

FEN DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

21 OCTOBER 2019



Present

Jackie Isden (chair), Roger Davies, Chris Gray, Max Stovell
County councillor; Mandy Smith; District councillor: Sue Ellington
Parish clerk: Gill Parrish Members of the public: 2

PARISH COUNCIL OPEN FORUM *Opened at 19.30.*

Minuted under item 19/141

PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING *Opened at 19.36.*

19/131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE S Gyles, P Pinner, J Weeden and I Whitby.

19/132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

19/133 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District councillor, Sue Ellington

SCDC plans to borrow: to invest in commercial property in order to provide income for the district council.

Eco grants: the grants committee will be reviewing eco grants at the end of the month.

Applications are limited to one per village. Deadline is 31 October.

Taxi licences: SCDC is reviewing to bring them in line with the city council.

Community warden funding: the new proposal was withdrawn before the grants committee meeting as not viable at this point in time.

County Councillor, Mandy Smith: Greenways project: Cllr Smith met with officers to review the plan already put forward. The next round of decisions will be in March 2020. The issue of who owns the gravel stretch of Holywell Ferry Road is still unresolved (CCC or RSPB?).

There are concerns that speeding will be more of a problem if the road is improved.

A14 footbridge: the project still has not enough points to get built despite the new criteria.

Community warden scheme: a meeting is to be held with Age UK and Fen Drayton, Fenstanton and Elsworth PCs.

Free health checks: CCC is funding health checks for 40-74 year-olds. The checks will last 20-30 minutes and include monitoring BP, weight, cholesterol and lifestyle factors and can be booked through GPs. For more information, visit <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/bewell/resources-and-campaigns/nhs-health-checks-programme/>

19/134 LOCAL CRIME/PCSO

- The notice board at the top of Cootes Lane has been damaged by fire.
- Reminder from the police to secure sheds and outbuildings.

19/135 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The chair signed the September minutes, which were proposed, seconded and unanimously approved as correct with no amendments.

19/136 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

19/092 PC website: M Stovell recommends staying with Wix, the current self-build provider, upgrading and having a dedicated URL. THE PC unanimously approved the proposed URL

and upgrading to a Wix subscription. The PC also wants the site to be a village website, not just a PC one, with forthcoming village events prominent on the home page. M Stovell will develop the upgraded site for feedback from council members. **ACTION: M Stovell**

19/116 Daintrees Road trees – quotation received from Atlas. It was agreed to have the over-extended branches cut back from the trees in the recreation ground along Daintrees Road and dead branches removed from an ash next to the wooden gate at the north end of the recreation ground. **ACTION: J Isden**

19/116 Quotation for cutting hedge in recreation ground: still waiting for this.

19/116 Weeds growing in kerbstones – these have been sprayed. No further action.

19/116 Cootes Court hedge needs cutting back (see 19/138).

19/120 Street lighting handover update: the changeover will take place on 1 November.

19/121 Bollards in village hall car park – update: the bollards are being made and will be installed in mid-November.

19/125 VE Day 2020 – update: being organised by a committee of PC and village hall committee members. Outline programme (as reported in 19/138 September minutes) is in place for Saturday and Sunday. J Isden to speak to the Three Tuns' landlords when the pub reopens in November.

18/126 Village Christmas tree update: price sourced for outdoor lights of £178 plus vat. Need to ascertain size of tree required and confirm site. Also try to source cheaper lights?
ACTION: J Weeden

19/127 Pavilion – update: waiting for the architect to submit the planning application.

19/137 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- 1) Email from Scope about clothing bank in village. PC to refuse. **ACTION: clerk**
- 2) Email re cars parking on the grass at the entrance of Vermuyden Way.
- 3) Email from A14 re southern by-pass opening. The mobile visitor centre will be at Fen Drayton village hall on 28 October, from 15.00 to 19.00.

19/138 VILLAGE/GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & VERGE CUTTING

- The handyman will renovate the notice board in High Street, and look into getting a glass door for the open side.
- Verge cutting – RH Landscapes to cut in November. Next year two verge areas (near the village sign and Cootes Lane/Mill Road corner) will be left uncut and planted with wild flowers.
- Trees in parish fields (see item 139).
- Cars parking on the grass verge in Vermuyden Way. Clerk delivered letters to nearby houses asking residents not to park there.
- The repainting of white lines from the mini-roundabout by the Three Tuns to Cootes Lane was finally carried out on 10 October. Clerk to chase up village sign with Dennis Vacher (in the absence of James Broder). **ACTION: clerk**
- The gate to the recreation ground has been repaired and a new combination padlock fitted. The chair thanked Roy Isden and Roger Davies for doing this.
- Broken (numbered) slabs on verge between Hall Court and Vermuyden Way – who owns them? **ACTION: J Isden**
- The handyman is due to repaint the benches in The Plantation and the railings near the lock-up, re-stain the bench in Hall Court and repair the lock-up door.
- Cootes Court hedge needs trimming. The clerk has asked the management company to deal.



- Contractors working on the house next to the village hall have been asked to make the footway safe. **ACTION: J Isden**

19/139 PARISH TREES/ASH TREES IN RECREATION GROUND

The chair thanked arboriculturist, Andrew Cayley, for carrying out an assessment of the parish council-owned trees on 12 October and producing a report on the state of existing trees, with suggestions for new planting. Andrew will also draw up a tree policy for the PC at no cost.

According to a report by SCDC Fen Drayton has just six per cent tree canopy cover. The desired figure is 20 per cent. The PC will produce budgets and plans to plant more trees in 2020/21. A programme will be presented for discussion at the village meeting in May.

ACTION J Isden Check available grants (including Woodland Trust). **ACTION: M Stovell**

19/140 SWIFT BOXES

Item moved to November agenda so residents can attend the public forum to present their case. Submitting an article to the Fen Drayton Focus could be beneficial.

19/141 VILLAGE FETE

H Newport, co-chair of the village hall committee asked for a member of the parish council to be the PC representative on the steering committee for the village fete in 2020. C Gray volunteered as she is already on the village hall committee as well as the parish council. H Newport confirmed that she would be the village hall liaison with the PC for the VE Day 2020 celebrations. The landlords of the Tuns have been advised about the event.

19/142 COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME UPDATE

The PC has done all it can to promote the scheme, but has only had one definite expression of interest so far, but the scheme should gather momentum once it's up and running. R Davies attended Swavesey's annual community warden event to meet the co-ordinator. Elsworth and Fenstanton are interested in joining up with Fen Drayton and meeting is being arranged with Age UK, Fenstanton, Elsworth and Fen Drayton. Cllr M Smith has spoken to Lolworth but it has no precept. The application will be submitted in February, so the scheme should be in place in spring.

19/143 PLANNING

New applications:

S/1494/19/FL	SAP calculation & design & access	51 Middleton Way
S/2591/19/FL	New dwelling house	r/o 31 Cootes Lane*
S/3380/19/FL	New dwelling and garage	r/o 30 Cootes Lane

* Withdrawn

SCDC decision notices - approved

S/1710/19/FL	Amendments to application	Broadlea, Honey Hill
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19/144 FINANCES: SIX MONTHS ACTUAL & YEAR END FORECAST

R Davies presented the figures to council members, who unanimously approved them. The major, unforeseen, expense was the eviction of an illegal encampment from the recreation ground in June and the cost of installing bollards in the village hall car park and recreation ground to prevent a recurrence, or other unwanted vehicles accessing the playing fields. As a result of the extra £5000 cost caused by the illegal encampment, the PC expects to make a small loss during 2019/20.

19/145 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

<i>Business account</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Payments</i>	<i>VAT</i>
SCDC	Precept B	11850.00		
J Johnson	Town Lands rent	1060.28		
R Davies	Padlock for rec gate		17.71	
G Parrish	Clerk salary September		492.86	
HMRC	Payroll liabilities		277.60	
C Burns	Handyman September		490.00	
Red Shoes	Payroll services		43.20	Y
RH Landscapes	Grass cutting		484.80	Y
Village hall	Room hire PC meetings		15.75	
Transfer	Town Lands rent to TL a/c		1,060.28	

Account balances (as of 16/10/2019)

- Business account = £ 21,014.86
- S106 account = £5,685.24
- Town Lands account = 25,247.85
- Cambridge B/S = £13,600.00

Meeting closed: 21.30 **Next meeting:** 18 November 2019 at 19.30, in the village hall.