

Annual General Meeting Minutes 2014

Minutes of the Cottenham Village Design Group Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 5th March 2014, 7:30pm at Cottenham Community Centre

The evening started with two talks by guest speakers:

Avoiding Gridlock

Chris Poultney (Cambridgeshire County Council) discussed the plans for Cambridge Science Park Station

A station on Chesterton sidings was first proposed in the early 1990s, but the scheme in its current form was proposed in 2001. The intention is to build a transport interchange rather than a regional hub, so it will be smaller than Cambridge station. Some trains that currently terminate at Cambridge will be extended to the new station, but it is primarily intended to be an extra stop on services that continue to King's Lynn.

A public square will join the station building to a 450 space car park, taxi drop-off area, bicycle parking, and a (guided) bus interchange. The two platforms will be accessed from the station building via a bridge; there will be stairs and lifts, but no escalators. During the public consultation held in November 2012 there were 1200 responses, 90% of which were positive about the proposals. Planning permission has been obtained, and the station is expected to be operational towards the end of 2015.

Marcus Thompson (Jacobs Engineering) explained the status of the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

Jacobs Engineering are one of several companies working with the Highways Agency on the scheme. The estimated cost is £1.5 billion, covering both improvements to the A14 between Ellington to Milton, as well as to the stretch of A1(M) from Brampton to Alconbury. The idea of tolling has been rejected following complaints that it would increase rat running and be perceived as a tax on local businesses.

Approval for the scheme will be via a new Development Consent Order (DCO) system in which the Secretary of State makes the decision. There will be a formal public consultation April-May 2014, leading to the DCO submission October 2014. A decision is expected February 2016, allowing for construction to start December 2016. A smaller scheme to remove pinch points on the A14 is already underway, adding extra lanes between Girton and Histon.

This was followed by:

The Cottenham Village Design Group (CVDG) AGM

Committee Attendees: Alex Darby, Robin Heydon, Steven Poole (Chair), Mike Smith, Alexander Thoukydides and John Williams

Committee Apologies: Alan Leeks and Cllr Tim Wotherspoon

Approval of 2013 AGM Meeting Minutes

Proposed by Robin Heydon and seconded by Mike Smith.

Steven Poole (Chair) presented a review of the year's activities

Steven provided a summary of the range of activities of the CVDG in 2013-2014:

- Started the year with the emerging Local Plan and the Parish Council's proposal to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Regular committee meetings (held during April, June, September and November).
- Published members' newsletters (issues 17 and 18).
- Arranged visits to Poundbury and the roof of King's College Chapel.
- Led walking tours of historic buildings as part of the Fen Edge Festival.
- Held successful post-Christmas dinner at The Chequers.

- Finished the year with the Local Plan being submitted for independent examination without any specific development proposals for Cottenham.

Alex Darby (Planning Comments Coordinator) presented an overview of planning comments

There were 64 planning applications for Cottenham during 2013, up slightly from 56 the previous year. As usual applications for extensions dominated. Significant applications included commercial storage off Histon Road, replacement of the war memorial railings, entrance piers at the “Pelham Grange” development at the corner of Beach Road and Long Drove, and extension of the primary school.

Mike Smith raised the topic of the recreation ground changes and suggested that the Design Group should invite the Parish Council to present their proposals. Steven Poole agreed to contact the clerk.

Steven Poole (acting Treasurer) presented the accounts

The final balance on 31st January 2014 was up to £388.79 from £371.32 the previous year. This is more than adequate for the activities that might be planned for the year.

Election of the Committee and Officers

- i. Following last year’s County Council elections Sue Gymer is no longer a councillor. The other nominees remain unchanged:
 - Fen Edge Community Association — Mike Smith
 - Cottenham Parish Council — Cllr Alan Leeks
 - Neither Cottenham Village Society, South Cambridgeshire District Council nor Cambridgeshire County Council nominated representatives.
- ii. The following remain as committee members:
 - Alex Darby, Bill Miller, Steven Poole and Alexander Thoukydides
- iii. The following committee members were unanimously re-elected, proposed by Steven Poole and seconded by Mike Smith:
 - Robin Heydon, John Williams and Cllr Tim Wotherspoon
- iv. The following new committee member was unanimously elected, proposed by Mike Smith and seconded by Alex Darby:
 - Kerry Hunt
- v. The following remain as officers:
 - Planning Comments Coordinator — Alex Darby (2011, 2013)
 - Information Officer — Alexander Thoukydides (2011, 2013)
- vi. The following officer positions were re-elected, proposed by Robin Heydon and seconded by Mike Smith:
 - Chair — Steven Poole (2012, 2014)
 - Vice Chair — John Williams (2012, 2014)
- vii. The following officer positions were elected, proposed by Alex Darby and seconded by John Williams:
 - Secretary — Alexander Thoukydides (2014)
 - Treasurer — Robin Heydon (2014)
 - Membership Secretary — Steven Poole (2014)