Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of Ellington Parish Council Parish Meeting
on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Councillors:	Cllrs Chapman, Lumbers, Palmer, Porter and Walters
Clerk/Dist Cllr:	Darren Tysoe
County Cllr:	Cllr Ian Gardener

Public: 4

Open Forum

A resident asked about the state of the roads due to the high volume of traffic. County Councillor Gardener replied that he had been in contact with Highways England, the A14 Project and the County Council to seek reassurances that the road, pavement, and verges damages will be fixed. He assured the resident and the PC that the pressure is being applied to the relevant authorities to ensure the condition of the village's roads is reinstated. An urgent repair has been requested for the roundabout to be carried out by the County Council Highways Department.

A resident asked about installing further fixed 30 mph speed limit signs. Cllr Gardener stated that he would make enquires from the County Council Highways Department.

1306 Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs Elliott and McCutcheon

1307 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th January 2020 were approved.

1308 Matters arising from Minutes – none (all on the agenda)

1309. Declarations of Interest - none

1310. Update from District and County Councillors.
County Councillor Gardener reported the following: Cllr Gardener has held regular meetings with the County Council Highways regarding the state of the roads and footpaths in Ellington due to the A14 works. The County Council are wanting Highways England to make good the roads which have been damaged due to the A14 works. This approach has been accepted by Pam Hobson of Highways England. He has submitted a list of roads and footpaths to be repaired. This repair will be undertaken if agreed by Highways England as part of their remedial works on completion of the construction of the A14. The repair of the footpath on Grafham Road has been requested with CC Highways.
The results of this year's LHI bids will be confirmed at the Highways & Infrastructure meeting on 10 March. Bids for next year's LHI funding will need to be made Between the 1st April and the 31st May, with the decision being made in October. Funding for next year's LHI programme has been increased by £200K.
At the Full Council meeting earlier this month, the Council approved its budget for the ensuing year, which proposed an increase in Council Tax of 1.59% and 2% for Adult Social Care. Which for a Band D property is £1359.18 per annum

The Budget will provide a £16m Capital Environment pot to invest in projects to support the councils position on Climate Change. Of which the Council will invest 15m in the decarbonisation of Council owned buildings approx. 69. All Council owned buildings will be changed from fossil fuels (oil & gas) to low carbon heating solutions such as air or ground source heat pumps. This investment is expected to be recouped in full from savings delivered on the Council's Energy Bills .It is hoped this task will be completed by 2025. The County Council's aim is to shift all its pool cars and small van fleet from petrol and diesel to electric by 2025 as a consequence the Council will also invest in Electric Charging infrastructure at its main offices to aid the conversion to electric vehicles.
The County Council will also allocate an additional £6.366m towards our highways maintenance as the County recognise the need to continue to spend and invest to improve the standard of our roads and footpaths
The Combined Authority is running a consultation with regards to the Cam Metro which is planned to come out to St Neots , Huntingdon & Alconbury . Cllr Gardener urged all members to provide comments on the scheme. East West Rail have issued their preferred route from Bedford to Cambridge which is via an Interchange station on the East Coast Main Line between Sandy & St Neots which would be a major hub and then carrying on into Cambridge via Cambourne. There is an exhibition on this at the Priory Centre in St Neots on Friday 6th March between 2.30 and 7pm.

District Councillor Tysoe reported the following: HDC are supporting communities to carry out local litter picking. A date of 29th March was agreed for a group of Parish Councillors to patrol along Grafham Road and Thrapston Road and litter pick. The District Council will be consulting on the de-criminalisation of parking across the District. Recycling bins are being located in the market towns to encourage people to separate waste which currently all is sent to landfill. Training shed was opened in St Ives – the first of its kind in the District. This is a more bespoke service for customers who are interested in a personalised and more specialized approach to their fitness. Finally, the District Council's share of the Council tax is rising by 2.6% from April 2020.

1311. Finances

a) The Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation as of 31 January 2020 was proposed by Cllr Lumbers and seconded by Cllr Palmer.

b) Payments made since the last meeting included: Function 28 Website (£48 for 2 months), Christmas Lights (£49.90), and CAPALC CilCA Training £400. Cheques for payment included Clerk's Q4 Salary, PAYE, and Function 28 website.

c) Quotes to repair Village Hall Roof – it was agreed to accept the quote from British Waterproofing and wait until the August RES deadline to apply for a grant. **ACTION: Clerk.**

d) Contract for Street Lamps – it was agreed to repair the broken lamp only and not request a service contract for all 4 lamps. **ACTION: Clerk**

1312 Planning Applications:

a) The Old Nursery, Grafham Road, Ellington Thorpe (ref: 20/00030/HHFUL)

Councillors recommend APPROVAL for the following reasons:

- The design is in-keeping with the existing property
- The increase in size is proportionate to the size of the building

- Additional space for existing and future occupiers
- No impact to neighbouring properties
- In-keeping with the street scene.

Proposer: Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Lumbers

b) Thorpes, High Street, Ellington. Two-storey side extension, replacing rear dormer with full width pitched & hipped roof dormer (ref: 20/00277/HHFUL)

Councillors recommend APPROVAL for the following reasons:

- Makes good use of the footprint of the site
- Little impact of the street scene
- An improvement on an already good scheme previously recommended for approval

Proposer: Cllr Porter and seconded by Cllr Walters

1313. Other Matters to consider/updates
   a) Update on A14 Legacy Fund. The Clerk reported on correspondence between with the A14 Legacy Fund. They assured him that they would be in touch to progress the works. **Action: Clerk to chase**.
   b) LHI Bid update. The Clerk reported that he had presented the case for a Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) to the County Councillors. The outcome was expected in a few weeks.
   c) Tree Planting update – trees had been planted. Cllrs thanked the resident who had led this project.
   d) Verbal report from Gala Meeting – The Clerk reported that he attended a Gala Meeting the previous week. The Chair of the Gala Committee was keen that groups worked together to achieve a successful outcome. It was agreed at the Gala meeting to produce an Ellington Express around the time of the Gala. Sufficient volunteers had come forward to issue a slimmed down newssheet.
   e) Footpath damage and repairs to village – this was raised and discussed during the Open Forum.
   f) Update on Neighbourhood Plan – the meeting was scheduled for the following evening. Good progress had been made with a draft survey being produced and ready for trialling.
   g) Village Hall Update – the roof quote had already been discussed.
   h) Playing Field Committee Update – a further layer of bark was being organised to further improve the safety and enjoyment of the new play equipment.
   i) Neighbourhood Watch Update. No update. The Previous PCSO had left. The Clerk said that he would find out if the PC could have at least an annual visit from a PCSO to discuss local policing matters. **Action: Clerk.**

1314. Correspondence noted: Street Lamps, HGVs through Ellington – Cllr Gardener, Consultation Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro, Attendance at RES Panel, T+PC Forum 12th March 6.30 pm – 9.00 pm, Hunts T+PC Annual Conference – Burgess Hall, 18th March 2020 9.30 to 2.00 pm, Footpath damage, BEAM Grass Cutting Schedule, Roofing Quotes x 3, Precept Notification.

1315. Items for discussion at next meeting – LHI Bid outcome, roads and pavements, Legacy Fund, signage and RES Grant application for August.

1316. Date of next Meeting – Monday, 4th May 2020.