

# Minutes of 2017 Great Wilbraham Annual Parish Meeting

## Held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April in the Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Stephen Bartlett (Chairman), Sally Ramus, Joy Bray, Patricia Davis, Roddy Tippen and Claire Jackman  
District Councillor Robert Turner & County Councillor John Williams  
Members of the public: Approximately 50 parishioners were in attendance.  
The clerk, Natalie Mulvey was in attendance

**1. Welcome** – S Bartlett welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that there be more public participation at this APM than there had been in previous years.

**2. Apologies for absence** – None

**3. An introduction to the Parish Council: Stephen Bartlett**

S Bartlett introduced all six current members of the Parish Council. He reported that there is a vacancy and requested that anyone interested speak to the Clerk to find out more about what is involved. S Bartlett explained that there is to be much electoral change both nationally and locally, he invited SCDC Councillor R Turner and County Council J Williams to provide more information.

**4. Parish Council: Finance report – Natalie Mulvey**

The Clerk presented a summary of the Parish Council's finances for 2016 – 2017. The information detailed the funds held at the end of the financial year totalling £53,000. The Clerk advised that this sum included £10,600 of Section S106 money received from developments in the village. Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act contributions can be sought from developers towards the cost of providing community and social infrastructure. The Clerk pointed out that receipts had been greater than expenditure in the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, she advised that this was partly due to some financial commitments not requiring payment until the next financial year. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's finances are in good shape with a precept of £24,000 being set for 2017/18. The internal audit is scheduled to take place at the end of the month, and the annual return will be submitted for external audit by 12<sup>th</sup> June. A copy of the annual return will be displayed on the noticeboard and website.

**5. Electoral Changes and reports;**

**Cllr South Cambridgeshire District Council – Robert Turner**

R Turner explained that since the last boundary review, 10 years ago, some areas in the district have grown faster than others resulting in an imbalance in the number of people being represented by their local councillors. There is a proposal to reduce the number of councillors from 57 to 45 and for there to be a mix in the number of councillors that represented the Wards. All out elections will take place every four years. After a period of public consultation and receiving representations from the council, the Boundary Commission confirmed that the District be represented by 45 Councillors (12 less than current) serving 26 Wards (8 less than present) which break down to five three-member wards, nine two-member wards and twelve single-member wards across the district. All out elections of District Councillors will be in May 2018.

The Local Plan and its supporting documents were submitted for independent examination to the Planning Inspectorate on 28 March 2014. The examination is to establish whether the Local Plan is 'sound', taking into consideration representations made during public consultation. This plan sets out the number of

houses they need to provide. The hearings for this are taking place now and will continue into the summer. R Turner felt the proposed new town at Waterbeach with between 9,000 to 10,000 houses will impact the village.

R Turner reported that SCDC planning department's performance is improving and targets have now been exceeded.

#### **CLlr John Williams, Cambridgeshire County Council**

J Williams explained the devolution taking place. As part of devolution, there will be a new elected Mayor, this election will take place in a few weeks' time. The new authority will not replace existing councils. There are seven candidates in the race to be the Mayor. This post is the first in the Anglia region that has additional powers over health, transport, housing and planning. J Williams explained the role the Mayor would undertake, they will cover both a large geographical area and large population. He advised up until now the CCC had been responsible for transport with SCDC responsible for strategic planning. This would now fall to the Mayor. As a result of this the CCC will take more of an advisory role. CCC will remain responsible for education and social care. J Williams reinforced the importance of everyone voting in the upcoming Mayoral election.

#### **6. Great Wilbraham Report on the last year from the Parish Council, Community Groups and the Village Charities.**

S Bartlett thanked community groups for providing reports which will be included under the APM section of the [www.wilbrahams.co.uk](http://www.wilbrahams.co.uk) website.

- Village Charities
- Wilbrahams' Warbler
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Social Club
- Weenie Warblers
- Great Wilbraham Allotments
- Wilbraham Youth Group
- Common Right Holders
- Great Wilbraham Primary School

S Bartlett reported on the excellent work that had been done by the Common Rights Holders, and hoped that some amazing flowers would be seen there in a month's time.

S Bartlett thanked P Ladbrooke and T Ryan for the extensive work they had done and the great report produced on the longstanding drainage issues in the village. This had culminated in a grant being approved from Cambridgeshire County Council to make significant improvements to infrastructure to resolve this problem.

Although Rosemary White had not been able to attend the meeting it was advised that the next flower show would take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

S Bartlett reported that he had visited the Primary School to see what ideas the School Council had for

improving the village. In addition, the Parish Council welcomed the Youth Group to have a discussion on their thoughts on the village and its facilities.

S Fordham reported that the Youth Group was well attended, but did not have enough parents/adults willing and able to support the group. There are currently only three members on the committee and no chairman in place. S Fordham requested that if anyone would be able to support the group to let her know.

Following the success of the first Great Wilbraham Community Christmas Party, a group has been established to set up a yearlong calendar of community events including the recent Pudding Night. E Adams asked if anyone was interested in getting involved the group would welcome any suggestions for next year as there will be a rolling programme.

E Adams reported on behalf of the Memorial Hall Trustees that bookings were increasing and they had received a good response to the improved facility. Many community clubs were closing due to lack of volunteers; however, the Memorial Hall has been successful in securing bookings from different organisations and individuals. E Adams said that the Memorial Hall Committee would welcome any group interested in launching a lunch club. The Hall Committee are now looking to raise more money for various projects including improving the acoustics and WIFI. An additional plaque will be installed next year to include residents of Little Wilbraham and SMB who are not represented on the current one. This will be dedicated at the next memorial service.

Lorna Carr thanked the Parish Council and explained to residents why the Church has applied for and received a grant of £1,000 towards the pollarding of the trees.

A defibrillator has now been installed on the wall of the Memorial Hall and a full training session has taken place. C Jackman explained how this unit is the best chance for anyone whose heart has stopped and emphasised how easy it is to use. A resident requested signs be placed around the village to make more people aware of the device.

ACTION: CLERK

S Bartlett reminded residents of the phone box book exchange. P Davis confirmed it was working well. The collection of children books is particularly popular. She reminded members of the public that the concept is for people to replace books with ones that they have enjoyed and would recommend.

S Bartlett invited M Gienke to talk about the Warbler's success in the National competition, where it was placed in the top fifteen percent. M Gienke talked about the Warbler and reported that with the support of the Parish Council there will be a celebration in July.

T Goryn presented the village charities book from Great Wilbraham Benstead and Great Wilbraham Anne Ward Charities for signature by S Bartlett.

S Bartlett reported that there had been a spate of burglaries in the village and advised that there is now a Neighbourhood watch initiative in the village with fifty-four properties involved. T Ryan thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the group for their support.

A resident requested that information on opening times and costs of the Sports and Social Club be included in the Warbler. R Tippen reminded everyone that the Sports and the Social Club were separate groups.

## **7. Affordable Homes – update and should there be another needs survey?**

S Bartlett reported that figures show Great Wilbraham is an ageing village. He wanted to assure residents before opening the discussion that there were currently no plots of land available for development.

He requested a show of hands on whether the members of the public present would support affordable housing and a fair majority indicated that they would support the concept. S Bartlett proposed that the Parish Council start the process again, beginning with another Housing Needs Survey.

S Bartlett asked members of the public at the meeting to give their views. The following issues were raised: the questions on the survey should be more specific and provide answers to questions more appropriate to Great Wilbraham; a suggestion was made that a small group of terrace houses be built on the Parish allotments with a swap in land placing allotments elsewhere and an explanation as to how the Parish Council, because it did not have affordable housing developments available was unable to take advantage of c. £150,000 funding from the Chapel Meadow development.

R Turner was questioned by members of the public on all aspects of planning and development. He confirmed the village framework of Great Wilbraham is drawn around the build line. Anything outside this will need to be an exception site.

S Bartlett advised that the subject would be discussed at the next Parish Council meetings where a decision on how best to proceed would be decided.

#### **8. Dog Fouling – should dogs be banned from open spaces in the village?**

S Bartlett asked C Raikes to talk about the concerns raised over the increasing amount of dog fouling taking place on the recreation ground. C Raikes advised that the Memorial Hall Committee had tried to draw everyone's attention to the problem and asked them to support the village by behaving responsibly when walking their dogs. One option discussed was whether to ban dogs from the recreation ground. However, all agreed that this would be difficult to achieve. Notices had been placed around the recreation ground and the committee were waiting to see if these had any affect. In future, the committee may ask for residents to confront people and the trustees will consider if legal action is needed. A member of the public wanted to remind everyone that it was only a minority that commit this offence, and everyone should not be penalised because of their behaviour. A query was raised as to where the reports were coming from as a member of the public reported that they had not seen any evidence of this problem. Overall, however, the members of the public at the meeting agreed with the reported problem. The resident was also concerned about the distress caused by the particular signs that had been used to discourage dog fouling. A resident requested that the Dog Warden's information should be publicly displayed, and a suggestion was made that this be included in the Warbler. In addition, a member of the public requested that village footpaths be published to encourage dog owners to use them. A concern over the gate on the playground being left open was raised. It was requested that a reminder be included in the Warbler requesting people close it after use and whether there was any possibility of it being spring loaded.

#### **9. Cycle ways – how can we progress the development of cycleways?**

S Bartlett felt the interest in a cycleway fluctuated. Residents were asked to show their hands if they supported the Parish Council moving forward to establish what options were available. J Williams advised that there is now some support from the city deal but cycleways are expensive and take a long time to construct. A resident raised their concern that if a cycle path was constructed the bus service would possibly be lost. R Turner has been working with the press supporting cycle paths to Fulbourn and then Fulbourn to Bottisham. A resident asked what could be done to support his efforts in backing the campaign. R Turner felt that a petition may be beneficial. It was suggested that this be included as an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **10. Traffic calming – Wadlow funding and how do we make Speedwatch work?**

S Bartlett felt that residents were concerned about an increase in traffic, however he believed finding a solution would be difficult. Many HGV's have a right of access through the village to sites in Fulbourn etc. that are already established. S Bartlett reported that there had been a Speedwatch initiative in the village but due to the lack of volunteers this is no longer in operation. J Williams informed that the size of lorries passing through the village could be addressed, and signs have been installed to deter HGVs. However, this has had an impact on LW&SMB. J Williams suggested that the Parish Council work closely with neighbouring parishes to put forward a case. It was explained that when the Fulbourn Mill was extended, no restriction had been put on lorry movement from the mill. All agreed that it was important to address this next time any planning application was received to enlarge the facilities. A number of villages were looking at mobile signs that can be moved around for hot spots. These had been found to be effective, they can collect data, enabling the police to contact any offending drivers.

A resident appreciated the HGV signs but believed they had been put in the wrong place and asked if the Parish Council would consider an additional sign. S Bartlett advised that the Parish Council would start communication with Fulbourn to see if they could work more closely with them. R Turner believes that the boundary changes will improve communication between villages. A resident complained that verbal agreements given by a local organisation were not being adhered to. S Bartlett requested that registration numbers and times be noted and passed to the County Council.

#### **11. Mindfulness – how does Wilbraham become a more caring community?**

Due to the length of the meeting it was agreed that this topic would be included at the next Parish Council meeting when adequate time would be given to discuss initiatives for improving wellbeing in the village.

#### **11. Any other business**

S Bartlett thanked everyone for attending and supporting the Parish Council, he extended special thanks to Cheryl Patey for her efforts in clearing litter in the village.

The meeting closed 9.45pm