



# Little Thetford Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr G James

Locum Clerk: Mrs L White, c/o Little Thetford Village Hall, The Wyches, Little Thetford CB6 3HG

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## Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 via Zoom at 7.31pm

Attendees: Cllr Graham James (Chairman), Cllr Charlotte Mitchell, Cllr Sarah Parish,  
Cllr Caroline Chamberlain, Cllr Robert Clark

Cllr Hunt

3 members of public

### 20/88 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 20/89 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Kilby and Cllr Stubbs (personal)

### 20/90 Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None

### 20/91 Public and Press Participation Session (10mins)

A resident said they would be keen to sow wild flowers around the village within the grass verges. It was noted that the Locum Clerk had received some information about planting in verges recently and would look at what is involved as there are restrictions from County Council.

### 20/92 Approval of Minutes

- It was proposed by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Clark that the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> July be approved and signed. The Chairman will sign the document in the presence of the Locum Clerk.
- The Clerk noted that the footpath in the Cemetery Extension has been completed, however upon investigation there does not appear to have been a planning application made.
- None.

### 20/93 Reports

Cllr Hunt provided his verbal report which included:

#### County Council

- an update on ongoing roadworks in the area;
- County Council have been looking after over 20,000 shielded members of the public;
- he is pushing for a northern link on the Cam Metro;
- the possibility of establishing solar farms is being looked into;
- Waterbeach Incinerator appeal has been dismissed by the Planning Inspector.

#### District Matters

- permission granted for solar farm near Burwell which will provide enough power for 35,000 homes;
- in advanced discussions to recommission the Mepal Outdoor leisure centre into a crematorium but retaining the fishing and sailing elements thus retaining the biodiversity;
- moving ECDC staff to help shielding staff, therefore asking residents to be patient with collections of bin bags.

### 20/94 A10 Dualling

Cllr James noted that the item was emotive and asked that the item be limited to 30min.



Cllr Hunt noted that he has received various comments about the East Cambs submission and reiterated that no decision has been made yet.

Cllr Mitchell noted that residents may not have been aware that there may have been an option for a brand new A10 meaning loss of property. Needs some attention, world has changed a lot and some of the options are more cost effective. Believes it needs doing but Option D is the least cost effective and better junctions are needed. She noted that these options would move traffic to other roads with new road being built. Her preference would be for dualling the current road and include better junctions.

Cllr Chamberlain was unable to attend the public meeting due to work commitment but noted that she has read through all the comments. There are 2 fundamental points: environmental and ecological impact and how damage can be remedied and accessibility to and from the village. Other people have recognised the improvements of the A14 and there is impact to accessibility to their own villages to reach their villages which people will get used to over time. Needs to be able to access and enter the village. In favour of dualling but not sure which one.

Cllr Parish council experience is limited at present, and the worst area is from Milton to Waterbeach. Would not be opposed to dualling from Milton and Waterbeach especially with the new houses at Waterbeach. Concerned about the ecological impact by building new motorways. Realises that £49b has been set aside by government and believes the Combined Authority will try to go for some of that funding. She noted that this development is not in keeping with the Carbon Neutral for 2050. Traffic flows have changed due to COVID-19 and feels these need to be reviewed in 12 months before looking at designing the new route. If Option D goes ahead, 4 houses would be completely cut off from village. The Strategic Report suggests consultation in 2021 with road completed 2028. Would increase farm traffic in villages on the roads.

Cllr Parish asked for it to be minuted that she had been asked to stop asking questions of Cllr Hunt during the public meeting though it was noted as a question and answer session of Cllr Hunt. This meant that she did not get the figures she wanted such as how many responses from the survey Cllr Hunt noted were from Little Thetford. Cllr Hunt believes that Little Thetford is the most important to have a safe in and out entry. A lot of people want separate cycle tracks. Having a separate road will mean less disruption and gives option of cycle track Cambridge to Ely.

Cllr Clark noted that the entrance into Little Thetford is a major danger and feels sorry for bus drivers who collect passengers from the village. Would press for initial traffic lights at the junction. The rubber track bus would that not mean that the necessity of the other road is not necessary.

Cllr James noted that there are 3 potential options: junction improvements, a bypass for Little Thetford or a totally new road. No one has mentioned HGV traffic and assessments have shown that there is twice the national average of HGVs coming down A10 heading to A14. This will not diminish but increase if anything. Concern over junction improvement between Ely to Stretham it is already really narrow and cyclists will not use as too dangerous. If dualled it becomes more and more difficult to cross the road. Many elderly residents rely on Zipper and will become more disenfranchised. Bypass around Little Thetford would be too close to the village. Would not disagree about a bypass around Little Thetford but it would need to be set back and how would people access it. Feels that Little Thetford has been forgotten and as Little Thetford is not listed as one of the parishes consulted. Is there confusion between wards and parishes and only through East Cambs that there were some hasty amendments to report. Would not like to see the village split any more than it is now. Based on experience, junction improvements cost significantly more as they have to rethink in 10 years time.

People have raised the environment and the environmental issues were taken into account more easily with new road than old. His preference would be option D and retain the current A10 and remove the HGVs from this road.



Cllr Hunt noted that there is a major upscaling of railway junction at Ely. East Anglia is becoming a real hub and a lot comes through Ely and the A14 due to Felixstowe.

Cllr Mitchell noted that the prime minister would like the traffic off the road – would like to get the public transport increased.

It was noted that the Locum Clerk would compose a response to the Combined Authority to summarise some of the thoughts of the parish.

#### **20/95 Finance Matters**

- a. The Clerk provided an update including Bank Reconciliation.
- b. The invoices were checked by all cllrs and approved for authorisation
- c. After some discussion it was **proposed** by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Parish and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that Acacia be employed to carry out the tree survey for the village.

#### **20/96 Planning Matters**

- a. [20/00975/FUL](#) – Construction of 1 no. five bedroom, two storey detached dwelling and associated works (resubmission) at land parcel south east of Berrycroft, Red Fen Road, Little Thetford

It was **proposed** by Cllr Clark seconded by Cllr Mitchell and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that the application be supported with the comments all construction traffic must turn right as the culvert is weak on the left and failing. There will be an advisory sign reinstated stating not suitable for HGVs.

- b. The application [18/01259/DISB](#) was **noted** to discharge Conditions 3 (materials) and 11 (biodiversity) of previously approved 18/01259/FUL for erection of a dwelling at 40 Cowslip Drive, Little Thetford.
- c. Cllr James raised the concern about builders being able to ask for extended working hours. After a brief discussion it was agreed that emergency meetings be called if necessary.

#### **20/97 Council Administration Matters**

- a. Moved to support people out of lockdown. Issues which are apparent are wellness and general wellbeing and Internet poverty. There is a County survey on Internet poverty and it would be useful to send around with the Annual Report. Volunteer went on course through FreELY and will be the village champion but does not sit with the parish council to lead with. Village Hall may lead on it. Friendship Club held an informal meeting on the green outside the village hall on Monday morning and Church have too. Trying to bring people back into normality.
- b. The Locum Clerk noted that the Solicitor had provided only one name as a suggestion for Counsel. Cllrs have asked that he provide 2 or 3 other names in order that they can choose one at their next meeting. Openreach to do telegraph pole as not happy to enter any further agreements until the current issue is sorted.
- c. The Annual report for 2019-20 was reviewed by members. It was **proposed** by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Chamberlain and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to make changes to telephone numbers, planning applications and typo under future plans and to print 400 copies with the print quote which comes in at the cheapest from Impressions, Ely Print Centre and the Print Barn. The finished reports will be delivered to Cllr James for distribution around the village.
- d. The Chairman highlighted the various options available to the Council including Village Design Statement and Neighbourhood Plan. Need to understand what the community want to be able to set a budget and include work on cemetery or conservation area. Cllrs Chamberlain and Parish to work with the Locum Clerk to bring something together for next meeting.

#### **20/98 Public Open Spaces Matters**

- a. After a lengthy discussion it was **proposed** by Cllr Chamberlain, seconded by Cllr James and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to reopen the playground and see how it is respected by residents. Maximum of 9 people. The Locum Clerk to update the signage and to advertise the opening on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August.

cb

- b. It was agreed to put the information out to residents to see if anyone was interested in training to carry out gritting when needed over the winter. Social Media, noticeboard and newsletter.
- c. It was **noted** that John Parish had cleared some of the brambles and excessive growth from the pond in the Conservation Area over last winter with a follow up due in spring which had not happened because of wet weather and the ongoing pandemic. John noted that with the New Life in the Old West project he is putting in wildflowers the other side of the culvert. John will contact the project to find out if they can provide some advice and guidance for the Conservation Area. It was also noted that Wicken Fen may be able to provide advice. The Locum Clerk to contact Wicken Fen and to be brought back in September.
- d. It was **noted** that a request had been received from a resident to plant wildflowers on the verges. Cllrs were generally in support of the project but understand that the requirements of Highways need to be investigated.

**20/99 Motion to Exclude**

It was proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Clark to close the meeting at 10.16pm.

**20/100 Recruitment**

During the closed meeting it was agreed to appoint Mrs Karen Peck as Clerk to Little Thetford Parish Council on SCP 13

**20/101 Motion to Re-Admit the Public and Press**

To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the press and public are re-admitted to the meeting.

**20/102 Date of Next Meeting**

Date of Next Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Closed 10.36pm

Signed:  .....

Date: .....

Appendix 1

Item 20/95 b – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Supplier	Invoice No.	Invoice Date	Cost Description	Net	VAT	Total
Canalbs Limited	379	15-Jul-20	Internal Audit	£ 116.87	£ -	£ 116.87
CAPALC	2190	28-Jul-20	Councillor Training - Cllrs Chamberlain & James	£ 75.00	£ -	£ 75.00
CAPALC	2209	28-Jul-20	Locum Services	£ 656.25	£ -	£ 656.25
J Skipper Gardening Services	2047	31-Jul-20	Grass Cutting - July	£ 623.00	£ -	£ 623.00
Bourne Sport	1313	31-Jul-20	Laying out of Cemetery Extension	£ 21,954.50	£ 4,390.90	£ 26,345.40
Fenman Pest Control	600780	05-Aug-20	Treatment of Wasp Nest	£ 50.00	£ -	£ 50.00
Human Capital Department	INV-0604	06-Aug-20	HR Project Phase 7-9	£ 1,000.00	£ 200.00	£ 1,200.00
				<b>£ 24,475.62</b>	<b>£ 4,590.90</b>	<b>£ 29,066.52</b>