

Little Easton Parish Council

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Minutes of the **Little Easton Parish Council** meeting held in the **Memorial Hall** commencing 7:30pm on Wednesday **28th NOVEMBER 2018**

Present: Cllr Dodsley Cllr Hindley Cllr Wyatt Cllr Fowell Cllr Rush
Dist Cllr Foley

Members of the public

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|---------------|---|
| 18/101 | NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr Jones |
| 18/102 | DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING Cllr Rush – Item 18/107 & 18/111 |
| 18/103 | MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2018 TO BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN RESOLUTION to Approve as a correct record: Proposed Cllr Wyatt, Seconded Cllr Rush |
| | <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</p> <p>Members of the public may raise questions about and comment on items on the Agenda OR of import. Session is limited to 15 minutes (3 minutes per person with no repetition of a previous question)</p> <p>BROADBAND – Some residents complaining speeds not as expected and or no connection to high speed broadband.</p> <p>OVERHANGING VEGETATION, PARK ROAD – Complaint of hedge encroaching onto Highway – CLERK to contact resident.</p> <p>PARK ROAD SURFACE – Towards the bottom of Park Road evidence of surface deteriorating and roadside gulleys seemingly blocked – Cllr Fowell to report to Highways.</p> <p>OUT OF HOURS NOISE FROM DIRECTION OF QUARRY – Cllr Jones to raise complaint with SRC.</p> |
| 18/104 | RECEIVE THE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS Dist. Cllr. Foley presented an overview of his report before leaving the meeting, the full report can be read at APPENDIX A |
| 18/105 | CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE THANK YOU – Card received expressing gratitude and thanks to the council for organising and staging the Beacon lighting event. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING – Briefing with RCCE proved successful, Clerk to attend networking event at Branston Village Hall, 14 December, to meet council's at various stages of the NP process. |
| 18/106 | PLANNING – REVIEW AND COMMENT ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS UTT/18/2990/FUL - Land Adj The Stag Inn Duck Street Cllr Hindley to research the implications of allowing the change of use and report to council before the deadline of 04 December, current position of council pending further input – NO COMMENT UTT/18/3036/HHF - /3037/LB - Spade Cottage Duck Street |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| | NO COMMENT UTT/18/3065/FUL - Breach House Mill End NO COMMENT |
| 18/107 | FINANCE – RECEIVE STATEMENT & AGREE PAYMENTS – APPOINT AUTHORISER RESOLUTION – Approve expenditure: Proposed Cllr Hindley, Seconded Cllr Wyatt AUTHORISATION – Cllr Dodsley APPENDIX B 18/107/i- AUTHORISE CLERK TO MAKE PAYMENTS DURING DECEMBER RESOLUTION – Authorise Clerk: Proposed Cllr Wyatt, Seconded Cllr Dodsley |
| 18/108 | BUDGET – CONSIDER PROJECTS FOR 2019-2020 AND 2-3% INCREASE ON ADMIN & MAINTENANCE COSTS RESOLUTION – Approve budget at £23,540 for 2019-2020: Proposed Cllr Dodsley, Seconded Cllr Wyatt. Upon receipt of details from UDC the Clerk will advise the Chairman to call an EGM to enable council to set the Precept |
| 18/109 | REVIEW PLANNING FOR 2018 SOCIAL/FUND RAISING EVENTS Flyers printed, Cllrs to deliver, event budget approved at £50 |
| 18/110 | RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS: WAR MEMORIAL Railings to be painted during 2019 MEMORIAL HALL Council awaiting confirmation of proposals for Car Park with associated playingfield fencing FOOTPATHS Those in need of attention reported to Highways HIGHWOODS QUARRY Cllr Jones to confirm current operating hours with SRC and raise concerns over alleged out of hours noise coming from the direction of the quarry. PLAY AREA - APPOINT WORKING GROUP Working group comprises Cllr Dodlsey, Cllr Hindley and Cllr Rush. The independent play area inspection report informed the creation of an Action Plan, duly circulated. Estimate for conventional repair to goal-mouth turf plus net fixings - £370.00. Awaiting Astroturf quotation. Cllr Dodlsey to contact Wicksteed Leisure ref reinstatement of swings. |
| 18/111 | RECEIVE UPDATE ON PROPOSED MAINTENANCE WORKS TO VILLAGE PLANTERS An increase in the work required resulted in a revised estimate of £640.00, circulated to members for consideration. RESOLUTION – Approve revised expenditure: Proposed Cllr Hindley, Seconded Cllr Dodsley |
| 18/112 | ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – PROPOSED FOR APRIL 2019 DUE TO ELECTION TIMING Noted, to be finalised nearer the time |
| 18/113 | CONSIDER OFFER TO COMMENCE WORK ON WEBSITE WITH DEFERRED PAYMENT RESOLUTION – Approve offer: Proposed Cllr Wyatt, Seconded Cllr Fowell |
| 18/114 | EASTON PARK – RECEIVE UPDATE ON REGULATION 19 PROCESS TO DATE Cllr Dodsley to attend Local Plan update briefing at UDC offices, Monday 03 December |

Signed.....Date.....

APPENDIX A

District Councillor Report – November 2018

Library closures - ECC plan to shut at least 25 Libraries

I am working with campaign groups to stop the closure of our libraries

Our libraries in Uttlesford don't need 're-imagining' – they are already the very model of what modern multi-functional low-cost rural libraries should be. They deliver many services including district and parish council service points, tourist and local information, parent and toddler groups, Wi-Fi, computers, printers, community events rooms, and yes, they also lend books. They are a vital part of our community. Only a few years ago when ECC sold the old library building in Thaxted and moved to new rented accommodation, they committed to residents that our library would be safe. They are now going back on their word. The ECC administration has wildly underestimated the anger created by these proposals. Residents and many councillors are united that these closures are unacceptable."

Local Plan may be delayed

The Sustainability Appraisal which is an important part of the evidence base for the Uttlesford Local Plan has been found to have "serious flaws" with a key conclusion that UDC have given undue preference to the three sites promoted by developers. Independent consultants. AECOM commissioned by UDC.

I have been saying this all along but basically, the answer was generally that UDC was not involved in predetermining where the sites were going to be. It is good to see that a lone wolf (I was originally the only Cllr to vote against the plan for some months) appeared to right all along

UDC Leadership still say the plan is on track ...and they still say it will be ready to submit the plan before January 24th .

Notes from SSE

COUNCIL PLANNING CHAIRMAN DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE WAS VOTING FOR!

Following the decision of the Chairman of Uttlesford Planning Committee, Councillor Alan Mills, to use his (additional) casting vote in favour of the airport planning application, Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) health adviser, Professor Jangu Banatvala, wrote to him to ask whether he had reviewed the latest World Health Organisation (WHO) *Noise Guidelines*, published on 10th October, prior to voting.

The new WHO guidelines are of enormous significance because they show that aviation noise can be harmful to community health at far lower decibel levels than previously recommended. These tough new WHO guideline levels reflect the strength of the latest evidence relating to environmental harms of aviation noise annoyance and sleep disturbance.

The disturbing reply from Councillor Mills, shown in full below [Note 1], suggests that he believed the planning application was for 174,000 flights, rather than 274,000. This fundamental mistake could be just a careless typographical error, except for the fact that his reply contained two other startling admissions:

- He claimed to have read 4,500 pages of the planning application documents (about a third of the total) and yet he believed that it meant no extra flights. However, even a cursory look at the planning documents shows that, with an annual cap of 35 million passengers, Stansted would be limited to 248,820 flights but raising the cap to 43 million passengers results in 274,000 flights. Approving the application therefore means an extra 25,180 flights a year – about 70 extra flights per day.
- Councillor Mills said he was unaware of the new WHO *Noise Guidelines* but Professor Banatvala had – **in person** – presented the latest *Noise Guidelines* to Councillor Mills and his colleagues on the Planning Committee just a week earlier. The new guidelines were also highlighted in SSE's evidence to UDC, whose planning officers knew very well just how important they were. Officers had written to MAG on 22nd December 2017 making clear that the effect of the new WHO *Noise Guidelines* would need to be assessed before the planning application could be decided:

*"In the event that the World Health Organisation ("WHO")'s new evidence on the impacts of aviation noise is published before a determination to grant planning permission, the environmental statement assessment **must incorporate** this evidence (for example, by way of supplementary assessment)."* [emphasis added]

Despite the words "**must incorporate**" the Council's officers and the Planning Committee completely disregarded the new WHO Noise Guidelines.

At the special Planning Committee meeting on 14 November to consider the airport planning application five councillors voted against and five voted in favour, including the Chairman. [Note 2]. The Chairman's casting vote (i.e. he was allowed two votes) carried the day. Of the four other councillors who voted in favour:

- One did not ask a single question all day;
- Another who voted in favour asked just one question, which was to request a 'comfort break';
- The remaining two councillors who voted in favour each just asked the simplest of questions about noise impacts, the answers to which would have been obvious even by skim reading the officers' summary report. It was clear that they had either not read, or had not understood, even the most basic information about the nature and effect of the planning application.

SSE Deputy Chairman Brian Ross commented "For almost 18 months SSE has consistently argued that this airport application had to be dealt with nationally because of its scale and complexity. It was completely unfair to place the responsibility on local councillors and has now left some of them exposed to ridicule."

Brian Ross continued: "It took a five-month Public Inquiry to consider the evidence in the case of the last comparable Stansted Airport planning application. On this occasion Uttlesford Planning Committee did the entire job in one sitting. That might appear to reflect a remarkable improvement in efficiency. In truth, it reflects the naïve and superficial nature of the Uttlesford approval process."

The audio recording of the Planning Committee meeting on 14 November has now been converted by SSE into a written transcript which will be sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Local Government and Communities as supporting evidence of the superficial and uninformed nature of the Uttlesford Planning Committee process and of apparent pre-determination.

SSE has already sent a holding submission to the Secretary of State highlighting deficiencies in the UDC process and asking for the planning application to be 'called in' – i.e. taken out of UDC's hands and dealt with at national level. SSE's barristers are now working on the detailed legal submissions to the Secretary of State underpinning the reasons why he must now 'call in' the application for national determination.

ENDS

NOTE 1 – E-mail from Councillor Mills to Professor Banatvala dated 21 November 2018:

"Dear Mr Banatvala

Thank you for your correspondence on this matter and for matters of clarity I feel that an important issue should be clarified that has been continually misrepresented in this debate.

MAG had an existing permission for 174,000 flights from 2008. This application was not about increased flights, only passenger numbers/throughput in the airport.

Having read over 4500 pages of documentation I have to confess the October updated WHO report did not feature in the officers' reports and I will endeavour to ensure that I am as current as possible on trends and policy.

Regards

Cllr Alan Mills"

NOTE 2 – The votes cast by individual members of Uttlesford Planning Committee on 14 November to approve the Stansted Airport planning application were as follows:

Councillors opposed

Paul Fairhurst – Residents for Uttlesford, Saffron Walden Shire.

Richard Freeman – Residents for Uttlesford, Saffron Walden Castle.

Anthony Gerard – Residents for Uttlesford, Newport.

Mark Lemon – Conservative (formerly Independent), Hatfield Heath.

Janice Loughlin – Liberal Democrat, Stort Valley

Councillors in favour

Robert Chambers – Conservative, Littlebury, Chesterford and Wendon Lofts.

Eric Hicks – Conservative, Great Dunmow South and Barnston.

Alan Mills (Chairman) – Conservative, Felsted and Stebbing.

Howard Ryles – Conservative, Takeley

Lesley Wells – Conservative, Broad Oak and the Hallingburys.

Martin Foley
07968 520520

APPENDIX B

LEPC NOVEMBER 2018 Finance Statement

Balance at 29/11/18 - £21,123.59

| | | | | | | | | Budget | Net Expense | Diff +/- |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | | | | 21,006.00 | 14,975 | -6,031 |
| Date | Supplier | Description | Invoice | Cheque no | Minute | Rec | Credit | Debit | VAT | Net |
| 15-Nov | A&J Lighting | Lighting maintenance | 32247 | DD | | Y | | 24.30 | 4.05 | 20.25 |
| 23-Nov | Eon | Street Lighting | H1672E7FE2 | DD | | Y | | 43.88 | 2.09 | 41.79 |
| 29-Nov | A Dodsley | Beacon Expenses | N/A | FPO | | | | 50.00 | | 50.00 |
| 29-Nov | SNH Garden Services | Maintenance | 2071 | FPO | | | | 150.00 | | 150.00 |
| 29-Nov | Wicksteed Leisure | Cableway repairs | 803755 | FPO | | | | 1,068.00 | 178.00 | 890.00 |
| 29-Nov | Royal British Legion | Event Poppies | Oct-18 | FPO | | | | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| 29-Nov | Employee | Expenses | N/A | FPO | | | | 4.50 | | 4.50 |
| 29-Nov | Employee | Salary | PAYE | FPO | | | | 360.64 | | 360.64 |
| 29-Nov | Colemans | Printing | 277732/8242 | FPO | | | | 12.98 | 2.16 | 10.82 |
| 29-Nov | CPRE | Subscription | 59556 | FPO | | | | 36.00 | | 36.00 |
| Nov | | | | | | | 0.00 | 1,780.30 | 186.30 | 1,594.00 |

DRAFT