

Cottenham Village Design Group

Meeting Minutes: Held at 6 Tension Manor – 6th October 2008 at 7.45.

Attendees; Alex Thoukydides, Patrick Clarke, Steven Poole.

Apologies; Alex Darby, Alan Leeks, Bill Miller, Mike Smith, John Williams.

1. *Accept Minutes of Previous Meeting.*

The minutes of the meeting of 1st September were reviewed and a few minor corrections noted. As today's meeting was inquorate, we were unable to approve these minutes. AT will circulate a list of proposed minor corrections and seek approval from the full committee via the email reflector.

ACTION AT

2. *Review of Autumn Show Stand and Competition.*

This event was considered successful, especially the competition where 17 entries were received on the day, 8 of which were correctly completed. The lucky winner was drawn randomly; J White of Comberton received a framed photograph of Cottenham race course by Richard Heeps. Thanks had been received from the Autumn Show committee.

No new members were signed-up at the event and few questions were received on The Group's work. With membership at best static at the moment, perhaps there should be more focus on recruitment at our next event(s)?

3. *Review of Letchworth Garden City Visit.*

It was agreed this was a very successful visit and a good example of the sort of thing we'd like to be able to repeat. There was a good turnout by the committee and some representation from the membership, an informative museum, an interesting tour and a helpful guide. The £50 fee to the First Garden City Heritage Museum was considered good value.

4. *Review of BRE Innovation Park Visit.*

This was a more specialist visit with limited places available (and therefore not offered to the membership) but nevertheless equally enjoyable and informative for those that were able to attend. Thanks to Miller Associates for arranging and supporting this event.

5. *Meredith Bowles Talk.*

This is arranged for 11th November at 7:30pm in Drama Room 1 at CVC. AT has prepared and submitted a Newsletter article for the October/November edition, Alex Darby has advertisement in-hand and John Williams has prepared an excellent poster which AT will display on notice boards etc, further copies were shared with those at the meeting.

SP has booked the room and, as a projector is not installed here, a portable projector/screen has been requested. SP will confirm/remind CVC about this request nearer the event.

PC agreed to purchase refreshments for the event: wine, fruit juice and plastic cups.

ACTION AT, SP and PC

6. *Quarterly Newsletter, October.*

AT had distributed a draft of issue 3 of the newsletter on 27th September. No comments had been received and hence it was agreed this should be distributed to members ASAP. AT completed this immediately after the meeting.

7. Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Preferred Options 2 Consultation.

SP had prepared and circulated draft representations on 5th October, these were based on The Group's representations made during the first round of this consultation (December 2006) and reflecting the modified proposals and also our revised 2007 Design Statement. There are 2 sites for which these summary representations are proposed:

- a) SSP1C, Sand and Gravel Extraction, extending the Donarbon site across Long Drive and across Twentypence Road onto most of Setchel Fen: Strongly OBJECT due to insufficient landscape capacity to accommodate this development, impact on highly valued open fen-edge views and well used local footpaths and also proximity to ancient monuments.
- b) SSP10, Waste Recycling and Recovery (Oils and Fuels), Brookfield Business Centre (Malary Oils): SUPPORT (development of local business) however HGV traffic and pollution control issues must be addressed before this site can develop.

Consultation closes on 20th October, SP has requested comments on the draft or suggestions to further develop the Setchel Fen objection prior to 18th October. SP will then submit final comments on 19th October.

ACTION All and SP

8. Summary of Mereham Planning Inquiry Decision.

The inspector, backed by the Secretary of State, robustly dismissed this appeal following the Public Enquiry held at the end of 2007. SP circulated a summary of this decision on 14th September. Although the reasons for dismissal mirrored 2 of The Group's representation threads (traffic and landscape), the inspector did not seem to agree that the impact on Cottenham would be as great as we believe it would be.

9. Review of Planning Comments.

SP reported that one set of comments had been prepared (on 31st August) since the last meeting – the content of these was summarised. SP also reported that the application for change of use (to open self-storage) at Rampthill Farm had been refused (highway safety and impact on landscape character). Finally SP reported that the most recent application for installation of plant and equipment at Unit J, Broad Lane Industrial Estate had been refused (noise impact on residential properties).

10. Any Other Business.

PC asked whether The Group knew anything about the Durman Stearn site on the High Street; the old house (garage) is in a bad state of repair and the metal fencing (presumably erected for safety reasons) is an eyesore. SP confirmed there had been no planning proposals for the site. AT offered to contact the Parish Council via Alan Leeks to find out whether they were aware of any proposals for the site or could seek to get the frontage tidied-up.

ACTION AT

Mike Smith had reported that CEAG is still winding up: photos have all been hung or are to be hung and Tim Wotherspoon is custodian of the remaining booklets.

11. Date of Next Meeting.

This was agreed to be Tuesday 18th November 2008 at 7.45pm at 6 Tension Manor.

END OF MINUTES