

Minutes of Fen Ditton Annual Parish Meeting, chaired by Charles Jones, held on Tuesday, 1st May, 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary the Virgin Church Hall

Attendance: 6 councillors; 17 members of the public; Dist.Cllr. Turner and Cty. Cllr Bradnam

1. Apologies

Cllr Charles Jones

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 27th April, 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April, 2017 were approved.

3. Councillor introductions

The chairman explained that the parish of Fen Ditton has been split into two wards, East (RA2/WING) and West (RA1) he then explained which councillors stood for which ward and their responsibilities on the parish council. Felicity Bennée, East, finance; Emily Bush, East, welfare, church community liaison, conservation and social media; Serga Collett, West, welfare; Jennie Conroy, West, tree warden, cemetery, conservation, highways and transport; George Devine, West a new councillor with as yet no responsibilities; Mark Easterfield, East, crime and welfare, cemetery and Marshall's consultative committee; Vince Farrar, East, chairman, highways and transport and website; Charles Jones, East, vice chairman, finance and strategic planning; Laurice Sues, East, website and newsletter, planning; All councillors are members of Fen Ditton Recreation Ground Trust. Robert Turner is the district councillor and Anna Bradnam and John Williams are the county councillors

4. Report by Chairman

Wendy Irvin-Braben resigned in August 2017, but remains on the Trust fund raising committee. huge thanks for her efforts as a councillor.

I would like to make special thanks to Anna and Robert for all their input and valuable guidance they give to the parish council especially when we discuss various hot topics.

City Deal Cycle Path Project update – B1047 scheme

As most will have noticed the trees have been cut down along Ditton Lane in preparation for work planned this summer.

Double Yellow Lines High Ditch Road

The latest update is that work on the new cycleway along Ditton lane/Horningsea road will commence in July 18. The approved double yellow lines around the High street/Ditton lane cross roads and on High Ditch will be painted in when work is completed. We plan to give it 6 months to see the impact of all the changes and then again look at the suggestions from High Ditch residents for further changes than may help the traffic problems.

Closed Churchyard

Approval for a survey which will give us a better idea of the potential future costs involved in looking after both the churchyard and the surrounding wall.

Grant Applications

The Council approve in principle a grant up to £165,000 to the project for the redevelopment of the pavilion subject to a full business plan and funds up to £100,000 being secured from grant making organisations and the balance for the project from other sources.

Fundraising FDRGT

Two new ways to help, Virgin Money giving, and easyfundraising web sites.

Planning

In Sept 2017 The PC objected to the proposed major development at Waterbeach until there are sufficiently robust proposals in place to limit the traffic, generated by the development, through Fen Ditton.

Thanks

Thanks to all the volunteers who help the community throughout the year, including the gardeners who look after the war memorial, the Village, churchyard and cemetery tidy-ups and manning for the bumps car parking.

5. **Financial Report**

See appendix 1

6. **District Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Turner stated that due to the up coming elections he was unable to make a report.

7. **County Councillor's Report**

It has been such an interesting year, serving residents in Milton, Landbeach, Chittering, Waterbeach, Horningsea and Fen Ditton. In reviewing my first year as your County Councillor I firstly want to thank our hard-working parish councillors, who day-to-day deal with so many issues of real concern for us all. Likewise, thank you to our District Councillors who speak up on our behalf at South Cambs.

Cambridgeshire County Council

The Conservative majority voted to appoint Conservative Chairs and Vice-Chairs to all Council Committees and changes which reduce opportunities for debate and challenge. They created two new Committees, and five new Area Champions, whose roles duplicate the roles of existing Committees and County Councillors. This seems wasteful of public money.

Budget - The Council aims to make savings of £35 million in 2018-19, on top of the £215 million saved since 2011. Officers have been asked to deliver services more cheaply, without having an impact on those services. Whilst some improvements are possible, this is bound to mean fewer services.

Council Tax - The County Council has refused to increase its proportion of council tax for many years, despite objections from opposition parties. As a result, Cambridgeshire is now just about the worst funded County Council in the country. If Council Tax had been raised by 2% since 2015-16, the County Council's income would already be £15 million more, rising to £21 million by 2018-19.

In February the Council voted to increase Council Tax for 2018/19 by 2.99% on top of the 2% increase for Adult Social Care. This will raise nearly £8 million. All parties agreed the increase and that the first £4.3 million should be used to plug the budget gap. The Lib Dems wanted the remaining £3.7 million to be used to reverse the cuts to Children's Centres and Libraries but the Council majority voted to put the remainder into a 'smoothing reserve', effectively a rainy-day account, instead of using it now.

Shire Hall site - The Council is planning to move the County Council offices and sell the Shire Hall site. Whilst loved by many, this is partly because the poorly insulated building is extremely expensive to run and because it is so far south in the county. The Scheduled Monument and historic parts of the site would continue to be protected. Members are concerned that the Council functions should continue to be accessible to the public as well as members. The financial case seems vague.

Waterbeach New Town

The Local Plan submission July 2013, Policy SS/5 identified the land allocated for a New Town of 8,000-9,000 dwellings. This number has since been revised upwards.

If RLW's proposal for 5,000 houses is accepted, the total for the site will amount to 11,500, so 1,500 more than SCDC approved in Autumn 2016.

The two agents Urban and Civic and Turnstone have held public consultations and presented to parish councils. SCDC contracted ARUP to draw up a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as guidance to developers for the whole site, although this has still not been presented. More recently RLW have submitted plans to build a new relocated railway station, one mile north of the existing station.

I set up a series of **Joint Parishes Meetings** and invited representatives of Milton, Waterbeach, Landbeach, Horningsea and Fen Ditton parish councils, the applicants, County Highways and SCDC, to assist parishes in formulating their initial responses to these applications. More recently South Cambs District Council has arranged a Waterbeach Community Forum for the

same purpose. I have also attended meetings between U&C and Waterbeach Cycling Campaign and with Turnstone, to explain local concerns. Meanwhile we await the outcome of the Ely to Cambridge Transport Study (see below). The SPD is expected to come to the SCDC Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting in June 2018, after which there will be a 6-week consultation period before it will come back to PfH in September 2018. The SPD will consider the phasing of the development, the number of dwellings, the impact of the Ely to Cambridge Corridor Study (now being handled by the Combined Authority) and the S106 contributions needed from the developers.

Local Plan - Initially submitted in 2014, modifications requested by the Inspector in 2018 were submitted in February 2018 and we await her decision. There is a small chance that she will request further modifications but once she has decided, the Plan will move to adoption.

Will the sewage works be moving?

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has bid for money from the government's £2.3 billion Housing Infrastructure Fund, whose purpose is to 'unlock' otherwise difficult sites, where housing is in greatest demand. The bid has been taken forward to the next stage of joint working with government officers to do detailed work on feasibility. If won, this £193m funding would enable the relocation of the Anglian Water Cambridge Water Recycling Centre which in turn would free up 40 hectares of land for development for an estimated 7,600 new homes on the land around Cambridge North Station.

A10 - Ely to Cambridge Transport Study - When I first met County officers, they anticipated publishing an initial report by October 2017. The Report did not appear until January 2018 and its conclusions were that they need to maximise modal shift from private cars to public transport or bikes, a relocated railway station needed to be provided for Waterbeach New Town, junction improvements were needed and ultimately, the A10 needed to be dualled. The project now falls under the remit of the Combined Authority, who will be working with government on the next stage, as the project is likely to cost £500 million. A report including the possible routes between Waterbeach and Milton is not expected before November 2019.

County Highways contract - A new £34 million a year highway services contract has been awarded to Skanska July 2017 to end of June 2027 with the option to extend for a further five years, and includes the management and maintenance of 2,800 miles of carriageway, 1,400 miles of footways and cycle-ways and 1,276 structures. I note that the re-painting on the A10/A14 roundabout, done in November 2017 has already worn off in places and patch repairs on the A10 and on our village roads are breaking down within months. We ask question at County Council.

Speeding - Milton, Landbeach and Waterbeach have jointly purchased a **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign**. Horningsea obtained funding through LHI for theirs. The County Highway Officer ordered the signs in bulk and parishes have obtained approval from Balfour Beatty to attach the sign to specific street lamps. A rota of use has been agreed. Electronic set-up has proved tricky but we were determined to establish electronic communication, so we can store and download counts and speeds. We'll deploy the sign as soon as this technical glitch has been overcome.

Buses - I continue to seek reassurance from bus operators that the **Stagecoach Citi 2, Service 9** and **Whippet 196** will continue to serve our villages. The 196 contract has been extended to September 2018. Over the year Stagecoach has changed the Service 9, removing the loop around Capper Road and altering the route around Landbeach 'to reduce delays'. Despite my protests, operators have to run a commercial service, so are inclined to reduce or remove parts of the route with few users. Services are not planned to change short term but are under review, so contact cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com so they can take your views into account when planning longer term services.

Milton – Ely Road Bus Stop - I am still working with County officers to move the bus stop to Ely Road.

Rail Transport - Waterbeach Station – Network Rail initially said they were committed to lengthening the existing platforms to 8-car by Autumn 2018. Since then, they have encountered very difficult ground conditions and RLW have submitted their application to re-locate the station. Network Rail may find it hard to justify the cost of the platform extension, when (if approved) the new station would be scheduled for 2021.

Cambridge North Station - opened in May 2017. Three platforms serve trains operated by Greater Anglia and Great Northern. A reasonable number of trains serve the station but delays connecting at Cambridge Central have been reported.

Fen Road Level Crossing – I am working with stakeholders, exploring options for a pedestrian route under the railway, down to the river towpath. This would provide access for those who walk or cycle when the crossing is shut.

Network Rail proposed Level Crossing Closures

Throughout the country, Network Rail have proposed level crossing closures, to improve safety on the rail network. Currently NR are proposing some 100 closures throughout Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex. This means that numerous crossings on footpaths and on agricultural land have been threatened with closure. I attended a site visit to a local farming business, who own and work over 3,500 ha on both sides of the railway between Waterbeach and Stretham and who are faced with the possible closure of two of the three crossings linking their land. The public hearing took evidence in the autumn and closed on 23 February. The Inspector will now consider evidence but has not said when she hopes to produce a report.

Cycle Routes - Waterbeach to Milton - The Local Highways Officer has just confirmed that now we are in the new financial year, she is getting a quote for 'siding back' this cycle path to restore the tarmac width.

Phase 1 of the **Chisholm Trail** (the section from Cambridge North Railway Station to Coldham's Lane) has been approved, as has the Abbey Chesterton Bridge.

Amey's Waste Recovery Facility (incinerator) application. See here

<http://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/swift/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display>

quoting the planning reference **S/3372/17/CW**

Although Levitt's Field was allocated in the Local Plan for purposes including combined heat and power, this application has caused considerable concern in our villages. Amey had held public exhibitions during summer 2017 but in January 2018 many residents were unaware of the application and felt they had insufficient time to respond to the 120 documents. Cllr Ingrid Tregoe arranged a public meeting on 29th January 2018, which was attended by Amey, County Planning Department, an independent air quality consultant, the Environment Agency, a representative of Public Health England, and members of the County Planning Committee. The level of public concern expressed at the meeting was such that I asked Amey directly, and through the County Planning Manager, to undertake a further round of consultation, with advance warning by door-to-door leafletting and an exhibition in Waterbeach, Landbeach and Cottenham, which Amey did in March 2018. A further public meeting was arranged in Waterbeach.

The County Planning Authority has received several hundred questions from the public consultations. Matters raised will be collated and submitted to Amey. Once Amey has responded, this will be publicised on the County website and emailed to parish councils. There will be a further 21-days in which to comment on the new information provided by Amey only. Previous comments will stand. The application is unlikely to go before Committee until July 2018.

Amey drop-in session Landbeach, 19 March 2018

I asked three questions and these were the answers I received:

Transport (Andrew Bell) - Would the EfW plant attract waste from outside Cambridgeshire and additional lorry movements on the A10? I was told that with the developments planned in the area (NW Cambridge, City, Darwin Green, Northstowe, Cambourne West, Bourn Airfield,

Waterbeach) it is very unlikely that they would need to import waste from outside the county. The plant has been scaled to match the projected supply of waste from within Cambridgeshire.

Particulates (Rosalind Flavell, Fichter Consulting Engineers and the Environment Agency) – How are the fine particulates monitored and would there be any risk from them? I was told (I think) that there is almost continuous monitoring of dust, NOx, acid gases and metals. The burn temperature required to destroy dioxins is monitored continuously. For particulates, they are so fine, that they have to sample continuously for 8 hours at a time, to capture an amount that is measurable. The EA requires quarterly reporting of data but the emissions themselves are monitored almost continuously.

Risk to Human Health (Adrienne, Public Health England and Rosalind Flavell, as above) Is there any risk to human health from the emissions from this sort of Energy from Waste Plant? Fichter modelled Human Health Risk Assessments and PHE have reviewed and commented on their report. PHE agree with the general recommendation that, when properly run, EfW incinerators produce no measurable risk to human health. The amount of contamination is exceedingly small and represents a very small additional risk when compared to other sources of emission. This means that emissions of NOx from lorries on local roads and our case the A10, present a greater concern than the emissions from incinerators of this type.

I remain concerned about risks to health and the visual impact on the setting of Denny Abbey.

Children's Centres - Despite strong opposition the County Council voted through funding cuts to Children's Centres across Cambridgeshire. This means there will be fewer services in some Centres and other Centres will close or be re-located. We fear these savings will simply store up problems for the future.

Libraries - similar savings are being sought in the Library Service, to meet the needs of a growing population and tight public finances. They aim to use technology to help meet library user's needs but have also voted in user charges for internet access after the first 30 mins, with exceptions for job-seekers and the unemployed.

Working with Parishes: I have been working with parish councils monthly, raising concerns with officers and trying to find answers and get things done in our villages.

Litter picking on the River Cam towpath – As a newly appointed member of the Conservators of the Cam Board, I am trying to arrange a proper Agreement with the SCDC/City Shared Waste Service and for collection of the rubbish.

8. Fen Ditton Primary School Headteacher

Mark Askew reported that the number of pupils is one hundred and seventy with an average of twenty five per year group. The school is focussing on respect as one of the four values and intends to do more art and technology. The school has converted to academy status, joining with Bottisham Village College and Stapleford which brings with it increased capacity. To work the Trust work six to eight schools are needed to be involved in order that the benefits of scale can be enjoyed. Joining a multi academy trust means leaving the local authority. The newly formed trust believe that each school will remain individual. The trust will be joined by the new school on the WING development.

Parking continues to be a problem and with this in mind the school are going to take up the cycle route challenge. The school appreciates the support from the landlord at the Ancient shepherds for allowing parents to park in the car park

The school has developed and is building a relationship with the Perse school who are providing language teachers for twelve identified pupils and music teachers to enable every year four child the chance to learn a musical interest.

Mr Askew was asked if it would be possible for villagers to be given the opportunity to be involved in productions and school activities. It was also recorded the pleasure that villagers see from seeing school children using the recreation ground.

9. Crime report

No report submitted

10. Highways & Transport Report

Highways

Cross City Cycling – Ditton Lane & Links to East Cambridge

Works are expected to commence July 2018. Clearance of vegetation including the Rowen Trees on the bank has been undertaken. The Cross City Cycling web-page has up-dated information and 'frequently asked question.' The management team have advised they will hold a public meeting prior to commencement to inform process and address questions, we have been assured works will not be carried out during peak periods.

The works will provide a widened pedestrian cycle path on both sides of Horningsea Rd from the crossroads up to the school and a new traffic light controlled crossing point. The far side of Ditton Lane will be widened only, running along the length of the existing bank down to Fison Rd. Changes at the crossroads include a raised platform to slow traffic down, narrowing of the width of the corners using raised natural stone paving and double yellow lines on each corner of the crossroads. 2 passing places for traffic will also be established along High Ditch Rd with double yellow lines using existing entrance ways with short extension beyond to minimise the impact on parking spaces.

Parent Parking

Knee rails will be extended further along Horningsea Rd than existing on both sides to best prevent parent parking on soft verges. Where there are no knee rails on this side of Horningsea Rd a deep kerb will be laid in an attempt to prevent parents parking on the new cycle way. At school drop off and collect times parking spaces are observed to be available in the Musgrave Way area and High Street, the Ancient Shepherds has also for some time now permitted parent parking to the rear. We continue to appeal to parents to use these areas rather than putting themselves and children at risk by parking on Horningsea RD, in addition often in soft verge causing significant damage and impact on character and appearance of the village.

Green Ways

This is a new project focusing on connecting outlying villages to the city centre with 'green routes' commencement anticipated 2020. Public engagement exercise is already underway and draft proposals available proposals for public consultation will follow. The projects of concern to Fen Ditton are Horningsea and Waterbeach. We had hoped to have the widening of Wadloes included in the Cross City cycling deal but were assured it would be included in the Horningsea Green Ways project and it has.

In addition to widening of Wadloes the Horningsea proposals include putting in a cycle path from the end of Green End along existing footpath to Baits Bite lock (Option A) or extending what will be the new cycle path from the school on this side of Horningsea RD to join the existing Horningsea cycle way which currently stops at Field Lane.

The Horningsea Route includes taking a cycle path down to Baits Bite Lock, both Horningsea and Waterbeach are seeking improvements to the cycle crossing at the lock to improve access and usage.

The land up to but not including the lock and crossing within the Parish of Fen Ditton.

The Parish Council will be responding to the initial proposals, please do let us know your views and forward comments to the green Ways project.

Plans can be found on the Green Ways web-site, links are on the FDPC web-site.

Road Surfaces, Paving and Overhanging Vegetation

We continue to report pot holes, problems with pavement surfaces and overhanging vegetation on the Highways Fault reporting system. Please continue to report as well. The more reports received the greater the likelihood of action.

A reminder, overhanging vegetation obstructing the highway and or public footpaths that originates on private property is the responsibility of property owners. I would include this in the case of our grass verges too where encroachment or lack of light is at risk of eroding the verge.

11. Conservation Report

1.Recreation Ground Perimeter Hedge, Green End

Work has continued restoring this hedge. Last year crown reduction of heavy bows overhanging road including Ash and Sycamore cutting row of snow berry down to 'hedge height' to enable annual maintenance. This year clearing some old and dying elder, layering of existing shrubbery, severing ivy on trees at risk of smothering and new planting of 150 bare rooted native hedging plants. This coming year, continue with works, building stock of new hedging aim of annual /biennial cutting to establish good ground level cover and ability to maintain as a boundary hedge.

2. Grass Verges

We continue to promote conservation policy, no parking on grass verges. Where damage occurs as a result of building works or other works, repair is required at the end of works as part of planning permission. Some repair works have been undertaken: Wrights Close, Pumping Station Green End, High Street Ditton Meadows. Soft verges such as Church Street/Green End corner can only be protected by putting in a deep kerb stone. This would be at expense of Parish Council, would be expensive and impact on appearance. Contractors cut verges on monthly basis March through to October. Village Green and bank on High Ditch Rd running onto crossroads every two weeks. Wild areas being maintained with selective strimming and cutting strips only in some areas particularly around church and High Street down to Ditton Meadows and large grass area Ditton Lane on village approach. All areas are cut back once seed heads formed and or as necessary to maintain appearance late summer.

3.Recreation Ground and Cemetery

Wild / un cut strips are being maintained around the edges of the cemetery and Recreation ground. These will be cut back in October to prevent encroachment.

4. Tree Planting

Replacement Rowan – 2-3 on Village Green once cycle works completed.

Native Trees for future Generations – over next 12 months

Audit of Existing Trees - On public land and viewed from public place, consider importance for character and appearance of village. Review status, recommendations for preservation and new planting for future generations. Ash die back is expected to reach our region and will have significant impact on our tree stock.

12. Cemetery Report

A thorough audit of how the graves are laid out in the cemetery has been carried out and it has been found that there are approximately 19 plots available which it is estimated should be sufficient for the next five or six years. Trees have been removed along the boundary with the recreation ground to enable the railings to be adapted to provide access to the unused plots along the boundary some of which had been previously allocated as war graves and have since been released for general use. The Council continue to give thought as to how to proceed once five to six year estimated time to a full cemetery is reached.

13. Planning Report – overview

As reported by the chairman the Council had objected to the proposed major development at Waterbeach until there are sufficiently robust proposals in place to limit the traffic, generated by the development, through Fen Ditton.

All other planning applications in Fen Ditton had been considered throughout the year and commented on as appropriate and a record of the comments minuted.

14. Report from representative of St Mary the Virgin

Rev. Alun Ford introduced himself as the new parish priest offering pastoral care and with the challenge of reconnecting with the whole parish of four thousand people – seven hundred of whom are in Fen Ditton. A decision has been taken to sell the church hall with the funds being for better provision by re-ordering the church building. Bookings will still be taken for the hall. It is intended that the church organisation and the recreation ground trust work together for the

best of the village and that any sale of the church hall will coincide with the re-development of the pavilion. It is anticipated that such a sale will take two years.

15. Reports from representatives of:

i. Fen Ditton Recreation Ground Trust

The Trust was established in the 1980's by the Parish Council to manage the site and enable fund raising to support the running costs of the grounds and later, the Pavilion.

The responsibilities of the Trust are to support recreational facilities for Fen Ditton Residents.

Income generated by the Trust is mostly through Car Park Revenue and income for Pavilion Hire.

External grant applications for play equipment etc. are also made.

The Trust has never been in a position where it has generated enough income to cover all costs.

It depends on the Parish Council to maintain the Grounds each year and it is often necessary to apply for grants to cover maintenance, repair or replacement equipment costs.

Income generated from Car Parking is in the Region of £3-4000 and income from Pavilion hire, including sports clubs is in the region of £1000 a year.

The Trust is now focused on raising funds up to £350,000 to re develop the Pavilion. The impetus for this has come from the fact that the changing facilities no longer satisfy National Sporting Bodies requirements. Without meeting these, sports clubs are at risk of not being able to play competitively in the amateur leagues. The plans drawn up and costed include an extended community room with improved kitchen facilities, the intention being the Pavilion is available for all of the community not simply sports and is multi-functioning. In the past for example the Pavilion has hosted mothers and toddlers, and coffee pot and has always been available for private hire, children's parties and so on.

The financial strategy is to raise at least £150,000 through external grants, £165,000 through the Parish Council and 10% that is, £35,000 through local community fundraising. Our target at local community level inclusive of Car Park revenue is £8000 a year

To-date we have £50,000 application with Sport England, we have reached the 2nd round and are waiting to hear the final outcome. We have other grant making organisations in the pipeline but need the green light from Sport England before being able to pursue these.

The Parish Council have agreed a maximum of £165,000 on the basis of us securing at least £100,000 in external grants.

As a local community we have raised £13,230 over the last 2 financial years. This year £3455 through the Medieval Fair, Ceilidh, Wine tasting and Raffle. The total Car Park Revenue was £4,500, £1500 of this was required to top up running costs of the Pavilion & Grounds releasing £3023 to the Pavilion Fund. The total raised by the local community this year therefore being £6500. We will be applying to the Parish Council for a grant to cover last years maintenance costs to hopefully reach the 17/18 target of £8000.

The Fund raising sub-committee is determined to maximise all revenue generated from voluntary effort to go towards the Pavilion Fund, that is Car Park revenue. To this end, we are concerned to generate as much income as possible through Pavilion hire to cover the standing costs of the Pavilion. The Trust has reviewed existing charges to home and away sports groups and will be promoting the Pavilion as being available to all community groups at concessionary rates and for private hire. The Parish Council have agreed to cover maintenance and repair costs over the next 3 year period. If we can increase income from Pavilion hire, more of the Car Park Revenue, ideally all of it, can be released to the Pavilion Fund. If it all comes together including our grant applications we should be within our total fund raising target 2020.

The Trust is aware of the potential loss of the Church Community Hall. A Pre Application meeting with SCDC planning officer informed us that as the Rec is in the Green Belt in the first instance any replacement building should be within existing foot print. Special circumstances, such as the need to upgrade the sports facilities are sufficient to allow some extension however, a complete re think, doubling the size, extending across the basketball court etc. we understood would not be acceptable. There are also logistical problems with the position of the football pitch limiting

extension out the front. We did understand an extension of a few metres to the sides of the building and, as the football pitch would allow, to the front of the building would be acceptable in addition to the plans we already have. Once and if there is a definitive plan to sell the church hall we will be happy to revisit the plans with the architect and SCDC planning, before this time the expense of re-engaging the architect would not be justified. . We would anticipate further development as described would require approximately an additional £125,000. Bringing the total target to £500,000.

Thank You to everyone who is supporting the fund raising effort through organising events, sponsorship, donations, and of course attending events.

Our events for this year include the Fen Ditton 5 on the 20th May. And a Gin festival in August, being organised by the Cricket Club on behalf of the Pavilion Fund. We welcome all volunteers for help on the gates we will open as many days as possible to maximise revenue.

We now have an easyfundraising account, raising funds when you shop on line and a VirginMoneyGiving account that allows for donations and individual fundraising through sponsorship at any event. www.virginmoneygiving.com search Fen Ditton RGT Fund Raising Sub-Committee Members – Serga Collett; Jennie Conroy; George Devine; Wendy Irvin; Paul Jenkins

ii. Elizabeth March Foundation

The Elizabeth March Foundation exists to give young people financial help in furthering their education or training. In previous years grants have been awarded to students embarking on a course of study at university or college, and also to young people needing specialist equipment when starting work. To qualify for a grant the young person must be under 25, have lived in Fen Ditton for at least two years and have attended local schools. All applications are treated in confidence and are not means tested. In 2017 the trustees were pleased to award a grant of £100 to an undergraduate for the purchase of textbooks. We publicise the availability of grants in New Life and on the Parish Council website.

The valuation of COIF shares owned by the Elizabeth March Foundation has steadily increased from £1,153.94 in 1994 to the current valuation of £2,707.90. Our income from these shares was £89.48 in the last financial year. We have £445.97 currently available for grants.

iii. Quy Fen Trust

This was an eventful year with the successful transfer to a new grazier who also took on the role of Fen Warden.

Projects held over from the previous year due to bad weather were actioned to include the creation of two new glade ways to the north and south of the cut, plus the pollarding of two Willow trees.

On going maintenance included the upkeep of the current glade ways, replacing some 70+ fence posts and rewiring the fences as required. The purchase and planting of three more trees to the South-West end of the fen. The supply and installation of posts and boarding 100meters of the cut by local contractors and slubbing that area of the cut by the Swaffham Drainage Board. On the North side of the cut a pathway was created by the removal of brambles to allow access to the whole north edge. A willow grove has been planted to the north of the fen from wood pollarded from the two trees.

Peter Case who is the Regional Officer for Central England People Ponds and Water carried out surveys of the fen ponds and wet areas and produced a plant/invertebrate survey of the fen and also arranged for a plant walk about in August led by a botanist.

Horningsea village purchased another tree as part of their WW1 project and it was agreed to pay £250 into each of the village funds. Currently the funds stand as follows Stow cum Quy £1762.50; Horningsea £1536.25; Fen Ditton £1700.

Fen Ditton had requested funding for a planting project which was approved for up to £500.

During last summer Horningsea re enacted the march from the village to the fen which had taken place 100 years ago, but this time instead of a protest the marches ended up having a

picnic.

iv. Willys Almshouse Charity

Note: The financial year of the Willys Almshouses Charity ends on 31st Dec 2017

During 2017 a new resident moved into no 6 after a long vacancy following the departure of our oldest resident, Rosa Sayer, to a Nursing home in 2016.

Sadly, another resident, Mrs Wilkinson, passed away in July 2017 and another long vacancy ensued before a new resident moved into no 4 in April 2018.

A programme of maintenance suggested by our surveyor has been almost completed with only the redecoration of some outside windows outstanding due to weather. This will be remedied shortly.

Financially The Trust is in good shape with a good "war chest" and a loan, taken out a few years ago from The Almshouse governing body, now substantially reduced.

v. Townlands Estate Charity

Fen Ditton's Townlands Charity was drawn up in 1908 to raise money for the poor and needy in the village of Fen Ditton and also to give support with the upkeep of the Church.

It consists of three charities:-

- the Estate Charity which generates income for the two other charities;
- the Parochial Charity which supports individual people in need in the village or contributes towards something for the whole village;
- the Ecclesiastical Charity which gives support with the upkeep of the Church.

The Townlands' income is raised by letting out Osier Holt (the field at the end of Green End) and the small stable area (at the end of Field Lane) for grazing over 10 months of the year, letting it out for two weeks each summer, in June and July, for the University and Town Bumps, and from dividends generated by the Charity's COIF investments.

Due to the Estate Charity's low income and expected high expenditure during 2017-18, no monies were paid out to the Parochial and Ecclesiastical charities during the year.

Parochial Charity

There have been no requests for assistance from individuals during 2017-18. The Trustees agreed that once the charity's finances are in better shape, the charity must be advertised more widely so that villagers and organisations are made aware of the assistance available. If anyone knows of someone needing financial support, where the statutory authorities cannot help, please contact the Secretary, Jenny Parr

Estate Charity

Osier Holt – the Trustees have agreed to the Billygoats Society using the field for the University May Bumps again this year.

After 11 successful years of hosting a charity event on the field alongside the Town Bumps, sadly, Chris Parkhouse of Deyton Bell, relinquished the field last Spring. He did however, introduce another charity, Living Sport, to step in and hopefully continue to host the event, which they did do last year. Unfortunately, Living Sport has recently decided that it cannot continue delivering the event, in part because of a drop in funding that their charity received for 2018-2019, and that it was not a strategic priority role for them. This is a blow to Townlands as the event brought in much needed income for our village charity. They did however, advise the Cambridgeshire Rowing Association, a charity itself and the body that organises the Town Bumps, of their decision, in the hope that the CRA would pick it up. The rowing association has been in touch and we are currently in discussions with them.

On the 5th March this year we suffered another major sewerage leak in Osier Holt, once again, behind the pump house. The same pipe had fractured further into the field and had been leaking overnight. As soon as Anglian Water had been alerted, they got their teams in place to minimise the spillage, repair the pipe, prevent back-up flooding, remove contaminated soil, replace the top soil and seed the affected area. By the end of the following day, the repair and

clear-up had been done. The field is recovering well and soon there will be no visible sign of the incident.

Stable field - many of you may have noticed, there haven't been horses on Osier Holt for the last 18 months or so. During this time work has continued in the stable field, albeit slowly. Quotes were sought for the removal and cutting back of shrubbery and hedging in order to access the old boundary fence, the removal of barbed wire along that perimeter and for the installation of a new post and rail fence and gate. These works were completed in November last year at a total cost of £3,139. Due to insufficient funds, the trustees have agreed to have the stables repaired rather than demolished.

The Trust is very pleased to report that as of 1st April this year, we have welcomed a new tenant grazier to Osier Holt. The tenant is a very experienced and competent horse owner. She and her family are delighted to have found a new home for their ponies (the new Chisolm Trail cycleway is to run through their previous home) and have offered to work with us and to help with the cost of repairs to the stables. They have already worked hard to clear the stable field of detritus and to make it a safe and comfortable home for their two New Forest ponies and miniature Shetland pony. They are all settling in nicely.

Finance

The Charities' finances as at 31st March 2018 are:-

Estate Bank Account - £3,692.07

Parochial Bank Account - £2,524.38

Value of COIF Investments - £17,580.46

16. Any Other Business

Residents raised on going concern of the bus service continuing, and of parking in the High Street

Appendix 1

Finance Report to Fen Ditton Annual Parish Meeting 1st May, 2018

The table below gives a summary of the Council' income and expenditure for the financial year to 31 March 2018 – a more detailed account is available on request.

Income	£	
Admin	24807	
Cemetery	3708	
Grants	441	
Events	658	
Total income		29836
Expenditure		
Cemetery	3680	
Closed churchyard	4275	
Village Green	350	
Highways – verges, footpaths etc	5728	
Newsletters and publications	645	
Administration	8550	
Recreation Ground	4036	
FDRGT grant	300	

Grants	1400	
Events	254	
Total expenditure		29218

Balance as 31 March 2018	102532	
Made up as:		
s.106	51389	
Allocated reserves	36875	
Unallocated reserves	14268	
	102532	