a large RSPB Reserve. The area will include the existing Fen Drayton Nature Reserve, Mow Fen Lake and land and lakes up to Overcote Road, Over. The land will be managed, maintained and developed by the RSPB. Some free of charge car parks would be provided and a small visitor centre. It is envisaged that the preferred access will be via the former ARC road from Fen Drayton Road.

District Councillor Mr Shepperson gave the proposals his full support and said that he was extremely pleased to hear that an organisation such as the RSPB was interested in taking over the management of the site from the present owners, whose obligations under the original 106 agreement were due to expire by 2008.

Mr Elliott added that all existing footpaths and bridleways would be maintained and the RSPB would be looking to include additional permissive rights on top of existing rights of way. All angling leases would be honoured and renegotiated as required.

Mr Elliott also added that the RSPB's view on the proposed guided bus project was that it has now withdrawn its original holding objection to the project and now views the request stop within the site as an advantage.

Mr Elliott asked the Parish Council if it would consider writing a letter of support for the proposals to the RSPB, which could then be added into the final detailed proposal to Cambridgeshire Horizons.

The Chairman replied that the Council unanimously supported the proposals and a letter of support would be sent to the RSPB.

Mr Elliott was thanked for his informative presentation.

AGENDA 5

County Council Business

5.1 Traffic Calming

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr Mark Kemp, Director for Highways at Cambridgeshire County Council to the meeting. Issues of concern with regard to the existing traffic calming installations and requests for future installations had been sent to Mr Kemp in preparation for the meeting. Items discussed:

- (i) The Chairman stated that the Parish Council was disappointed in the traffic calming installed and the little effect it appeared to be having on traffic speed through the village. It was felt that decisions had been rushed and many of the original suggestions of the Parish Council had been rejected. Mr Kemp replied that the funding for the project had been given to the County Council with a time limit on its expenditure.
- (ii) Cyclepath, Station Road. Mr Kemp confirmed that in widening the footpath on the west side of Station Road, between Taylors Lane and Swan Pond, the County Council still maintains that this is now wide enough to accommodate a dual use footpath/cycleway.

- (iii) Responsibility for cutting back the hedge alongside the cycleway, between Over and Swavesey was discussed. The Clerk to copy the Minutes of the Cycleway Meeting held during the final discussions of the installation, to Mr Kemp, as these included the request that the County Council Highways Dept be responsible for ensuring the hedge is kept cut back.
- (iv) Over Road give-way feature. Mr Kemp acknowledged the issues with regard to the Over Road give-way feature, however as there have not been any accidents reported with regard to this installation, it is not a high priority for the County Council. The area will continue to be monitored by the County Council.
- (v) Traffic speed along Over Road and into the village was discussed, as it was felt that the traffic calming installations had not slowed traffic speed down. The interactive speed signs were not working in Over Road. Mr Kemp replied that the County Council was still negotiating with regard to a maintenance contract for all of the interactive signs and at present unfortunately repairs were unable to be carried out quickly.
- (vi) Chicane system in Middlewatch, near Trinity Farm. Mr Kemp to ask Mr Brace to contact Mr Morgan at Trinity Farm, with regard to the problems the chicane is causing for large vehicles accessing the Farm entrance.
- (vii) Mini-roundabout at Ramper Road/Middlewatch junction. Mr Kemp confirmed that due to visibility problems a mini-roundabout would not be able to be installed at this junction.
- (viii) Ramper Road. Now that the Swavesey end of the road has been widened, traffic is entering the village at greater speeds and the use of the road is increasing. Residents have asked for traffic calming installations to stop and slow down traffic. Mr Kemp replied that there is no further funding available for traffic calming. The A14 funding was a one-off and this has all been allocated and the deadline for spending the funding has since passed. The only possible funding now available would be either through the safety budget, if serious accidents have occurred in the road, or through the Jointly Funded Minor Highway Improvements Scheme (JFMHI). However, Parish Councils have to provide some of the funding for JFMHI schemes if successful.
- (ix) Ramper Road passing places. Mr Kemp stated that no funding can be reimbursed from the A14 traffic calming scheme, therefore the funding spent on the passing bays cannot be refunded for other schemes.
- (x) Boxworth End. As before, there is no further funding available for traffic calming.

Mr Kemp added that he would pass on the comment made by a member of the public with regard to diesel spills to the Police liaison group.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kemp for attending the meeting and Mr Kemp said that he would respond as soon as possible on items and queries raised during the discussion. Mr Kemp then left the meeting.

The Clerk reported that Mr A Lansley MP had written to the Parish Council informing the Council that residents of Ramper Road had contacted him with regard to concerns over speeding traffic in Ramper Road. The Clerk had replied saying that the Parish Council would be meeting with Mr Kemp to discuss traffic calming issues.

5.2 Correspondence for information and items for County Councillor

- (i) Reply from Mr Brace with regard to installing bollards on the footpath in Station Road. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- (ii) Draft Customer Charter consultation. No comments.
- (iii) Changes to local bus services – no changes to Swavesey services.
- (iv) St Ives Market Town Transport Strategy. A draft strategy is to be produced by November 2005 and a final strategy by July 2006. County Cllr Mandy Smith to keep the Parish Council informed on this issue.

AGENDA 6

Constable's Rood

Mr Glyn Jones, on behalf of the Constable's Rood Committee, gave a detailed presentation to the Council on the funding bid submitted to South Cambs District Council. South Cambs Conservation Advisory Group will be meeting on 26th October to decide if a grant is to be awarded to the project.

The Clerk had obtained a budget quotation for grasscutting for the site, which it was proposed would be the responsibility of the Parish Council. Hedge cutting and weeding would be carried out by volunteers. The Parish Council's existing maintenance contractor quoted £41 per cut + VAT.

District Cllr Mr Shepperson asked for a vote from Councillors as to whether they support the project and its aims and future maintenance proposals. The vote recorded unanimous support for the project and grant bid.

Mr Day added that the Bethel Church also wished to provide some funding towards the project.

AGENDA 7

District Council Business

7.1 Correspondence for information and items for District Councillor

Press Release on proposed cuts in services due to the Government capping of the Council Tax. Full Council will be meeting on 27th October to discuss the proposals put forward.

AGENDA 8

Police/Crime Report

8.1 Correspondence for information and items for Community Beat Officer

Crime figures and newsletters circulated.

The Chairman reported that he had met with Pc Alison Jones and asked her to monitor gatherings on the recreation green and in particular regular visits to the lay-by by a white van whilst the teenagers are gathering there in the evenings.

The Chairman also asked if Councillors could be vigilant on Monday evening 31st, Halloween, in the light of the litter and damage caused to the phone kiosk last year.

AGENDA 9

Vacancies on Council Committees and Working Parties

9.1 Memorial Hall Committee

- (i) One Councillor member required. Mrs S Ellington resigned as WI representative on the Committee and was elected as a Parish Councillor member. A new WI representative will be appointed by the WI.
- (ii) Finance Working Group. Mr J Tait agreed to join this working party.

AGENDA 10

Items for Discussion

10.1 Highways No items to discuss.

10.2 Recreation/Playgrounds

- (i) Play Area Project. RoSPA post-installation inspection completed with no major items noted. Overall the area has been marked as High Medium risk, due to the height and risk associated with the Skyline climbing unit. However this is an accepted risk as the equipment has been chosen to be challenging for children using it.

The bark will require more frequent raking around the equipment, due to the wear of so many children using the new park. The Handyman will ensure that the bark is raked on a weekly basis from now on. RoSPA also recommend the Council consider providing a 'deep water' sign for the pond. The Clerk reported that a few maintenance items were noted at the manufacturer's sign-off meeting, which the manufacturer is rectifying.

- (ii) CCTV. Mr Foster and the Clerk had met with Fox Security Services, CCTV supplier, and had negotiated a reduction in the original quotation of £1,500. After discussion, as the CCTV was not a budgeted expenditure within this year's budget it was decided to look at the draft budget figures for next year, alongside the present budget situation and review the proposal again next month.
- (iii) Skate Park. Letter from a Swavesey teenager asking about the provision of youth facilities in the village and a request to consider providing a skate park. Reply to be sent outlining the Parish Council's support to provide youth facilities and the ongoing discussions with regard to this. Also that efforts are being made to try to form a working party of parents, teenagers and councillors to investigate this further.

10.3 Village Maintenance

- (i) Dog waste bins. Complaint received from a resident of Middlewatch who, for the third time this year, has had bags of dog waste, emptied from the bins on the front of the recreation green, thrown around her front garden. The Clerk reported that this is not the only complaint received about dog waste being emptied out from the bins over the past year. Lockable bins can be purchased to replace the existing two bins at a cost of £155.69 each. It was proposed and unanimously accepted to purchase two lockable bins to replace the existing two bins, which could be re-used elsewhere in the village.
- (ii) Handyman. Plant tubs in Market Street and outside of the Memorial Hall have all been replanted with winter flowers. 23hrs spent this month on litter clearing from the recreation green, Market St and Memorial Hall areas.
- (iii) The black wheelie bin at the Hall went missing earlier in October. After reporting it, SCDC provided a new bin, however within days of the new bin arriving, the old bin reappeared and the new bin went missing!

10.4 Drainage – Flood Protection to Swavesey

Correspondence received from the Chairman and Clerk of Swavesey Internal Drainage Board (IDB), expressing their most serious concerns over the recent decision of South Cambs District Council's (SCDC) Land Drainage Advisory Group, to approve recommendations from the Environment Agency to reduce the height of sections of Covill's Drain bank, south of Swavesey village. The IDB stated that if the bank height is reduced at the proposed point, in the event of flood conditions, the water would overtop the drain bank and naturally follow the land down along the line of Turnbridge Drain. This would potentially flood areas within the Cherry Trees development, along Turnbridge Drain through to Greenside Close and round into the eastern end of Market Street. The IDB wished to ask for the Parish Council's support of their objections to the decision of the Land Drainage Advisory Group and to the Environment Agency's recommendations.

District Councillor Mr Shepperson circulated a map detailing the point along the drain bank where it is proposed the bank height be reduced and showing why any water overtopping the drain bank at that point, would flow towards Swavesey village. Cllr Shepperson also stated that he was in total agreement with the IDB's objections and had expressed grave concerns over the decision of the Land Drainage Advisory Group at its meeting.

Following further discussion with regard to the potential implications of reducing the bank height as proposed, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to send a strong letter of objection to the Land Drainage Portfolio Holder at SCDC, supporting all of the concerns and objections raised by the IDB in their letter. This letter to be copied to all parties involved and relevant Government MP's.

10.5 Market Street Green

- (i) Christmas Tree. Following previous discussions, it was proposed and unanimously agreed to purchase an 8/9ft tree to plant in Market Street Green, at a cost of £15, from the supplier recommended previously. The Chairman to arrange for the tree to be collected.
- (ii) Fireworks. Mr Wright notified the Council that the annual Village Fireworks display would be held on Market Street Green on Sunday evening 6th November, organised by the White Horse Inn. As in previous years, safety training and insurance has been organised and a qualified First Aid person will be present throughout the event.

10.6 Village Events Committee Report - No report given this month.

AGENDA 11

Planning

11.1 Correspondence

- (i) Consultations on the Local Development Framework from both S Cambs District Council and Huntingdon District Council have been received. For future consultations, the Clerk has requested that S Cambs provide documentation on CD-ROM rather than printed copies.

11.2 George Wimpey POS Land Transfer Update

With regard to the Cherry Trees land transfer and the two strips of land at the back of the central play area. Correspondence received from G Wimpey Ltd, stating that the Land Registry will not accept a letter of non-interest from Barwell's Receivers, as no mistake on the land registry documents has been made, the land was just never transferred to G Wimpey UK Ltd. Therefore a full transfer has to be made, which will delay matters further.

The Clerk and District Cllr Mr Shepperson have arranged to meet with Mr Tucker, Head of Legal Services at S Cambs District Council on 4th November, to discuss this whole issue and ask that S Cambs District Council help to enforce the 106 Agreement and ensure that all land transfers take place as soon as possible. Also to assist with the land transfer of the extension to the recreation green from the Receivers, without any additional cost to the Parish Council. The commuted sum due with this land also to be discussed, in relation to the Receivers.

11.3 Applications

Advertisement notification from the Traffic Commissioner of an application for a Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence to use plot 6, Scotland Drove Park, Rose & Crown Road, as an operating centre. Parish Council to write objecting to the application, on the grounds of highway safety - the access is close to a blind Z-bend on Rose & Crown Road, access is via a public bridleway and the site in question has no planning permission on it for either residential or business use.

11.4 Permissions

S/0039/05/F – 5-8 Whitton Close. Permission granted for 12 affordable dwellings (1 bungalow, 7 houses and 4 flats) following demolition of 4 existing dwellings.

S/1494/05/F – 26 High Street. Permission granted for extension.

S/1581/05/F – 78 High Street. Permission granted for extension and widening of vehicular access.

S/1000/05/F – Land adj. 41 Priory Avenue. Permission granted for house.

S/1575/05/F – 41 Whitegate Close. Permission for extension involving raising of roof height to permit rooms in roofspace.

11.5 Refusals - None received

11.6 Appeals

S/1663/04/F – Appeal by Cambridge Wind Farms Ltd, to the decision of South Cambs District Council to refuse permission for a wind farm on land between Boxworth and Conington.

Planning Comments: The Clerk was asked to write to South Cambs District Council to ensure that action is taken urgently with regard to the Enforcement Notices on land along Cow Fen Drove. The Clerk was also asked to write to South Cambs District Council to ask if there was any further update on plans for the redevelopment of 37 Market Street.

AGENDA 12

Accounts

12.1 Receipts and Payments this Month

(i) All payments approved:	Net	VAT	Gross
Administration and salaries	2,303.66	5.56	2,309.22
M Hall – contract cleaning (Sept), admin, gen maintenance	359.10	7.11	366.21
Play Area Project	72,272.55	12,391.14	84,663.69
Village Maintenance	24.00	4.20	28.20
Total:	74,959.31	12,408.01	87,367.32

Receipts

Hall Booking receipts (Oct)	849.90	0.00	849.90
Swavesey Community Play Area donations	72,272.55	0.00	72,272.55
VAT recovered	626.78	0.00	626.78
Grass verge cutting – CCC allowance	1,743.34	0.00	1,743.34
Total:	75,492.57	0.00	75,492.57

Bank accounts reconciled at 21/10/05: Current a/c £35,712.09 Treasurer's a/c £54,765.29

Notes:

1. Memorial Hall Rates: Final direct debit taken on 1 July 2005, from the current account, by South Cambs District Council. Minutes of July, August and September detail a direct debit of £55 to be paid on 01/08, 01/09 and 01/10, however these were not taken. Due to rebate and rate relief granted earlier in the year, the total owed was re-adjusted and no further payments were required after 1 July 2005. No updated bill had been sent out.
2. All donations and grants now received and banked for the Play Area Project, therefore all of the outstanding invoices are presented this month for payment. VAT claim will be presented this month, instead of quarterly due to large amount owed this month.

12.2 Budget planning for 2006/07

Latest Committees budget spreadsheet distributed for information. Finance working party to meet during November to draw up draft budget for discussion at November meeting.

AGENDA 13

General Correspondence

- (i) Cambridge & Peterborough Fire Authority, integrated risk management plan 2006/07.
- (ii) CALC: Draft East of England Plan – Examination in Public will commence on 1st November. CALC will be co-ordinating parish and town council representations. Draft Minutes of the S Cambs District Association Meeting held on 15 Sept 2005. Training schedules and workshops. CALC Bulletin
- (iii) CCC Countryside Services Team Annual Report 2004/05.

- (iv) Notification from the Youth Team - Youth Workers will be visiting Swavesey on Wednesday evenings to talk to young people about how they spend their spare time. The team will be present on the green for 3 Wednesdays a month for a 6-month period. The Village College and the Police are aware of this and parents of College pupils have been informed via the parentmail system.
- (v) ACRE: Suffolk ACRE newsletter; Village Halls newsletter

AGENDA 14

Items for Information and Next Meeting Agenda

- Swavesey WI is continuing to investigate the provision of a new noticeboard for the village, as part of its 90 years celebrations. The WI is investigating purchasing additional Christmas decorations for the village. The Clerk to enquire about planning permission if decorations are put up on lampposts.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 10pm.

Signed & dated
Chairman

**Minutes approved & signed as a correct record by the Parish Council on
28 November 2005**