

**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Caldecote Parish Council
on Thursday 5th April 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Jack Lang (Chair), Cllr Paul Phillips, Cllr Fiona Whelan and Cllr Tumi Hawkins.

In attendance: Mr. R Hume (Clerk), Cllr Martlew (District Councilor) Cllr Denzil Baldwin (County Council) and 12 members of the public

Stephen McGee and the consultant for Atkins addressed the meeting to outline the proposals for the Bridge demolition. (see item 239.2.4)

Members of the public were invited to make comments relevant to the agenda before the meeting was formally opened.

234 To receive apologies for absence and also declaration of interest from members.

Apologies received from Cllr Footman, Cllr Levett, Cllr Whyatt, Cllr Breeze, absent Cllr McArdle. There were no declarations of interest recorded.

235 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 1st March 2007.

On a resolution by Cllr Lang and seconded by Cllr Phillips the minutes were approved without amendment.

236 Matters arising for information. (Clerks Report)

236.1 Highways – traffic issues letter from Steven Thulbourn explaining there is no funding available for replacing the speed thumps, the clerk was asked to write again offering a contribution toward the costs. Mr Thulbourn is not able to accept our invitation to attend the meeting in May.

236.2 Hoarding West Drive – no planning application has been received

236.3 Speed gun – the clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of purchasing a speed gun, the cost would be approx £3000 and would need training on use and require expensive calibration.

236.4 Traveller Consultation – site provision in South Cambridgeshire – The Clerk presented a report of the recent meeting in Histon.

237 Matters carried forward from the last meeting for discussion / decision and new items

237.1 Parish Plan – There is one new volunteer from the Community
Cllr Whyatt will be asked to convene an open meeting for the village.

237.2 Youth Issues – CCTV update and Youth Club, There had been no progress to report, it was suggested that a member of the Sport and Recreation working party may be able to assist. The leaders of the youth club will be asked for a report.

237.3 TKA reports – heavy lorries using Highfields Road, the clerk will write to TKA.

237.4 Pumping Station – Rectification work has been carried out on the verges. It was not clear if re-seeding had been done.

The clerk will write to Anglian Water once again expressing concern about the capacity of the pumping station, the apparent leakage of surface water into the foul sewer, and to query whether re-seeding had been done on the restored verges. He will also thank them for attending to the verge damage promptly, but express the PCs hope that upgrades to the pumping station will lessen the frequency when tankers will be required

237.5 Housing Strategy A Consultation letter was received.

237.6 Speed Thumps – Nothing to report

238. Finance and procedural matters

238.1 Annual review – Journal delivery payment, review.

On a resolution by Cllr Lang and seconded by Cllr Whelan it was agreed to increase the pay to £40.

238.2 Employment of an extra cleaner/litter picker. Deadline 24th April – there has been some response, as soon as the deadline is passed a shortlist will be agreed and interviews arranged. The clerk will investigate what equipment will be required and the district council have suggested that extra litter bins are purchased for the waste disposal and they will then be emptied free.

238.3 Office printer – has been repaired, no invoice has been received from CBS.

238.4 Training – CALC training on VAT - Workshop on 27th June £30 for up to 2 attendees, the clerk will attend and if any councillor wants to attend please contact the clerk.

238.5 Litter bin fixing – estimated cost of base and fixing for the new large litter bin near the MUGA. £200, this was felt to be good value and the contractor has proved satisfactory in the past. On a resolution by Cllr Lang and seconded by Cllr Whelan it was agreed to approve the cost of up to £200. Further bin positions will be investigated. The first will be on the car park area.

238.6 Annual report – A draft was presented for comment, it was resolved to distribute copies with the next journal, offering an extra payment of £20 (£60). The cost of production will be similar to 4 pages of the journal. Proposed by Cllr Lang and seconded by Cllr Phillips

238.7 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills.

Expenditure for approval			CHQ NO.
NEW PAYMENTS			
Roger Hume	Salary March (pd Apr)	444.71	643
Kathie Martlew	Salary March (pd Apr)	84.00	DD
Clerk expenses	Clerk expenses Feb	59.73	644
Village Institute	Meeting Room Hire	108.50	645
MD landscapes	Maintenance	1645.00	646
Plant Scape	Large Litter bin	740.25	647
Cambourne printing Services	Photocopies	28.96	648
Allianz and Cornhill	Insurance	1592.94	649
Total Expenditure		4704.09	

On a resolution by Cllr Lang and seconded by Cllr Hawkins the payments were checked, and approved. The cheques were signed and invoices and cheque stubs initialed

239. To attend to correspondence/communications received since the last meeting including

239.1 Parishioner correspondence

239.1.1 Burglary in daytime from a garage while the house was occupied, has been reported by a resident.

239.2 Other Correspondence

239.2.1 Mobile Library – revised timetable Bosserts Way 12-25 to 12-35, Old Post office 12-40 to 12-55.

Alternate Fridays – next visits on 6th APRIL, 20th April, May 4th, May 18th

239.2.2 Regional Housing Provision 2001 to 2021 –A Response from Andrew Lansley MP was received.

239.2.3 Care Network – Mobile Warden Scheme - a request has been received to ask if the Parish Council would be in favour of including Caldecote with Hardwick to make it viable. It was agreed to write and express a wish for this to be considered.

239.2.4 Railway Bridge removal.

This item was taken earlier to allow public questions.

Stephen McGee (County Council) and the consultant for Atkins, Graham Stephens addressed the meeting about the proposal and answered questions.

The bridge is in poor condition and would have to have a reduced weight limit which would stop buses using the road.

Options considered were to replace the bridge but it is no longer serving a useful purpose and the cost could not be justified, it was originally used for a rail link to Bedford. The route is no longer viable as the line has been blocked in many places, with part being used as the Lords Bridge radio telescope. There are no plans to introduce a new rail link.

Concern was expressed that removing the bridge by infilling would take away the weight restriction resulting in heavy traffic using the village as a route. Mr McGee indicated that the County Council was sympathetic to the point, but continued deterioration, especially rusting of the side cast iron beams meant that repair would be required anyway, and that would remove the weight restriction. Other measures had been considered, such as replacement of the bridge deck or temporary propping, but the method chosen would provide the minimum disruption and impact. He would investigate and propose for approval alternative traffic calming measures, for example the current 5 metre width could be reduced to allow only one direction at a time. It would not be widened.

Signs will be improved to indicate the route is “not suitable for HGV traffic”.

The crown would be lowered but only sufficient to provide safe visibility at no more than 30mph. Diversions would be in place while the work is undertaken, but Caldecote Main Street will not be used as a route. (A11, A1198 and A603). The clerk will be notified during the work to keep residents informed.

It was felt that the safety of pedestrians and horse riders would be improved by increasing the visibility as a result of the proposed removal of the crown of the bridge.

The Chairman thanked Stephen and Graham for agreeing to come along, explaining the plans, and for answering questions.

239.2.5 Housing Revenue – Letters from our MP Andrew Lansley were received, revenue is being taken from perceived wealthy areas to support deprived areas.

239.2.5 CPRE membership, Cllr Footman will be offered the CPRE information as and when received.

240 To attend to Planning received since the previous meeting

S0360/07/F Land at & R/O 26 / 28 Highfields Road HIGHFIELDS Caldecote

Applicant: Banner Homes Ltd & P Buckle (Executor of R Rooke)

Description: Erection of 25 Dwellings Together with Construction of New Access.

The application was recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Cllr Lang and seconded by Cllr Phillips

The following points were made:

Serious Concern about the road entrance opposite the school, The Parish Council regard this as unacceptable. The school entrance already has considerable problems at school opening and closing times. Lack of parking for dropping off and collection, poor visibility due to roadside parking and general congestion mean that an entrance at this position will be severe hazard for the village and dangerous for the children attending the school. The Parish Council has received many expressions of concern on this point, not least severe objections from the Governors and Head Teacher of the School.

Permeability - cuts of obvious intended route from Clare drive to Blythe Way
With the proposed 2 Metre fencing residents would be unable to access neighbours.

Absolute ban until the pumping station is upgraded. There have been several recent instances of the pumping system being unable to cope when there is heavy rain, resulting in raw sewage being discharged. Very recent serious disruption has been caused by 24 hours a day tanker transportation of waste. Additional houses will exacerbate the problem.

Concern that the surface water discharge (the village ditch) is already at capacity, and flooding occurs on the road in wet weather. The increase in run-off from such a development is unacceptable (see developer letter copy enclosed).

Poor layout design, particularly the layout of social homes being separated from market housing. The Parish Council is concerned that a ghetto is not created. The council also notes that there is no demand for social housing in the village, and considers the design to be over provided,

Parking provision insufficient for the number of homes in a rural village.

Transport infrastructure and traffic generation more generally, the current traffic calming in Highfields Road as a result of previous planning approvals is not effective, and damaging vehicles, this needs to be addressed before permission for any further development.

Service utilities (electricity, telephone etc) are already at capacity, with service interruptions at this part of the village

Should the application succeed

The Parish Council request to be involved in any negotiation on S106 payments
Press for the removal of speed thumps and replacement with more suitable traffic calming methods.

Wildlife, all development should make due consideration of problems associated with wildlife disturbance.

Consideration of any effect to any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Observation of the Crime and disorder act Section 17.

Any construction should specify good quality materials.

Consideration of the effect on the Street Scene.

Any rights of way effecting any development should be the responsibility of the applicant to move.

Improvement to the bridleways, and curbing on both sides of Main Street and The Portway

Conditions should be applied on the following during construction

- No work should be carried out before 8am and should finish by 6pm. (1pm Saturdays)
- No work on Sundays or Bank holidays.
- Any spoil removed should not be used to raise ground levels and create neighbouring flood problems.
- Site traffic should be diverted away from existing roads if possible, roads if used should be kept free of mud and if necessary regularly swept. Wheel washing facilities should be used.
- Parking and site compounds should be provided to ensure that disturbance to nearby properties is kept to a minimum.
- Planting plans should be agreed before any construction is started to ensure existing planting is preserved if possible
- Construction traffic to go north

S0118/07/F Information only – Amended – change in dimensions and location of garage 129 Highfields Rd.

Decisions for Information Only

S0149/F Land adjacent 2 Damms Pasture	Withdrawn
S0111/07/LB Manor Farm Main Street	Refused
S0112/07/F Manor Farm Main Street	Refused
S0118/07/F 129 Highfields Road Extension and garage	Approved
S0178/07/F The Laurels 72 West Drive Double Garage	Approved
S0196/07/F Plot 3 56 West Drive	Approved

241. The village development, recreation grounds and public open spaces.

241.1 Sport and Recreation working party meets on 16th April

241.2 Taylor Woodrow Handover – a report on the condition of the planting has been provided by Mr John Newby, the clerk will copy the report to Taylor Woodrow asking for further rectification work. The chairman expressed the council's thanks to John.

The Parish Council are now responsible for maintenance of the sports fields, the clerk will ask our contractor to apply a nitrogen feed as soon as possible.

241.3 Bloor Homes handover. The basic maintenance cost for the extra 2 new areas in Clare Drive were approved (MD Landscapes).

Proposed by Cllr Lang, seconded by Cllr Phillips

241.4 Ashwell Homes – The council has received an inspection request, to consider the handover of 2 areas of public open space.

It is not possible to consider a handover unless it was possible for permission to access without responsibility for any costs of maintaining the road, and as Taylor Woodrow/Ashwell may not be willing to bring the roads up to an adoptable standard, the clerk will write and decline the invitation until this is resolved

241.5 Playground Inspection – Rospa will do the annual inspection of play equipment in April

241.6 Playground Gate replacement, still awaiting confirmation of the extra cost of galvanizing but the work has been approved within the agreed limit.

241.7 Pavilion Planning Application has been registered.

241.8 Skate Park – information from SCDC indicates that a remote area would be preferred and at least 30 metres away from the badger set. Refer to S&R working party.

241.9 Letter from Insurers – Allianz and Cornhill ask that a recorded weekly inspection of public open spaces, for all areas that the council are responsible for, the clerk will keep a log of inspections and record reports from residents, and arrange any necessary urgent rectification work.

242 Councillors' items

242.1 Heavy lorries on Highfields Road, the clerk will write to TKA as agreed earlier (237.3).

242.2 Pot Holes on footpath opposite social club – the clerk will report this to Highways again.

242.3 Fencing at pumping station – had been dumped onto the road, the clerk will check to see if any action is required.

242.4 Further damage to the playground fencing, the clerk was asked to investigate the cost of replacing lost palings and re-fix the remaining nailed ones with screws.

242.5 Village Firework display. The Parish Council would consider partly funding this under the powers allowed for entertainment (LGA 1972 S145.)

Closure of meeting and parish matters.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9-50pm.

Date of next Parish Council meeting is on April 19th (mainly planning) and 3rd May 2007
Sport and Recreation - working party Monday 16th April

Items for Note, if you wish to view any of these items please ask the clerk

- **Local access forum meetings and activities (access to open spaces and recreation).**
- **Changes to bus services – Citi 2, 5, 6, 7, service 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18/18a, New 28, new X8**
- **Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Newsletter.**
- **Cambridgeshire ACRE user survey and Magazine**
- **Countryside access County Council**
- **Cambridge Dial a Ride**
- **Wildlife Trusts – Willow Trees Leaflet**
- **CPRE Membership**
- **Sport for young people with a disability, grants**
- **Swimming for young people with a disability – 4 day course**
- **Easter Cricket academy**
- **Ramblers Programme and news**

Signed _____ Chairman _____ Date _____