

Cottenham Village Design Group

Meeting Minutes: Held at 5 Curringtons Close, Cottenham, Cambridge
24 April 2012 at 7:45pm

Attendees: Alex Darby (AD), Richard Gymer (RG), Lynda Harford (LH), Bill Miller (WM),
Steven Poole (SP), Alex Thoukydides (AT), John Williams (JW)

Apologies: Henry Le Brecht (HLB), Sue Gymer (SG), Alan Leeks (AL), Mike Smith (MS)

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Previous Meetings

LH clarified that the 'Eco Bus stop' item on the 22 September minutes referred to the exhibition centre at Longstanton Park & Ride.

JW stated that it would be difficult to organise a visit to university library buildings due to their opening hours. It was agreed not to pursue this idea at the current time.

The minutes of the 22 September 2011 and 16 November 2011 committee meetings were approved.

JW to add the minutes to the website

There are no minutes from the 13 December 2011 meeting. This was primarily an update from the developers proposing new housing at the corner of Beach Road and Long Drove. AGM preparations were also discussed.

3. AGM

LH was elected in-absentia at the AGM but received legal advice that there could be a conflict of interest with her District Council planning roles. She has therefore resigned from the committee. BM volunteered for the vacated Membership Secretary position and was duly elected.

The committee agreed that the draft AGM minutes were suitable for placing on the group's website with a note added about LH's resignation.

AT to amend draft minutes

JW to add the draft minutes to the website

4. Membership

The group currently has 16 members. SP has set a target of 25. Possible approaches for increasing membership were discussed.

BM to contact previous members and AGM attendees to encourage them to (re-)join

BM to supply committee with list of previous members to enable more personal approaches

All to suggest acquaintances who might be persuaded to join

5. Review of Planning Comments

AD summarised significant planning applications on which the group had submitted comments.

6. Beach Road/Long Drove Application

The group submitted comments on both the original and first amendment to the planning application for the corner of Beach Road and Long Drove. The committee were encouraged to see that extensive improvements had been made in response to the comments. However, the application was subsequently rejected by SCDC, primarily because it is outside of the village framework and should be considered as an 'exception site' with a higher proportion of affordable housing.

7. National Planning Policy Framework

SP reported that the final policy published in March has some positive changes and clarifications, but is not significantly different from the draft that the group commented on.

SP to contact Rick Bristow about the Parish Council's intentions for producing a Neighbourhood Plan and the summary paper that they are believed to have produced

LH to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan with David Mudd

LH to speak to Keith Miles about what would be required to retain the VDS as an SPD

8. Northstowe

There are no substantial changes in the latest planning application that would affect Cottenham so the group did not submit any comments.

9. Quarterly CVDG Newsletter

AGT and SP have prepared articles for the next edition of the newsletter.

AT to add a mention of the proposed Poundbury visit and details of how to join the group.

AT to distribute the finished newsletter.

10. Poundbury Visit

A return visit by the group to Poundbury has been proposed for September or October. There will need to be an overnight stay due to the distance. BM, JW, LH and SP expressed interest.

WM to investigate possibilities for a tour

JW suggested that a visit to the three new houses on Church Lane would be interesting.

SP to contact the owners about the possibilities of showing a small group around

11. Any Other Business

Progress with the SHLAA and Local Plan will be included on the next meeting's agenda.

The CEAG photographs have been returned by the Parish Council and are currently being stored at the Community Centre. They could be displayed at the Community Centre, but alternative venues should be considered first.

SP to offer the photographs for display at the library or Fitzwilliam House

12. Date of Next Meeting

Next committee meeting Thursday 14 June 2012, 7:45pm at 5 Curringtons Close