

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18 MAY 09 – NOTES

The meeting was attended by 7 Parish Councillors (apologies from Jane Davies who was out of the Parish), one member of the public, our County Councillor Linda Oliver and District Councillor Cicely Murfitt.

County Councillor Linda Oliver informed the meeting on the following points:

- **Odsey Car Park** The car parking issues at Odsey (Ashwell and the Mordens railway station) have yet to be resolved. It has been noted that there has been an increase in the number of vehicles parking on the roadside. On some days there were empty spaces in the station car park itself whilst the road was lined with vehicles!
- **Broadband Provision** BT has been requested to comment on the timescale for the provision of improved broadband facilities for rural communities.
- **Morden Bus** The service is not well supported – (one parish councillor had used the bus and found that she was the only paying passenger!) – it is unlikely that the subsidy for the service will continue beyond the present trial period. *The PC is aware that private negotiations are taking place concerning the provision of a bus service to/from Hitchin market on Tuesdays if the present bus service is withdrawn.*
- **Stansted Airport** The decision concerning the 2nd runway has been put aside until “Autumn”.

The County Councillor was asked when the old farm building could be removed from the site on Trap Road as the PC considered them a safety hazard. The response was that the CC’s officials did **not** consider the buildings a hazard i.e. the site is “safe”, and that the developer would not be requested to remove the eyesore.

District Councillor Cicely Murfitt informed the meeting of the following:

- **Council Housing** The Change of Ownership ballot papers had been issued to all residents and required to be returned by 4 Jun 09.
- **DPD Gipsy and Travellers** meeting at SCDC Cambourne 19 June at 1400.
- **Small Business** Assistance is available to small local businesses from SCDC.
- **Grants for Insulation** Notice of availability of grants for all households should have been delivered in the form of a leaflet indicating the amount of grant available through the partnership arrangement.

After the County and District Councillors had completed their reports, questions and comments were invited from the public. No comments or questions were received.

There then followed the “**Annual Business**” agenda item, necessary routine procedures for the correct running of the council. The current incumbents of Chairman and Vice Chairman were re-elected and Parish Councillors retained their existing responsibilities. In addition, the Chairman and Vice chairman agreed to take responsibility for contact with Police and Neighbourhood Watch and Cllrs Townsend -Stojic and Holroyd would assume responsibility for the finance portfolio.

There was discussion regarding the co-option of a councillor to fill the present vacancy. Should anyone wish to serve the community as a Parish Councillor they should contact the Parish Clerk.

Approval of previous meeting minutes; Declarations of Interest; Financial, Procedural and risk assessment matters etc., etc. (The agenda then followed the normal format).

Of general interest the following points are brought to the parish’s attention:

- The recreation ground fence repairs have been approved and will take place shortly.
- Repainting of the village sign is needed, the PC has called for additional quotations for the work.

- The value of introducing a 20 mph speed limit on some of the village roads was discussed - councillors felt that they should consult parishioners and report back to the next meeting .
- Further footpath clearing courtesy of the Probation Service will take place in late May/June.
- The Parish Council has been invited to enter the village for the Calor Gas Village of the Year Competition – in light of the need for considerable preparation and organisation to be put in place for such a competition the PC felt that we should consider an entry in 2010 provided a village sub-committee would take on the task.

Planning applications. An application for a garage and store at Odsey Grange was recommended for approval and the Prior Notification of a proposed building at Beverly Farm Ashwell Road was noted.

Members Reports: Members routine reports were then presented to the meeting, which closed at 10.35 pm.