



Bar Hill Parish Council
Minutes of Monthly Parish Council Meeting
Held in The Parish Council Office
at 7.00 pm on Thursday 20 November 2014

ACTION

Present:	B Waters	Chair	(BW)
	S Jenkins	Vice-Chair	(SJ)
	L Baffa	Clerk	(LB)
	B Burrage	Councillor	(BB)
	J Doland	Councillor	(JD)
	R Hall	Councillor	(RH)
	A Mitchell	Councillor	(AM)
	M Nelson	Councillor	(MN)
	M Pope	Councillor	(MP)
	A Saunders	Councillor	(AS)
	S Spence	Councillor	(SS)
	J York	Councillor	(JY)

2014

Open Forum

Bob Wells and Paul Neal from the VHMC attended the meeting, along with Owen Morgan, the Managing Director of Cambridge Solar to discuss their current project of installing solar panels on the village hall roof.

A presentation document has already been received by the Parish Council and Bob quickly went through the figures again and asked if there were any questions.

JD asked if the joint ownership of the solar panels by the Management Committee and the Social Club would affect the charitable status of the Village Hall and Bob replied this would make no difference whatsoever.

BW asked if the village hall roof would be able to take the weight of the solar panels and Bob replied that a survey has already been undertaken and the weight would not be a problem. Mr Morgan said that each panel weighs 15kg each and the weight would be spread evenly over the roof.

MP asked whether the insurance premium would be affected and Bob replied that this would have no effect to the insurance premium. After 5 years the solar panels would be jointly owned but the insurance would be the responsibility of the Village Hall, under their "buildings" insurance.

SJ and BB both asked what the life span of the system would be and Mr Owen replied that the panels had a 25 year performance life but should last longer. The inverter has a 12 year warranty and there is a 10 year workmanship warranty. Lastly if Cambridge Solar went out of business during this time, the insurance taken out would cover everything. Bob Wells also mentioned that the panels were self-cleaning and there would be no cost to the tax payers of the village.

There would be a formal contract between the Sports & Social Club and the Village Hall Management Committee, once signed a copy would be given to the Parish Council for their records. They envisage the work to commence during the 2nd week in December and the work should take approximately 5 days for installation.

It was agreed that the Parish Council was happy for the solar panels to be installed and MN agreed to put a piece on the village website.



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Colin Brett attended the meeting to discuss the recent flooding in the village. He thanked the Parish Council for the update on the flooding and BW confirmed that the cutting back of vegetation along the stream would be taking place on 24/25 November and the Wetland Project that has now been completed.

Colin wanted it known that he thought the bridges were partly to blame for the flooding of the homes along Hollytrees and not the stream itself. He was advised there was a "repair and renewal grant", which was offered to flood victims in Somerset last year but he has been unable to access this information. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact the County Council (Sass Pledger) and ask about the availability of this grant.

C

84. To receive apologies and declaration of interest

There were apologies from BH and JR and there were no declarations of interest made.

85. To Approve Minutes of previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th October 2014 were read and approved as a true record. Proposed by BB and seconded by SJ. All in favour.

86. Matters for discussion and decisions to be made from previous minutes

86.1 The Willows – update

BW reported that again Solicitors seem to be on holiday but Jonathan Lager contacted BW and informed her that all the files have now been passed to their Bedford office and things seem to be moving forward.

86.2 The Farmhouse – update

The Solicitor has once asked about the access path to the Farmhouse and needs proof of ownership. RH will be making a statutory declaration that he has walked the path for over 20 years, which legally makes it a public right of way. The Clerk informed the meeting that Andy Knott Construction has now completed the repairs to the front of the building. She has received the invoice and has written the cheque but has asked for a Councillor to inspect the work before she sends the payment.

It was also noted that Total Relaxation's Solicitor has asked permission for the hairdresser to hire out a chair. It was agreed that we would make a decision on this once the lease has been signed.

86.3 Skate Park – update

There was nothing further to report but the Clerk would once again chase Rob Steele for a further quote. She will also contact the other contractors who have quoted and confirm that a decision will be made after Christmas.

C

86.4 Village Hall - update

This has already been discussed under the Open Forum.



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87. Clerks Financial and Procedural Report

87.1 Approval of works by the Parish Council - There were no additional works to be approved by the Parish Council at this meeting.

87.2 Poppy Appeal – Request for donation - A short debate took place and it was noted that at last year's budget meeting it was agreed that we would pay no more than £100 per donation request, AS proposed that £100 be donated to the annual Poppy Appeal, this was seconded by MP. For=10. Against=1 (AM). Therefore the motion was carried.

87.3 The Coffee Stop – Request for donation - A request donation form has been received and as discussed in item No. 87.2 SJ proposed that we donate £100 and this was seconded by AS. All in favour.

87.4 Decision on recommendation to employ Ramp mental to build new skate park - This will be deferred until the January meeting. C

87.5 Approval of accounts and payment of cheques for November 2014 - The Parish Council inspected the accounts for November and these were approved and proposed as a true record by AM and seconded and JY. All in favour. The cheques to be paid in November were looked at and approved. Proposed by AM and seconded by MP. All in favour.

The Parish Council owned garages were briefly discussed and it was agreed that these will be put on the December agenda for further discussion. C

Also the Parish Council income was briefly discussed and this will be discussed in full at the Budget Meeting to be held on Wednesday 3rd December when the Budget Meeting will be held alongside the Environment Meeting, starting at 7pm. C

**The correspondence and accounts are available to view
in the Parish Council Office, Hanover Close, Off Viking Way, Bar Hill**

88. Correspondence Received

88.1 Local Government Boundary Commission – This documentation was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. RH confirmed that the County Council has agreed that the changing of boundaries would reduce Councillors from 67 to 63 but they are still debating whether there should be one councillor per ward or have a double or triple representation.

88.2 Highways Agency – Proposed acquisition of land - This subject was discussed at length after an email was received from Brian Heffernan of the County Council indicating that the Parish Council is responsible for the balancing lake to the side of the A14. We have evidence from two Councillors that the balancing lake has never had water in it. It was agreed that a letter be sent saying the Parish Council cannot funds to the cleaning up of this balancing lake without a hydrological survey being done and we would also require a full wildlife survey to be completed. C

88.3 SCDC – Minutes of Cabinet and Parish Councils – Information only. The contents were noted and filed.



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- 88.4 Email from PCSO** – Information only. The contents were noted and filed.
- 88.5 SCDC – Licensing of alcohol at Dobbies** – RH reported that the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee, so no further action to be taken.
- 88.6 County Council – Flooding update** – It was agreed the newsletter, produced by the County Council, will be made available to all residents. The Clerk will put a short note on the noticeboard indicating that the newsletter can be found in the Parish Council office. It was also agreed to have some copies in the Library. C
- 88.7 SCDC – Parish Planning Forum to be held on 8th December 2014**– The Parish Council had no comments to make. However, it was agreed that AM would attend this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. MP proposed that the Parish Council would reimburse him the taxi fares to and from the meeting and this was seconded by BB. All in favour.
- 88.8 County Council – balancing lake** – This was discussed under 88.2. Noted and filed.
- 88.9 Request from Brian Burrage to join the Village Hall Management Committee** – This was discussed at length and RH proposed that BB join the Management Committee as a Parish Council representative. This was seconded by MP. For=9. Against=1 (SJ). Therefore the motion was carried.

89. Chairs Report

- 89.1 DPPO** – BW informed the meeting that she has been informed that the Police would like this legislation phased out. After a short debate it was agreed that the Parish Council would like to see the DPPO stay in place.
- 89.2 Review of Policy Documents** – This has been deferred to the December meeting. AM also requested that the policy he has drawn up for sustainable paper and cardboard use be looked at. This was briefly discussed and MP felt that this policy was not needed as common sense should prevail. A vote then took place, yes to the policy=2, no to the policy=7, abstentions=2. Therefore the policy will not be adopted. C
- 89.3 Budget for financial year 2015/2016** – This has been re-scheduled for Wednesday 3rd December at 7pm under a Special Meeting. C

90. Committee Reports

- a) **Planning Committee**
Planning decision S/1134/14/RM – Approval by SCDC for land south of Longstanton
- b) **Environment Committee**
The minutes from the Environment Meeting had already been circulated to the Parish Council and comments were made as follows:



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The Wetland Project – This has now been completed and BW urged Councillors to site visit and see what has been done. It was also agreed that Rob Mongovan would be contacted and inform him that the Parish Council felt further height was needed after witnessing some very wet weather over the past few days.

C

He had requested that further shingle was needed but we have a half tonne of shingle to the rear of the Parish Council office and the Clerk will ask if this would be adequate for what he needed.

C

The Fairway trees - BW reported that Mr Stafford (008/14) has asked for 3 of the trees, scheduled to be pruned back, be removed and has indicated that, if agreeable, he would be happy to have these felled himself. It was agreed that trees 1, 5 and 6 would be removed by Mr Stafford.

C

Bar Hill Cricket Club – MP and JY met with the Cricket Club and JY received plans just before this evening's meeting started and they were circulated round the table for the Council to inspect. After agreement of the plans, the Clerk will contact the Cricket Club and inform them that the Parish Council have no objections to the siting of the cricket nets and the taking down of a small tree.

C

33 Acorn Avenue – At our request, the owner has now been in contact with his solicitor and once the paperwork has been drawn up, he will take ownership of his front garden.

134 Appletrees – AS has site visited the area in question and spoke with the resident. The wrong tree was taken down but she feels that due to the winter months, it should be left for now, although she did suggest to the resident that he takes down his own Conifer which is blocking out a great deal of light in his property.

AS also reported that there is a lot of overgrown to the rear of this property, which has reduced the area for walkers. It was agreed that this would be put on Geoff's list of work to be done.

C

91. Other Reports

- a) **Cambridgeshire County Council** – JR was absent due to holidays, so no report was given.
- b) **South Cambridgeshire District Council** – RH reported as follows:

Science Park Railway Station – A range of options for land around the new railway station, bounded by the A14, Milton Road and the Cambridge King's Lynn railway line, are being considered. The kilometre square area is envisaged to include commercial space, housing and community facilities. Suggestions as to a name are also welcomed.



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Building control and surveyors – Proposals to merge the South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire building control departments have been approved. The councils are now being recommended to bring the building surveyors under one management structure, saving £100k a year. In the meantime, the South Cambs surveyors have been awarded the top national award for educational buildings – a new wing at Girtin College comprising 50 study bedrooms, 50 kitchens and a sports' hub.

1st World War centenary map – An interactive map to honour the 2,300 men from South Cambridgeshire villages, who died fighting for their country in the 1st World War, has been devised. The map plots each village war memorial as well as information about the district's wartime history. The system can be pinpointed by a soldier's name to memorials and tombstones.

c) **Cambridgeshire Police** – No report was given this month.

92. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

92.1 Village signs – BB reported that the road sign for Gladeside and the Library is very low and a non-resident staying at the hotel hit his head on the side of the sign. The Clerk will ask SCDC for the sign to be put higher.

C

92.2 Flood Meeting – AM gave his apologies as he has still not finalised the minutes from the Flood Meeting in October. This will be done as soon as possible.

92.3 Rubbish – It was reported that the first company, as you enter Viking Way, now has overflowing bins. The Clerk will contact either the company concerned or the Letting Agent to have these bins emptied as a matter of urgency.

C

Next Meeting - There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm. The next full Parish Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 18th December 2014 at 7.00pm in the Parish Council Office.

Signed(Chair)