

## MINUTES OF LOLWORTH PARISH MEETING

held in Robinson Hall  
on Thursday 21 November 2024, at 8.00 pm.

Chairman: J. R. Short

Clerk: M. J. Duesbury

Also present: Revd. Geoff Dodgson, District Councillor Sue Ellington, County Councillor Edna Murphy (whose arrival was delayed) and Sarah Lees Age UK, plus 16 residents.

**1. Apologies:-** Alex and Veronica Sutherland, Ross Bowie, Joe Downing, Sigrid and Patrick Disley, Sue Houlton, Liesa Clarke.

**2. Welcome to Newcomers -** Tanya Traves.

**3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Paul Duesbury, seconded by Tim Daniel and agreed unanimously.

**4. Matters arising.**

**a) County Broadband**

No recent communication had been received from County Broadband

To date some homes have been connected.

Citifibre have been awarded a government contract to install fibre to the home in hard to reach areas.

The decision to connect Lolworth will be made by January and if approved, the work will be done by spring. All houses in the village can be connected if required.

However it may not be possible to use the existing conduit installed by County Broadband so Robins Lane may have to be dug up again to install another one.

**b) Basket-ball posts**

At this point The Chairman introduced Sarah Lees from Age UK and explained that item 9 on the Agenda (Community Warden Scheme) would be taken at this point so as not to detain Sarah for long. See Item 9 below. After Sarah's presentation and questions the Chairman thanked her and she left the meeting. Following a village survey, a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Joe Downing about possible uses for the allotment hard-standing area was shown to the meeting by the Clerk. This showed that a majority of respondents to the survey never use the space but up to 60% would or might use it if suitable facilities were available. 33% favoured basketball hoops. The view of the meeting was that the idea of a fully equipped tennis court was not practicable because of cost but that basketball hoops should be considered if a grant was available.

Tanya Traves offered to donate to the village a single basket-ball hoop to replace the present hoops. The Chairman thanked Tanya for this generous gesture. It was agreed that Julian Turner

would see if Tanya's basketball hoop was suitable for village use. If it was not the Clerk will apply for a grant to replace the damaged equipment.

The hard standing area needs cleaning. The Chairman undertook to apply weed killer to the affected area in the spring.

## **5. Correspondence**

### **a) A1307:-**

Multiple emails had been sent to Cambridgeshire County Council ("CCC") and several responses received regarding signage improvements. These are the improvements yet to be done:-

"Lolworth Junction - Two yellow backed junction warning signs are to be placed on the approach to the Lolworth turning (one east/one west) and immediately adjacent to them 'SLOW' will be painted on the road surface."

These improvements had been delayed multiple times and at the date of this Meeting had still not been carried out.

There was a third serious accident on the A1307 very recently. Improvements to the road have been requested more than once, and CCC have been asked for these accidents to be considered as a "collision cluster" - which means the incidents will be investigated.

However, with regards to the fatal collisions, the police have advised that the drivers responsible in those incidents have made grave errors of judgement, and that the road did not play a part in the outcome.

Councillor Edna Murphy commented that as the improved signage has been commissioned, it will happen.

It was suggested that another list of A1307 incidents or "near misses" should be compiled and Councillor Murphy will find out to whom to send this list. Councillor Ellington suggested that Swavesey and Boxworth should be involved in the compilation of this list.

### **b) Robins Lane**

CCC regard the drains on Robins Lane as having been unblocked and therefore the problems resolved. This remains to be seen once heavy sustained rain comes.

The Clerk had applied for the resurfacing of Robins Lane to be included in a Cambridgeshire County Council capially funded highway maintenance scheme 2025/26. This might supply money for Robins Lane resurfacing and, if it is thought appropriate, the drainage problems. The relevant council committee does not meet until March 2025.

### **c) Childerley bridleway - is overgrown.**

The Council has a scoring system for assessing the severity of accessibility issues. Childerley bridleway is a lower priority so it is unclear when the bridleway may be cut back.

## **6) Tree Officer's report**

Both of the young cherry trees on the village green have managed to survive another summer, this time with minimal watering, so hopefully they are both established now.

One of the smaller trees on the village green was leaning over very noticeably, so it has been straightened up with a new stake and tree tie. It still looks a little bit sad, so in early spring will see which branches don't have buds and can be cut back.

[Ross Bowie]

## **7. Planning Applications**

22/03962/OUT, 24/01309/REM, 24/01309/CONDA Highfields, Robins Lane. [Discharge Condition in Full ]

24/0873/TTPO The Chestnuts, The Green Lolworth: pruning of 2 chestnut trees – permission granted.

24/03636/HFUL Redlands: revised application for erection of a detached garage with home office above. Granted Permission on 20/11/24.

24/03619/S73 Clare College Farm: change of approved drawings-to include changes to doors and windows, changes in materials and new balcony on the southern elevation. Granted Permission as of 20/11/24.

23/03571/FUL Clare College Farm/ Change of use of the site to residential, including the construction of two dwelling houses following demolition of the existing barn (resubmission of 23/01151/FUL). Granted Permission.

## **8. Town Acre Charity**

Will Jordan has replaced Sue Houlton as chair and gave a report. Town Acre own the allotments and flower meadow used for fireworks.

Will thanked Sue for all her years of hard work and said that she will be greatly missed.

The Charity's other trustees are Frances Downing and Greg Veit. Currently there are 15 allotments rented to parishioners and there are some others available for rent. The land used for recreational facilities and fruit trees is available for the use of all residents of Lolworth.

Will thanked Christian Pearson for his hedge cutting along the High Street in October 2024.

Allotment holders were reminded to respect and abide by the rules that they have agreed to as part of their contract, in particular the management of waste from allotments.

As a thank you to Sue Houlton some wine and flowers were presented to John Houlton on her behalf.

## **9. Report on the Cambridge North West Villages Community Warden Scheme**

Sarah Lees, the AgeUK Regional Service Manager which includes our particular scheme attended the meeting and made a short presentation which included a brief overview of the costs of running the scheme and details of what Community Wardens actually do. Community Wardens help support people who need help to live independently, particularly elderly or vulnerable residents.

In the subsequent discussion it was stated that the cost-benefit of the scheme was a return of £4.92 for each £1 committed as some hospitalisations may be avoided. The service is not means tested although each person supported contributes a fixed weekly amount. It was stated that the amount Lolworth pays towards the scheme is decided on a voluntary basis by the village. For the year 24/25 the Parish Meeting's contribution had been £700. For the budget for 25/26 the proposal was to provide £790 as our contribution. Major funding had to date been provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council ("SCDC") but this would gradually be withdrawn over ten years. Therefore Age UK was looking for other funding streams and would have to increase the fixed charge to users.

One resident questioned why the village was contributing to the scheme when users paid a flat contribution which was not means tested.

#### **10. Appointment of new trustee for Robinson Hall Lolworth charity**

The Chairman reminded the Meeting that the Parish Meeting had the right to appoint two trustees to the board of Robinson Hall Lolworth. A vacancy had arisen and Tanya Traves was willing to put her name forward. There being no other nominees, Tanya Traves was proposed by John Short, seconded by Adam Williams and her appointment was carried unanimously.

#### **11. Policy documents for approval**

The following policy documents had previously been made available on the village website or from the Chairman:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Equality
- Safeguarding Adults at Risk
- Social Media and Electronic Communication

Adoption of these policies was proposed by Carol Churcher, seconded by Will Jordan and carried unanimously.

#### **12. Proposed new Parish Meeting website**

The Clerk had previously circulated a note from the Chairman proposing a new website under the control of the Parish Meeting and with dedicated email addresses for the Clerk and Chairman not using their personal email addresses.

The existing website is hard to operate and any new one needs to be live by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. A view was expressed that the cost of the new website was excessive and that a simpler cheaper solution was possible. Nevertheless it was agreed that the revised amount proposed in the forecast for 2024/25 (£958) should be approved but that specific details of the system and provider should be decided later. To assist in this exercise it was agreed to form a committee to include Paul Duesbury, John Houlton, Tanya Traves and the Chairman.

#### **13. Interim Financial Report - appendix one**

The Interim Financial Report to 31 November, including setting the precept for 2025/26 was presented by the Chairman.

## Points of Note

### 024/25 Forecast

- Income in line with original budget.
- Grass cutting based on 16 cuts at £155 each. In line with budget.
- Hedge trimming cost zero thanks to Christian Pearson doing this FOC.
- Contribution to communal orchard is double because nothing was paid in 2023/24.
- Insurance is lower because we have a new policy priced on precept banding.
- Defibrillator pads (£78) is a new item. We will have to budget for them every other year.
- The domain name costs (£958.80) assumes a new website the subject of a separate note previously circulated to residents.
- Bark for play area reduced as we only need 1 bag not 5 this year.
- Contribution to Village Warden Scheme (£700) is actual no longer a contingency.
- £500 general contingency has been absorbed into the cost for the new website.

### 2025/26 Budget

- Grass cutting contribution from SCDC and Trumpington Farms to be increased by 4.5%.
- Grass cutting costs increased by £7 per cut to £162 per cut and agreed by contractor.
- Precept for Robinson Hall remains unchanged at £1,000 .
- Electricity costs are assumed to rise only modestly.
- New website hosting and maintenance cost substantially higher.
- Bark costs -assume 5 bags not 1.
- £790 contingent provision for contribution to village warden scheme.
- Proposed that the Parish Precept increases from £6000 to £6500 thereby reducing reserves to approximately £3,380 at 31 March 2026 which is roughly 6 months reserves of expenditure. Historically, as agreed at the November 2020 meeting, we have aimed to have six months reserves of expenditure.

The budget and forecast for 24/25 and the proposed budget for 25/26 had previously been circulated to residents. Adoption of the report was proposed by Stephanie Chamberlain and seconded by Julian Turner. The motion was carried by 15 votes for, with one abstention and none against.

### 14. All Saints Church

The Revd. Geoff Dodgson reported that the clearance of the Garden of Remembrance had resulted in more space being available for future memorials.

The funeral of Tony Carter will be on November 27<sup>th</sup>, at 2.30 pm.

Lolworth Carol service will be at 3pm on 22 December and Midnight Mass will take place at 11.30 pm on December 24.

For 2025 Joe Downing is organising a concert by the vocal group "Tapestry", on May 17, time to be arranged.

Two weddings have been booked in the village for next year.

**15. District Councillor's report**

District Cllr. Sue Ellington's reported that SCDC's. current policy of a 4 day working week was likely to continue notwithstanding the change of national government. She suggested that residents comment to the Council if this policy adversely affected them.

She referred to the consultation about the East/West rail link which was proposing a new station near Knapwell. If built this was likely to increase traffic in the area.

Councillor Ellington mentioned a SCDC grant "Net Zero Villages" details of which had not yet been published but which she had shared with the Chairman.

**16. County Councillor's report - appendix 2**

County Cllr. Edna Murphy sent out her report after the meeting.

Councillor Murphy had raised the issue of Robins Lane drains with the Director of Maintenance at the local authority.

Problems remaining from the A14 upgrade include the disused Lolworth petrol station and the subsidence on the flyover bridges.

**17. Any other Business**

none

**18. Date of the next meeting**

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 8.00pm.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm

Signed

Date