

# GREAT SHELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes

### Meeting of the Parish Council to be held in the Pavilion, Woollards Lane on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 1830hrs

**NOTE. This meeting was conducted Via Zoom under the temp legislation L01-20 | THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020 by the Chair to progress the Business as stated on the Agenda, due to the Corvid-19 meeting restrictions.**

#### 1. Received & Accepted apologies for absence

Present: Councillors Malcolm Watson (Chair), Barbara Kettel, Barrie Ashurst, Simon Talbott, Paula Arnold, Charlie Nightingale, Gregory Price, John Stanton, Lyn Disley, Peter Fane (Also District Councillor), Ifthinan Shareef, Pete Bassett, Parish Clerk Mike Winter and Assistant Parish Clerk Andrea Gothard

Apologies for absence:

- Councillor Angela Niblett, recovering from illness
- Interested External Parties Attending this Meeting and Available for Assistance if Requested  
William Harrold, Cambridge Approaches  
David Revell, Cambridge Approaches

Public

- Varied during meeting approximately 50 members of the Public in attendance

#### 2. Received declarations of interest

- Councillors Greg Price, Barrie Ashurst, Ifthinan Shareef local residents on potential EWR area plan (Considered unnecessary as all Village impacted by EWR plans)

#### 3. Public Session

The meeting was adjourned for a period of up to 10 minutes when members of the public will be able to ask questions of the Parish Council and put forward points of view in respect of the business on the agenda.

Questions from the Public

- Several e-mails received from public
- Prepared statement from EWR Action Group read out by resident

Main topics

- Thanks to Parish Council for arranging this meeting at short notice and appreciate the fact that current Chair was not the Chair when the EWR issue was first issued
- Parish Council being requested to pledge funds to take EWR to Court for a Judicial Review on their decision not to consult on a Norther Approach into Cambridge
- Group believes the Norther Approach is far less damaging to the environment, shorter and less expensive
- Norther Approach connects more future plans and housing projects
- The suggested CamBedRailRoad route impacts less people and villages, severs less A & B roads
- Any of the Route E corridors hugely impacts Great Shelford and potentially Little Shelford
- Line will almost certainly have freight running through the night
- Line will also clog up the two village level crossings having a great impact on the Village
- Any route through Cambridge Road will almost certainly involve house and other property demolition
- Any route joining the Kings Cross line would also have impact on local housing
- No matter where you live in the Village the proposed routes will have a huge impact depending upon the route alignment chosen

- We can't let EWR ruin our local environment when a more sensible option is available as the Norther Route
- EWR have failed to consult on a more appropriate route into Cambridge so I urge the Parish Council to pledge the funds to support the cause and try to force EWR to consult on the Norther route option
- Resident in support of pledge but sees it as a last resort and would only follow this action if every other option had been closed off.  
As a Village we should campaign via the political channels for EWR to consider the Norther route. However, time is short and once EWR publish their plans in qtr 1 this year we have only 3 months to challenge the decision. In short completely supports the pledge
- Resident, £24,000 is a huge sum of money and is 10% of the Parish Council Precept. Thinks we need to be sure spent wisely. Understands EWR is a big threat to the Village but not certain it is the biggest transport threat to the Village and not sure that a Judicial review is the right thing to do. The Parish Council started a Transport Working Group a couple of weeks ago to review the various transport issues that impact on the Village but it has made little progress. It is important that the Working Group report back to the Parish Council on options in dealing with EWR, CSET and various other transport issues on the table and the report is completed before the Parish Council makes a decision on this funding. Believes threat from EWR has been misrepresented as Cambridge Approaches map of surveys point to EWR coming in on the Kings Cross line or on Liverpool Street line south of the Village. Doesn't think we can persuade ERW to move north of Cambridge and believes decision to come in from south is cast in stone. Let's get fully informed before a funding decision is made.  
Same Resident made a point later that all the proposed projects coming into the Village could be done via a tunnel with an underground interchange.
- Resident, fully in support of pledge and note that it is a pledge and will not be called upon unless the Judicial Review is necessary. Speaking as a Lawyer the threat of a Judicial Review can be a powerful tool especially when coupled as in this case with a strong political campaign. Cambridge Approaches map of surveys is incomplete and some land owners have not logged their surveys. Uphill battle but some movement and sympathy from politicians with local MP on our side.
- Resident, believes underground proposal is pie in the sky. EWR have made it clear they intend to have no tunnels. EWR are not interested in co-ordinating with anyone.
- Resident fully in support of pledge and have little time to make a decision on pledge
- Resident, fully in support of pledge and that no benefit exists to the Village in the southern route. No electrification is planned by EWR and all topics are a negative for the Village. The Norther route has many benefits for other Villages
- Resident, fully in support of pledge, southern route has no benefit to the Village and very concerned about freight trains
- Resident, fully in support of pledge, proposal to wait for all Village transport issues to be reviewed is not acceptable as we are in a time constraint, the decision on supporting the pledge must be made now.
- Cambridge Approaches representative update meeting on current status
  - Solicitors engaged and a warning letter issued to EWR
  - Solicitors outlined an arrangement on risk sharing with Cambridge Approaches that if case lost full fees would not be charged and if won fees claimed from other side. Interests are aligned
  - Bassingbourn to Cambourne decision influence by threat of a Judicial review
  - Early threat of Judicial review improves chances of success
  - Current EWR consultation imminent but content unclear
  - Solicitors and Cambridge Approaches have confirmed they will not attempt to do a Judicial review that is hopeless

- Advantage in being able to say to EWR that Judicial review is ready to go and fully funded is strong
- Other Political and noise campaigns combined with threat of Judicial review is a positive statement to EWR
- Councillor, freight has an advantage to GB limited, when exact route announced 3 months is available to respond and thinks that is plenty of time. Supports challenge when EWR issue route. Judicial review is not to challenge route but to make EWR consult on Northern route option
- Resident, waiting is not a clever decision, no benefit in delaying
- Resident, fully in support of pledge, tunnel is pie in the sky and cost prohibitive. This should be prime concern of the Village and pledge should be supported. Believes route is for freight.
- Resident, 3 month is a short time for preparation of a legal case.
- Councillor, Chair of Transport Working Group stated impossible to deliver anything meaningful or informative on combining all projects in a matter of weeks.
- Resident, fully in support of pledge and pledge funds are well spent
- Various debates on Pledge and Routes meanings
- Resident, fully in support of pledge, moved to Great Shelford recently to get away from London hassle and into tranquillity of Great Shelford.
- Cambridge Approaches representative confirmed that the EWR document states end of route would be at or near Shepreth Junction
- Resident, fully in support of pledge, Great Shelford will be greatly damaged by the southern route and we cannot wait.
- Resident, EWR not held consultation in Great Shelford or anyplace near
- Resident, fully in support of pledge, safeguarding of Village in welfare and wellbeing must be a priority

**4. East West Rail, the announcement of potential routes in the Option E area is expected later this month or early in February and the proposed routes could well have a significant impact on our village.**

**The opportunity may arise to prepare a case for a judicial review jointly with other affected local Parish Councils.**

Chair updated current status as follows

- EWR Stage 1 Oxford to Bletchley/Milton Keynes
  - Government funding of £760m granted (Bicester to Bletchley)
- EWR Stage 2 Oxford to Bedford
  - Consultation Early 2021
  - Funding bid to Government for the construction of this section in the 2021 Spending Review
- EWR Stage 3 Oxford to Cambridge
  - Consultation Early 2021
  - Funding bid to Government for the construction of this section in the 2021 Spending Review

**5. Discuss and Agree a request from the Great Shelford Action Group for Great Shelford Parish Council to make a significant Pledge (Circa £24,000) to Cambridge Approaches in support of the Judicial Review**

Chair updated current status of Pledges to date from other local Parish Councils as follows

- Haslingfield Parish Council have donated £1,000 for the initial legal advice and pledged £13,000 for future stages of the Judicial Review, should they proceed.
  - Population (2011 census) 1507
- Great and Little Eversden PC have pledged a total of £9,000, spread over two financial years.
  - Population (2011 census) 841

- Harlton PC contributing £2,035 spread over 2 years, which is in proportion to their population.
  - Population(2011 census) 308
- Great Shelford
  - Population(2011 census) 4233

Other Parish Councils have been contacted for support by Cambridge Approaches.

Chair requested Councillor Opinion on views of the public

Councillor Greg Price stated that wherever EWR route E enters Great Shelford it will impact some part of Great Shelford the environment and the green belt. Northern route proposed fits better with other proposed developments. Letter from Solicitors makes substantial points. Pledge is not a fixed expenditure and gives a maximum potential expenditure. Agrees with need to confirm pledge quickly.

Councillor Simon Talbott agrees with Councillor Greg Price and we must ensure the Northern Route has a proper evaluation

Councillor Barbara Kettel fully in favour of a Northern Route but concerned about costs of Judicial review and would like to support full view of all transport projects in the Village

Councillor Barrie Ashurst fully support Group actions but concerned in a hurry and judicial review can only change consultation process

Chair allowed Cambridge Approaches to clarify that expectation was to challenge scope of next EWR consultation as they think it will be to narrow and they do not expect significant spent prior to EWR consultation being issued.

Councillor Paula Arnold, if we object what is alternative and sub sequential costs of impacts on village. Costs are considered to be much greater.

Councillor John Stanton in favour of pledge subject to prospects of Judicial review being realistic

Councillor Peter Fane concerned over legality of pledge. Judicial review is a challenge to the scope of the EWR consultation. Satisfied that the CBRR northern route proposals are technically sound and has greater overall benefit as it serves existing communities with less damage.

Chair requested Clerk to give an opinion on legality of proposed pledge. Clerk stated pledge is in long term interests of the Village and is thus a topic that the Parish Council can support if voted to do so.

Councillor Lyn Disley, in support of the Pledge and morally should support the Village view

Councillor Charlie Nightingale in full support of the pledge

#### **6. Agree the way forward with next course of actions**

Proposal to support the Pledge of total £25,000 (Incl previously agreed £1,000) subject to future assurance as to amenability to review and likelihood of success with openness of expenditure by Cambridge Approaches

Proposed; Councillor Greg Price

Seconded; Councillor Simon Talbott

Vote; 9 in favour 0 against, carried

#### **7. Agree any Budgets necessary to achieve Agenda item 5 above**

Clerk clarified that No Budget exists in 2020/21/22 for any of this activity

Parish Council Reserves would be allocated to cover the pledge, thus no impact on 2021/22 Budget Plans

Chair also confirmed that all S137 commitments would continue into 2021/22

#### **8. Review a request from NHS Covid-19 Coordination Hub to the Community Association for use of Memorial Hall and associated parking to undertake Lateral Flow Testing**

Community Association received a request from NHS Covid-19 Coordination Hub to see if the Memorial Hall was available for use with suitable parking from the Parish Council

A fee of £50 per day is offered for use

No dates or times proposed

Clerk Clarified Items to Consider

The SSYI Roof is being replaced and work planned to commence imminently, being a good time as MH was not in use

During the above work entry to the MH via the front entrance would not be possible

Similarly the two forward emergency exits on both sides of the MH

The two rearward emergency exits on both sides of the MH could be utilised

All emergency exits are not considered step free entrance or exits

It is possible that Car Parking would require a parking place left free between each car?

Thus parking would have to be managed?

Delaying the roof replacement (for an unknown timescale) at a time when the Contractor has an available slot may result in later increased costs and longer delays

The refurbishment of the SSYI Club room is partly dependant on the imminent roof replacement as currently the roof leaks and insulation is unacceptable.

Councillor Simon Talbott suggests that Memorial hall is offered to the NHS Covid19 Coordination Hub on the restricted use itemised above as delay of Roof work is not appropriate

Councillor Greg Price believes request is a generic request and other better locations are available in the local area.

Proposal to make offer to CA subject to the constrains imposed above due to the building works

Proposed; Councillor John Stanton

Seconded; Councillor Barrie Ashurst

Vote; 9 in favour 0 against, carried

**9. Close Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting**

With all Agenda items covered the Chair closed the meeting at 2025hrs and expressed the Parish Councils thanks to all Residents who engaged with the meeting process

**Note. All the above is the official minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 that have been reviewed by Parish Council with full adoption awaited at the next Parish Council meeting**

Signed  
Chair

Date  
Great Shelford Parish Council