

MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 17th July 2019 in the Day Centre, Crafton Green, Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex

PRESENT Cllr M Caton (Chairman), Cllrs A Barnes, D Brett, J Harding, J Hudson, M Jessup, J Kavanagh, A Khan, F Richards, G Sell and T van de Bilt

ATTENDING Mrs R Clifford - Clerk
Mr T Lloyd - Assistant to the Clerk
Mrs E Philbrick - Admin Assistant
Dist Cllr A Dean
Simon Thompson - Chair of Neighbourhood Development Plan
6 members of the public
1 member of the press

125 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs J O'Brien, A Miti, D Wallace-Jarvis, Dist Cllr M Caton and Cty Cllr R Gooding.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised concerns regarding pedestrian walk ways in Stansted which are poorly maintained and some needing to be widened. He gave details of certain walk ways which are significantly reduced in width due to house owners not cutting back their hedges and feels the Parish Council should write to them urgently to request this be done.

A member of the public who is a partner in a local business spoke to voice their concerns regarding the plans for leasing Crafton Green House and the effect this will have on businesses on Cambridge Road due to pressures on car parking. They would like a proper consultation on the car park as their customers are struggling to park.

126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

127 MINUTES

The minutes of the Full Council meeting on 26th June 2019 were approved

128 MATTERS ARISING - None

129 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Please see attached

Cllr Khan commented regarding the Library. He believes the Parish Council should fight back on the decision of Essex County Council. The Library cannot run well without good paid staff and we should put in a strong protest to Essex County Council to stick to their agreement. Cllr Sell said he was Chairman when the Essex County Council Library service approached the Council and asked them to build the new project and asked to be partners on the project. Cllr Brett commented that the documents produced are very vague and more so than previous documents. They have not listed which ones will be community run and which

ones will be core assets. We need answers! He is annoyed that Cllr Gooding is not at the meeting to give clarification on the situation. Cllr Sell expressed his opinion that the Cabinet's decision may be called in.

Cllr Khan spoke regarding the FOI requests the Parish Council had received. He asked for clarification as to whether the requests are regarding the signing off of the accounts. The Chairman advised that the requests relate in the main to how the accounts have been audited, our processes and valuation of assets. Cllr Khan commented that the Parish Council had gone through an audit process and it was all approved. The Clerk confirmed that the Annual Return is currently with the external auditor.

130a DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Dist Cllr A Khan reported:

UDC reviewed the Stansted Airport Planning decision and they are reviewing their planning regime. The S106 has been pushed back to the planning committee to scrutinise it and in his option this is the sensible outcome.

UDC are having an orientation for the new Councillors on finance, in particular on the future Government cuts in financing.

The Governance and Audit Committee are meeting next week to sign off the accounts but Councillors will have a chance to scrutinise it before then. It is Councillors' opportunity to ask detailed questions. Cllr Brett asked regarding the investment strategy at Chesterford Research Park and would like to see some of the £100 million investment coming to this part of the district. Cllr Khan advised he had no answer to how it would be distributed but it would be a decision made by the District Council. Cllr Sell advised he had significant reservations on Aspire and they need to diversify. The Council is considering investing outside of the park.

Cllr Dean advised that the District Council had twice tried to invest in this area of the district but they didn't come off for various reasons. They are strongly trying to diversify.

Dist Cllr A Dean reported:

Some have been battling for years regarding the car parking in Crafton Green and in Lower Street. He advised that UDC are responsible for parking and he believes that UDC would fund the demolition of Crafton Green House once empty and fund the additional parking but that they are waiting on the Parish Council to decide the future. The Chairman advised that there was meant to be a meeting with Cllr Gerard tomorrow (Thursday) to discuss various issues including parking but he was now unable to make it. Talks should be resuming.

He asked for an update on the progress for Fullers Almshouses and the "Call For Sites". Cllr Caton confirmed this needs to be actioned and will hopefully be done this week. Cllr Dean raised concerns regarding the risk of the money being spent elsewhere but Cllr Caton and the Clerk confirmed this would not happen as the funds have to be spent in Stansted.

Permissive Footpaths at Elms Farm - has been going on since last year. He is engaging with planners to enforce the S106 agreement as it should have been done before 50% of the houses were built. It is a big issue and it is his fear that someone is trying to wriggle out of it.

Dist Cllr G Sell reported:

Adrian Webb is in dialogue with Bloor Homes regarding the Commercial premises at Walpole Farm and is confident the new businesses will see light of day. Cllr Khan advised that he had spoken to the developers there and they hope to finish by the Spring. He also asked if once the foundations had been laid, if the developers would hand over as an empty shell or kitted out.

Stephen Hehir who is the Executive Head at Forest Hall School is moving to another role within the BMA Trust and he feels the Parish Council should send thanks to him for all his work. Hannah Jones is also going on Maternity Leave in September. John Blaney will be taking over from Stephen Hehir and has previously been an inspector with Ofsted.

130b COUNTY COUCILLOR'S REPORT - Attached and read to the meeting.

131 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Simon Thompson, Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, gave a presentation on the draft on the plan. He advised that the Clerk would be sending out version 10 of the plan after the meeting and has asked for the Council to approve it at their next meeting in 2 weeks time for it to go out for consultation.

At the request of the Chairman, Simon Thompson stressed that the key to any improvements being implemented in the Community is that funding comes from developers. As things stand, Stansted is not due to be allocated many more housing units, but the fact that we have a plan in place puts us in a strong position for any future speculative applications.

The following questions were raised after the presentation:

Dist Cllr Dean pointed out that the Local Plan talks about supporting local economy and queried what was proposed regarding parking for the top of the village. Ray Woodcock, a member of the NDP group advised that they had mainly concentrated on Lower Street Car Park and whether it should be a multi storey etc. He and Simon both agreed that the consultation is a chance to hear other views and for people to give their opinions and put forward ideas. It is so important that the public gets involved during the consultation.

132 PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION - Approved

133a PLANNING APPLICATIONS - UTT/19/1511/HHF and 1512/LB - 46 CAMBRIDGE ROAD
Single storey hall extension to side
 No objections subject to parking regulations being met

133b PLANNING APPLICATION - UTT/19/1539/HHF - 20 CAWKELL CLOSE
Two-storey side extension
 No objections subject to parking regulations being met

134 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF 10TH JULY 2019
RESOLVED - to accept the minutes of the meeting

135 APPLICATIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

3 of the 4 applicants were present at the meeting and addressed the Council. The Clerk read out the 4th application as the applicant was unable to attend. After this members had the opportunity to ask any questions.

Having been proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice-Chairman it was unanimously

RESOLVED that in the view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the public & press be instructed to withdraw from the meeting.

Once in private session a discussion took place between members regarding each applicant. The meeting was then re-opened and a ballot was held with one applicant securing an absolute majority. Mrs Deena Bowman was co-opted onto the Council.

136 PLANNING APPLCATIONS DETERMINED - Circulated with agenda

Meeting closed at 9.47pm