YELLING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th December 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Minute Ref.

23.103 Agenda Item 1: Apologies for absence:

Miss K. Davies, (Chair), Mr G. Reilly-Lloyd.

Mr R. West, (District Councillor.

23.103.1 Present:

Mr A. Fusco (Chair), Mrs S. Ascroft, Mr J. Peal, Mr C. Griffith and Mr T. Race.

Two parishioners.

23.104 Agenda Item 2: Declarations of interest:

None.

23.105 Agenda Item 3: Public Open Forum

The Chair invited any comments on agenda items from the parishioners present.

The parishioners wanted to address the Council in respect of Agenda Item 21.

They had been approached by Telent Technology Services Ltd on behalf of Wireless Infrastructure Group, a telecoms infrastructure provider, with a request to consider the installation of a telecommunications mast on their land. They felt that there were clear grounds that the outline proposal was not within the relevant industry code of practice and should not proceed. It was unclear whether planning consent would be required so they wanted to make the PC aware of the background should an application be forthcoming.

The Chair acknowledged the parishioners' concerns and thanked them for attending the meeting to raise them.

23.105.1 The Public Open Forum was closed at 20.00.

KD

23.106 Agenda Item 4: Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of 1st August 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council of 1st August 2023 were read. It was proposed by Mr Race, seconded by Mr Peal and agreed unanimously that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair accordingly.

23.107 Agenda Item 5: Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 30th May 2023

23.107.1 Tower Farm & Stables

The Clerk advised the approach to landowner to establish availability of land for village use was extant.

23.107.2 Planning Applications: HDC determinations

- 23/00940/HHFUL - The Old Rectory, 145 High Street: Approved
- 23/00941/LBC - The Old Rectory, 145 High Street: Approved

23.107.3 The Chair noted that all other matters arising would be covered by items on the meeting agenda and could be considered accordingly.

23.108 Agenda Item 6: Verbal reports from County and District Councillors (if in attendance)

Mr Ferguson reported on the following items.

- The update to HDC's Local Plan 2035 required every five years was in development and the call for land had been reopened. It was noted that responses had been received in respect of two sites in Yelling which the respondents considered could support up to 55 dwellings. These were proposals only and no particular action was required;
- Anthony Browne, MP's appointment as Minister for Decarbonisation of Transport and the Future of Transport which potentially impacts scope for commenting on the NATS flight path issues and EWR development;
- The County Council had noted concerns over its decision to stop using weed killer for highways weed management and was to revisit the policy.

The Chair thanked Mr Ferguson for his report.

Mr West had previously provided a written report to the Clerk covering the following points:

- Highways England have started to send communications explain

ws

the works to be carried out and associated road closures;

- Anthony Browne's ministerial appointment could be positive in bringing about change in the arrangements for NATS Luton Airport Stacking pattern;
- East West Rail's notes of liaison group meeting of 26th October suggest the rail infrastructure required is uncertain. This is so important to assess the effect on the historic landscape surrounding the village;
- Councillor Spencer, Chair of Croxton Parish Council has expressed opposition to the North Weald Solar Farm development given the likely impact of East West Rail and the A428 developments. While his position is understood, it is likely that the that best that will be achieved is mitigation;
- The officer at HDC in charge of street cleansing who should be contacted with any concerns is Matt Chudley;
- He would support the PC's determination in the event of a planning application for the telecommunications mast on land at Home Farm, Toseland Crossroads.

23.109 Agenda Item 7: Traffic management strategy plan

(a) A428 Highways England Development - Update

Highways England had announced the provision of £2m of funding intended to maximise the wider benefits of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements for local communities, the environment, and the local economy. The total was to be split between two funds:

A £1.7 million Social Value Fund to maximise the wider benefits of the scheme available for all not-for-profit organisations with individual grants between £15,000 and £200,000;

A £250,000 Community Fund to support the local community and provide social value available for not-for-profit groups or small voluntary and community organisations with individual grants up to £15,000.

Expressions of interest in the first of five funding rounds were sought by 1st February 2024.

After discussion, it was felt that the provision of a footway between Bridle End and the Chapel might fall within the objectives of the Social Value Fund. It was proposed by Mr Griffith, seconded by Mrs Ascroft and carried unanimously that:

(i) an expression of interest be submitted and;
(ii) that, with the short timetable, a sub-committee be formed to oversee the submission and any associated requirements.

MD

(b) SWARCO MVAS repairs

The Clerk confirmed that the repairs had been completed but not yet invoiced and this would be considered at a future meeting.

(c) Traffic statistics

Mr Bownass had provided the east and westbound vehicle volumes for the 17th November when the A428 was closed as a result of an accident. These showed increases of up to 500% and could be an indicator of increases that might be experienced during the A428 construction period.

The Chair proposed that consideration should be given to the permanent installation of data recorder to augment the two MVAS and agreed to look into this at opportunity.

23.110 Agenda Item 8: Footpath, footway and carriageway matters

(a) Quotation for repairs to bridge and repainting

Mr Race advised that the quote from Clarke Midgeley had been accepted and work would start in the spring.

(b) Quotations for repainting of dragon's teeth & white lining at eastern village approach

The Clerk advised that Maciej Adamczyk, Cambs CC's Local Highway Officer had indicated that requests for repainting road markings would normally be made using the normal highways fault reporting system. As there is an intention to offer a contribution from the CIL funding balance, it was unlikely that this system would be appropriate and a separate approach would be needed.

(c) Bridle End - water leakage

Mr Peal advised that this was under investigation with Cambs highways officers and more would be known in due course.

(d) Footway damage outside 10 Bridle End

This should be reported using the usual highways fault reporting system.

23.111 Agenda Item 9: National Air Traffic Services - Luton Airport stacking pattern

The extension to the timetable to make representations to NATS had ended on 23rd September and the results were awaited.

MD

23.112 Agenda Item 10: East West Rail - Route announcement update & public exhibition

There had been no further developments since the last meeting.

23.113 Agenda Item 11: North Weald Solar Farm - Community Liaison Group

Mr Race advised that the Group had not met since the last PC meeting. It was understood that the planning application was in preparation. The likely submission was unclear but probably not until early in 2024.

23.114 Agenda Item 12: Defibrillator funding - Update

It was noted that a defibrillator had been installed at the Bethel Pentecostal Chapel and funded by its congregation. Mr Peal agreed to express the PC's appreciation to Pastor Abraham for this prompt action.

23.115 Agenda Item 13: HDC Precept Application

The Clerk had previously circulated the funding estimates for the precept for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2024, noting the various outstanding commitments and other planned and potential expenditure. After discussion it was proposed by Mr Peal, seconded by Mr Griffith and carried unanimously that a precept of £6,000 be set.

23.116 Agenda Item 14: Health, welfare & other initiatives

The Clerk reviewed the recent communications received covering these types of initiative and confirmed that the members of the Council were happy for him to circulate only those that were felt relevant.

23.117 Agenda Item 15: LHI Grant Initiative 2024/25

The Clerk noted that applications for the scheme had to be submitted by 12th January 2024 and reminded the Council of the revised application limits and procedures introduced for the 2023/2024 period.

After discussion, no suitable opportunities were identified and it was agreed to reconsider for 2025/26.

23.118 Agenda Item 16: Community Benefit Fund - Funding opportunities

Mrs Ascroft advised that annual funding for the village was not being utilised, the residual available balance was increasing and it would be helpful if members of the Council could encourage applications from other village groups with which they are connected.

WJ

23.119 Agenda Item 17: Queen's Green Canopy: Parish tree planning initiative - Update

The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by the Cambridge Community Foundation to provide the grant monitoring form by 31st December.

23.120 Agenda Item 18: Barclays Bank account details confirmation

The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by the Bank to provide certain information required under the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer) Regulations 2017. Providing the information requested had been made more difficult as the Bank required that certain actions be undertaken by authorised signatories, however, with Mrs Ascroft's and Mr Peal's assistance this had been completed.

It was understood that the situation was complicated as the internal classification of the account originally applied by the Bank was no longer considered appropriate for parish councils. This was in the process of being revised and the Clerk had confirmed that the account was not now subject to any operational restrictions.

23.121 Agenda Item 19: Remembrance Day - review of village commemoration options

Mr Peal advised that he had noted the approach taken by other towns and villages to commemorate Remembrance Day and thought that the Council might consider ways to provide a more visible tribute to those who have served.

Various options were discussed. It was proposed by Mr Griffith, seconded by Mr Race and carried unanimously that expenditure of £1,000.00 be approved for the purchase of suitable sheet metal silhouettes and oversize poppies.

23.122 Agenda Item 20: Planning Application 23/02192/TREE - The Old Rectory, 145 High Street

The Chair confirmed that the members of the Council had had the opportunity to review the documentation associated with this application for works to reduce the height and spread of trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders

After discussion, it was proposed by Mr Race, seconded by Mrs Ascroft and carried unanimously to recommend approval as the intended works are essentially to:

- remediate the encroachment of the trees into the neighbouring property;

WD

- address potential safety concerns;
- enhance and preserve the residential amenity of the neighbouring property.

23.123 Agenda Item 21: Land adjacent Home Farm, Toseland Cross - Proposed telecommunications mast site

The concerns expressed by parishioners in the Public Open Forum were noted and would be taken into consideration should a formal planning application be received.

23.124 Agenda Item 22: Accounts to pay

It was proposed by Mr Peal, seconded by Mr Race and carried unanimously that the following accounts be approved for payment;

- Yelling Village Hall: Rental costs £ 48.00
- H. Jackson: BKGC engraving costs £ 10.00
- Zurich Municipal: Insurance renewal £241.00
- Clerk's net salary 2023/24 (before 05/04/24) £540.00
- HMRC: PAYE (before 05/04/24) £360.00

23.125 Agenda Item 23: Items for future consideration - (for information only)

Donation request from St Neots Museum - to be considered at Annual Meeting in May 2024.

23.126 The meeting closed at 22.00.

30/1/24