

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council, Yaxley Parish Council
held in Queens Park, Daimler Avenue, Yaxley on 10th March 2015.**

Present:- Councillor K Gulson – Chairman

Councillors G Bellamy, C Bolton, R Butcher, S Howell, R Lucas, A Mullins, M Oliver, D Porteous, D Stafford, A Rees, M Richardson, C Thorne, J Willis and A Wood.

In attendance – H Taylor

FC190. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received and accepted on behalf of Councillors M Humphries (work) and R Metcalfe (personal).

FC191. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors S Howell, M Oliver, M Richardson, D Stafford and C Thorne declared “other” interests in FC198 as Directors of the Fenland Trust;

Councillors D Porteous and A Wood declared “other” interests in item FC203 due to being named in the scheme of payments;

Councillor M Oliver declared a pecuniary interest in item FC208 and left the meeting during the duration of the discussions and voting there on.

FC192. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public present wished to speak.

FC193. MINUTES

Councillor D Porteous proposed approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held 10th February 2015. This was seconded by Councillor G Bellamy and unanimously **RESOLVED.**

FC194. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FC195.1 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members received and noted the draft Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10th and 24th February 2015.

FC195.2 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The draft Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Property Committee held on 12th February 2015 were received and accepted.

FC195.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Members received and accepted the draft Minutes of the Communities Facilities Committee held on 24th February 2015.

FC195. SPECIAL MOTION – EAST COAST MAIN LINE CROSSING CLOSURE

A special motion was brought by Councillors G Bellamy, R Butcher, A Rees and C Thorne as follows:

‘that with reference to Standing Order 7, the Committee rescinds Resolution CF137 which supported the closure of the pedestrian crossing over the railway at Yaxley Lode on safety grounds and the preferred option of diverting pedestrians via an existing underpass on Great Drove subject to the correct infrastructure for villagers to give them safe access to this area and that the proposal by Network Rail be reconsidered.’ A number of Members expressed support for the motion and Councillor Butcher proposed that the resolution at CF137 be rescinded. This was seconded by Councillor Rees and **RESOLVED.**

Members then reviewed the Network Rail’s preferred option to close the existing level crossing at Yaxley Lode and divert users via the existing rail underpass on Great Drove, with a new footpath link from Great Drove to Yaxley Lode along an undefined farm access track to the east. The proposed public footpath would be unmade/unsurfaced.

Councillors were disappointed that their concerns expressed at the consultation meeting with WSP had failed to deliver proposals for a safe pedestrian footpath route along Great Drove and that the proposed path along the east side of the railway is to be an unmade/unsurfaced path which in their opinion was unacceptable. As the route was expected to be Yaxley’s access into the Great Fen, road and foot traffic in this area would increase leading to concerns over the safety of this alternative route.

Furthermore, Councillors expressed disappointment at a proposal to close the Holme Lode given its role in accessing the Great Fen. Members were in agreement with Holme Parish Council of the need to maintain a means of access at this location. The also asked that the footpath continue following the existing footpath route and Network Rail should be encouraged to develop plans to achieve this. With this in mind, Members were of the opinion that a Working Group should be established, made up of representatives of Yaxley and Holme Parish Councils, the Fenland Trust and the Great Fen to consider a safe alternative route.

Whereupon Councillor Butcher proposed that:

- (a) Network Rail be advised that the Parish Council request that a safe crossing be developed to transport foot and cycle traffic either under or over at the existing crossing point at Yaxley Lode and that an existing maintenance track on the west side from Holme Lode to Pretoria Farm and then further to Yaxley Lode be designated as a footpath for walkers and cyclists.
- (b) Network Rail be asked to reconsider installing a tunnel under the existing crossing point to maintain pedestrian and cycle access for both Holme and Yaxley residents; and
- (c) Councillors R Butcher, K Gulson, M Oliver and A Wood be appointed to a Working Group to work with Holme Parish Council, the Fenland Trust and the Great Fen on a safe alternative route to the Great Fen.

This was seconded by Councillor Wood and **RESOLVED** with one abstention.

FC196. SECTION 137 BUDGET – AWARD OF GRANT

Councillor R Lucas proposed that an award of £60 be made to the Bobby Scheme, the Huntingdonshire Association for Community Transport and Magpas. This was seconded by Councillor Porteous and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

FC197. SCOUT AND GUIDES LEASE - LAND AT THE GREAT DROVE YAXLEY – GAULT PARK

Members were advised that with the Chairman's consent this item had been withdrawn from the agenda in order to obtain additional information including a plan of the site.

FC198. THE FENLAND TRUST

FC198.1 LOCAL HERITAGE PLAN

With the aid of a report by Stewart Howe, Trustee of the Fenland Trust, Councillors gave consideration to a local heritage plan including a proposal to compile a local heritage list for the Parish of Yaxley and plans to launch a blue heritage plaque scheme along the planned heritage spine from Norman Cross into the Great Fen gateway route at Great Drove.

Whereupon, it was proposed by Councillor Butcher that the Council

- (a) agrees to work with the Fenland Trust to develop a local heritage list with a view to submitting the final document to Full Council for approval; and
- (b) supports the launch of a blue plaque scheme.

FC198.2 FESTIVAL PARK WORKING GROUP

Following a meeting of the Festival Park Working Group on 5th March 2015 it was reported that an informal meeting of the Council and the Fenland Trust had been arranged for 17th March 2015 to discuss the proposals for Festival Park.

FC198.3 FESTIVAL PARK UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Nothing to report

FC199. HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL PLAN TO 2036 – TARGETED CONSULTATION

Councillor Gulson proposed that the Council respond to the consultation exercise requesting that the plan refer to the need for a separation belt between Peterborough and Yaxley, as mentioned in the Core Strategy, in order to protect the village settlement including its fen views. This was seconded by Councillor Rees and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

FC200. RISK ASSESSMENT

With the aid of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) Members were presented with a summary of those risks listed in the Council's Risk Register. Councillor Lucas proposed that the report be received and Councillors C

Bolton, K Gulson and D Porteous be authorised to sign the document on behalf of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Butcher and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

FC201 POLICE MATTERS

Members noted a summary of crimes by street location for the parish (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

FC202. BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

Councillors received and noted the contents of the Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 28th February 2015 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book).

FC203. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The schedule of payments made since the previous meeting, which included details of the purchase ledger cheques requiring payment, (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) was proposed by Councillor A Rees, seconded by Councillor C Thorne and **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to be paid.

FC204. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Members received updates from representatives including a County Council highway issue with a tree on Broadway and the successful pruning of trees along Vicarage Walk.

FC205. EXCLUSION THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Howell and seconded by Councillor Butcher that the meeting should be closed to the press and public at 9.20pm.

FC206. STAFFING MATTER.

Further to Minute No FC188, the Chairman reported that the matter had been reported to Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

FC207. STAFFING – DUTY OF CARE

Having been advised of an incident in the office with a member of the public and the resultant installation of cameras Members were reminded of their duty of care for all staff. Whereupon, it was resolved by Councillor Gulson that the issue of additional cameras on the Councils facilities be considered by the Property Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Butcher and **RESOLVED**.

FC208. QUOTATION FOR INSTALLATION OF 12 SANCTUMS

By way of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) Members considered 2 quotations received for installation of 12 sanctums in the cemetery. Whereupon it was proposed by Councillor Richardson that the quotation from

R Harding & Son Landscaping be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Butcher and **RESOLVED**.

FC209. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business being concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Butcher and seconded by Councillor Howell that the press and public should be readmitted to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed

Chairman.