

LANDBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Thursday 10th May 2007 at 7.30 p.m.
in Landbeach Village Hall

Present: Mrs. M. Hale (Chairman), Dr. R. Gambell, Ms. J. Gregg, Mr. G. Hinkins Mr. A. Wyatt (Parish Councillors), Mr. J. Hockney (District Councillor and Parish Councillor), Mrs. A. Hinkins (Clerk) and 32 members of the public

- 1 Apologies for absence** – were received from Mr. J. Attwood, Mr. A. Lant, Mrs. M. Lant, Mrs. R. McArthur, Mr. T. Pauley, Mrs. J. White, Mrs. P. Park, Mr. T. Dell and Mrs. C. Petchell, Mr. P. Johnson and Mr. M. Williamson.
- 2 Minutes** – of the APM held on Thursday, 22nd May were approved and signed as a correct record.
- 3 Matters arising** – there were no matters arising
- 4 Guest Speaker**
Melissa Reynolds, Area Planning Officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council gave the meeting up-to-date information regarding planning policies, How the planning system works within the District Council and the procedures that an application can go through before a decision is reached. She talked about Landbeach being an infill-only village, where a maximum of two dwellings per site is allowed. The Council considers that due to the lack of amenities in the smaller villages, greater development is unsustainable and allows for the rural aspect to be retained. Section 106 agreements were outlined and she explained how the use of these could benefit the public at large with increased community facilities. Melissa also touched on how difficult it was to gain affordable housing development in small villages due to the planning policy that restricts development and only under certain circumstances where permission is gained on an exception site is this possible.
- 5 Chairman's Report**
The Chairman, Mrs. Melanie Hale read out her annual report (a copy of which is on the web-site www.landbeach.org.uk, and a printed copy is attached to the official minutes).
- 6 Accounts**
The Clerk presented the draft accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 (copies of which were circulated). Parishioners had no comments regarding them.
- 7 Village Reports**
Reports were given by a representative from the following organisations, or a written report was read out (copies of which are attached to the official minutes).

- a) Village Hall – Colleen Dell
- b) Landbeach Women’s Institute – Maureen Clark
- c) Landbeach Society – Alan Wyatt
- d) Landbeach Bowls Club – written report read out
- e) Landbeach Luncheon Club – Gill Diver
- f) Village Teas – Grace Brooks
- g) Landbeach Sports and Social Club – Graham Bilton
- h) Landbeach Busytots and Playgroup – written report read out
- i) Landbeach Mums, Baby and Toddler Coffee Group – Tracey Brown
- j) Waterbeach School – written report read out
- k) Neighbourhood Watch – James Hockney
- l) Helpline – Margaret Patterson
- m) Widow’s Trust – written report read out
- n) Lynn Landbeach Village Trust Fund – Alan Wyatt
- o) Village Fete Committee – Maggie Robertson

8 District Councillors

A report was read out from Peter Johnson. He had worked on the issue of free bus pass for pensioners. Felt that working closely with the police and having police panels meetings every two months has helped to get a better police presence in the area and regularly speed checks. He is liaising with the mobile library whose service will be cut next year, but hopes to retain the best service possible given the cutbacks. He will fight to keep Milton Country Park open and is confident a solution will be found that is satisfactory to all parties.

Mr. James Hockney gave his report saying it has been privilege to have been a District Councillor for the three years. He touched on four challenging issues. Firstly the Rowing Lake has been given delegated approval and he will continue to work hard with the Parish Council to ensure the Slap-up junction receives the safety improvements it needs. Secondly he would fight any threat that could destroy the rural character of Landbeach and would work with residents to make sure any development, for example, the proposed development of football pitches on 24 acres of green belt land at Landbeach Road, Milton, will not be the start of Landbeach losing its village identity. Thirdly road safety continues to be a major concern, the road safety petition that was sent to the County Council will be discussed at a meeting in June. Lastly work continues with the Parish Council to secure some affordable housing in Landbeach as it is simply not right that youngsters growing up in Landbeach have no realistic option of staying here.

9 County Councillor

Mr. Michael Williamson sent a written report which was read. He felt the delays caused by the prolonged road work on the A10/A14 roundabout have now settled due to the completion of these works. Cowley Road road works are still causing delays, we wait until these are complete to see if things really have got better. Traffic through Landbeach is still of concern, funding for any traffic calming measures seems unlikely through the County Council. Also unlikely to happen is a weight restriction limit, there must be 30 lorry movements a day before it is considered. He will try to ensure Landbeach is not affected too severely through the mobile library cuts. Although the Slap-up junction was recently agreed to be

one of the most dangerous junctions in Cambridgeshire there is insufficient money in the County budget to do anything about it, I am looking to the developers of the Sports Lakes to contribute to some improvements.

10 Election of Pinder – Mr. G. Setchell accepted this position

11 Election of Town Crier – Mr. Gareth Hayward

12 Traffic calming – The chairman outlined, as she had in her report, that the County Council have almost no money to fund traffic calming schemes at the present time. However, traffic calming can be funded by third parties if they are consistent with the County Council's policies and objectives. A suggested scheme put forward by a concerned parishioner has been costed by Highways. Flashing interactive signs would cost £6,000.00 each to include maintenance for its lifetime, which is 6 years anything over is a bonus. Build-outs are £9,000.00 each. A raised table at the crossroads would cost £10,000.00. A need is not recognised until accident statistics recorded by the Police can demonstrate that they meet the relevant criteria to identify the need.

During discussion the following concerns were raised. Why could we not get funding for a speed camera? Calming at the entrance to the village will not calm the traffic in the middle, as modern cars regain speed very quickly. Dr. Brooks suggested funding from other sources should be obtained as he is extremely concerned and suggested the Lynn Fund be approached. As there are many differing views on calming measures in villages and their effectiveness it was agreed the village should be surveyed to gauge village opinion on what people would like to see, if any, if and when funding became available.

Parish Plan – The Chairman reiterated the fact that the response was low to a leaflet that was circulated to every household village asking if a parish plan would be a good idea for Landbeach. Melanie outlined three possible options: i) do nothing, ii) encourage a committee to be formed of 9 – 10 people to include 2 Parish Councillors, the Chairman to be non parish council and proceed with a full Parish Plan, iii) The Parish Council produce a Landbeach Action Plan with feedback provided by parishioners on actions they would like to see carried out in the village.

It was suggested that it was a way for government to have information fed to them and for them consequently to control village life. Would a village with no parish plan be looked upon as not so important and less democratic. A show of hands, on the possible three options, indicated the Parish Council should produce an action plan.

13 Any other business

Mr. Setchell asked if the refuse collectors could replace the bins from where they had taken them and not leave them across driveways and in the path of pedestrians. The Clerk would speak to SCDC regarding this matter.

He also asked if we could have plastic collected from our homes instead of having to take it to a recycling centre for it to be recycled. Clerk to speak to SCDC on this matter.

Mrs. Osbourne asked if the verge from the A10 at Landbeach Road could be cut short like the first piece as you turn off the A10. The Clerk reported that Rectory farm cut this. The maintenance contract covers the verges, outside the entrance, to be cut by the County Council four times a year, which does not enable the grass to be kept to this standard.

The question was asked if a cycle path would be installed from Landbeach to the new park and ride at Butt Lane. Cambridge Cycling Campaign had looked at the possibility of making a path from Akeman Street to Butt Lane. This may be possible as there is less heavy tractor movements along this track, due to two local farms no longer growing sugar beet. The Council would make enquiries to see if this has been progressed further. A number of parishioners felt they would like to see a cycle path from Landbeach to the A10 at Milton as this road is dangerous.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked so many people for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.