Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2 September 2021, 8pm at Waresley Cricket Pavilion

Present: Councillors Richard Jerman (Chairman), Eleanor Jack (Vice-Chairman), John Archer, Jonathan Lawton.

Also present, County Councillor Stephen Ferguson, District Councillor Richard West, Ben Griggs & Andy Donald.

Minutes taken by the Clerk Rod Kerr

1 Apologies for absence.: Councillor Malcolm Gordon who had been taken ill shortly before the meeting.

2 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests. Councillors Jerman & Jack are Vice- Presidents of the Cricket Club but this was not considered to be a pecuniary interest with regards to the Cricket Club application However Councillor Jack declared an interest as she lives by the Cricket Ground. She therefore took no part in the discussion on this issue and did not vote.

3 Minutes of Parish Council meeting of 8 July 2021. These had been circulated and read by the councillors and were confirmed as a true and correct record. They were signed by the Chairman Richard Jerman.

4 Matters arising not on the agenda: A streetlight on Manor Farm Road is on all the time and ivy is growing over it. The owners of The Grange have agreed to cut back the Ivy.

A 3 year contract for the maintenance of the streetlights has been sent by K & M Lighting Services Ltd. It has increased from £197.60 plus VAT per annum to £245 plus VAT. Councillor Jerman proposed that this was accepted and this was seconded by Councillor Archer.

The surface drains have now been cleaned out.

5. Open Forum: No items were discussed.

6. Reports from County & District Councillors: County Councillor Stephen Ferguson reported on the East West Rail – many parties agree that not enough information has been provided in the latest consultation. There are concerns over the amount of proposed development to the west & south of St Neots in Bedfordshire and the Oxford-Cambridge Arc in general. Councillor Ferguson provided a written report summarising all the points he covered. (appendix A). District Councillor West presented his report to the meeting – he supported Councillor Ferguson's concerns regarding the Oxford Cambridge Arc and how local planning was being overridden by central government. There has been a report stating one million houses are to be built but this has been withdrawn from the latest documentation although he believes it is still the intention. Some planning applications have now been processed but the

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system is still too slow and he will report this back. He provided a written summary of his report. (Appendix B).

7. Consultations and procedures

a) **East West Railway Consultation – update:** There have been no new updates – the next round of consultations begins in 2022.
b) **London Luton Airport & NATS Consultation – update:** Richard Jerman has forwarded Cllr Archer's report to Jonathan Djanogly MP regarding this as discussed at the last meeting and Councillor Jack contacted the neighbouring councils. The CPRE has said that stacks are an old fashioned way of controlling inbound aircraft and should be abandoned. Councillor Archer could not see how this would work and Cllr Jack agreed to forward him the relevant report. The option of a judicial review will not be taken forward as it would be too expensive and unlikely to succeed.
c) **A428 Upgrade – update:** Councillor Jack had forwarded the latest newsletter – the final DCO decision is expected in 2022.

8. Planning : PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS:

a) APPLICATION REF. 21/01780/FUL :- Extensions to create additional facilities at Waresley Cricket Club Pavilion: Councillor Jack declared a non-pecuniary interest and withdrew from the discussion about these plans. The remaining councillors voted 3-0 to APPROVE them with no objections. They feel the proposals are sympathetic to the environment and will provide a much needed upgrade to an important community asset.

b) APPLICATION REF. 21/01483/FUL :- Proposed Lakeside Lodge ancilliary to main dwelling house, Waresley Park Stud, Gamlingay Road, Waresley: The councillors discussed these plans and voted 4-0 to APPROVE them with no objections. The new lodge is in a very secluded area and will not be noticeable from any public areas - it will not detract from the beauty of the setting. It will also contribute to the local economy by providing a more popular & attractive wedding venue which could provide local jobs.

9. Traffic in the village.

a) **Parking in Vicarage Road/Pub Forecourt:** Councillor Jack will chase up the Wildlife Trust – she has asked them to publicise the car park outside the Duncombe Arms and ask members not to use Vicarage Road. A sign has been placed in the noticeboard advising that the forecourt is available for public parking. It was agreed that the best way to publicise this was to use social media & email to remind people. **Councillor Jerman will go back to the residents of Vicarage Road to explain what has been done and that we are unable to put a permanent sign up.**
b) **Interactive Sign:** Councillor Gordon has been looking into this and will update at the next meeting.

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c) **Road Markings: Councillor Archer will produce and send our application for funding under the Local Highway Initiative for additional road markings in the village** - this has to be in by the end of September. It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of a mirror and post at the junction of Manor Farm Road and the B1040 as discussed at the previous meeting. We have permission from the landowner. **A budget of up to £650 was agreed and Councillor Archer will look at purchasing the mirror and post.**

10. Litter Pick in the Village: The grass verges are still too long at the moment for the litter pick to take place. A date will be arranged when they have been cut.

11. Planters at entrances to Village: These are being dealt with by Councillor Gordon who will update at the next meeting.

12. Wildlife Trust: Councillor Jack noted that the Trust has started work on a ride in Waresley Wood. It could be a good time to ask them to do some work on the footpath between the wood and Brownes Piece which becomes very muddy and almost impassable in the winter. Zaria Bettles has moved on from rights of way at Cambs County Council and a new officer is to be appointed. The County Council has advised that road plainings will be put on Green Lane in the near future. It was wondered why they were being put there when they could be better used on the footpath by Waresley Wood. **Councillor Jack will write to the County Council to clarify this point.** Discussions are still going on between the Trust and the landowners regarding the access to Gamlingay Wood. We have been informed that gates are required to stop people driving up to the wood and damaging the area and access cannot be renewed until these are in place.

13. Defibrillator Training: A session is to be arranged before the end of September – the date will be advised shortly.

14. Website Update: The clerk has met with Councillor Jack and now has the appropriate access to the website to enable him to update it.

14. Jubilee Lamp – Update: Memorial Makeovers has advised the clerk that they are very busy at present but have scheduled the repairs towards the end of the year. They may be able to start sooner if they have a cancellation.

16. Waresley Twinning: This was being looked at by Councillor Gordon – it will be deferred until the next meeting.

17. Any Other Business / Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting was provisionally arranged for Thursday 25 November at 8pm – either in the Village Hall (if renovation work has been completed) or the Cricket Pavilion. The Meeting was then declared closed.

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Appendix A County Councillor Stephen Ferguson Report to Waresley Parish Council
2nd September 2021

EWR Consultation

The following responses have been submitted to the EWR Consultation:

- St Neots Town Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority

All of these responses agree that there is not enough information in the consultation to favour any of the routes.

All of the responses argue against the commissioning of a diesel railway in the midst of a climate emergency.

Although the current EWR "preferred routes" will have minimal impact on Waresley, there is still the potential for EWR to change their minds and so we need to guard against complacency.

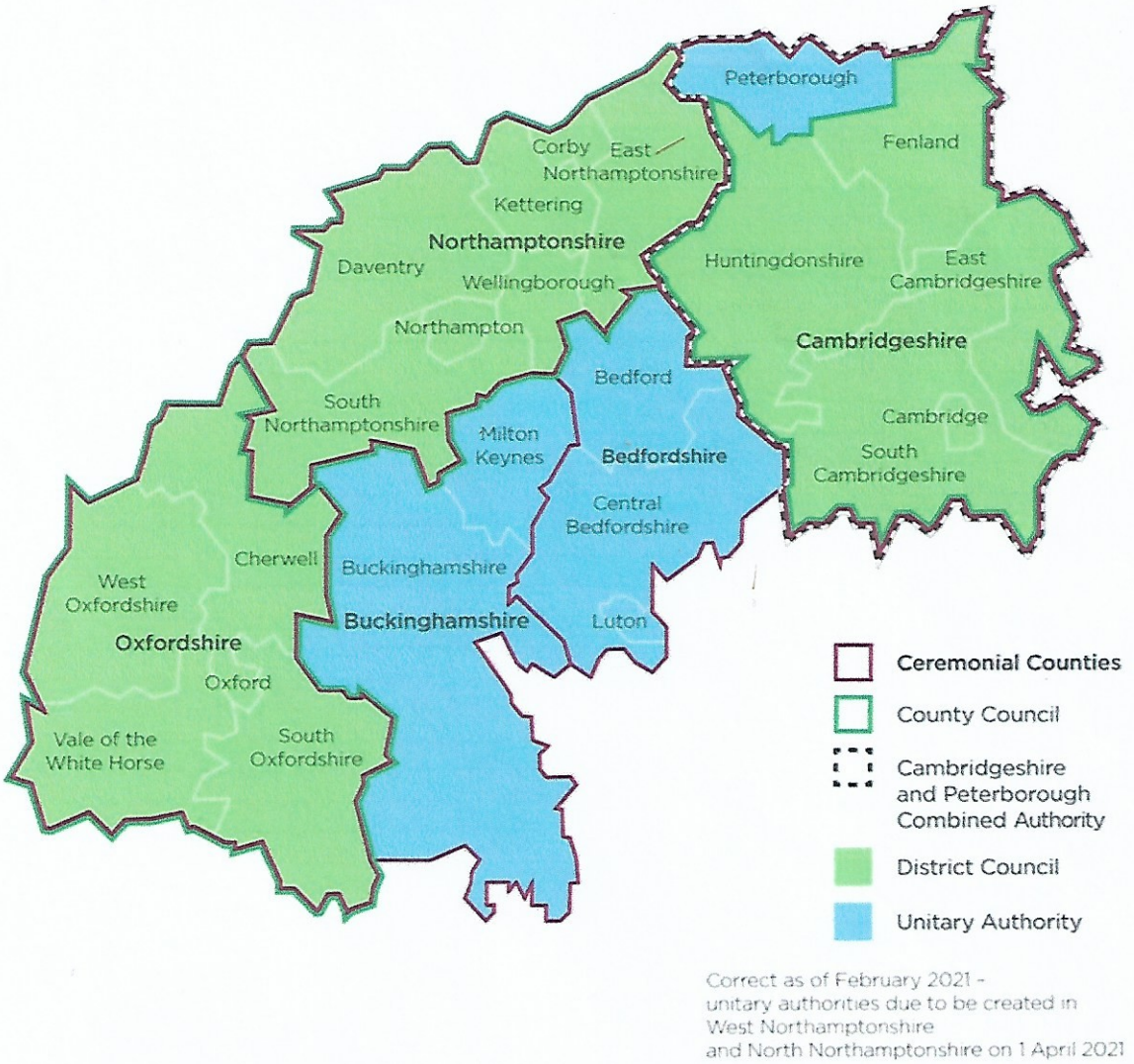
The current EWR "preferred routes" will negatively impact St Neots East (with proposed 39-foot viaducts), Toseland and Yelling.

Many other Parish Councils have contacted me with their own responses, and the vast majority seem to be questioning the viability of the railway in a post-pandemic world. EWR clearly has much work to do to justify that the economic benefits to rural communities outweigh the enormous potential social, environmental and ecological consequences of the construction of the railway.

OxCam Arc Spatial Framework Consultation

On July 20 2021, the Government opened a public consultation on the Spatial Framework of the OxCam Arc which is open for 12 weeks. The Spatial Framework is a huge document, and reviewing (and understanding it) is a significant undertaking.

In August I met with NE Beds Conservative MP Richard Fuller, who is a key dissenting voice on both EWR and OxCamArc. His view is that both schemes are designed to foist unreasonable house building targets (including absorbing some of London's government imposed targets) and that the OxCamArc poses a significant threat to the rural character of the East of England.



I have used my monthly column in the Hunts Post to question the rationale for both EWR and OxCamArc (which are intrinsically linked in my view), and am planning on writing further columns on this topic in the coming months.

https://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/plans-for-ox-cam-arc-described-as-awful-8074574

NATS Luton Airport Stack Consultation

NATS announced the results of the consultation on the Luton Airport Arrivals, in which they acknowledged the concerns of residents from St Neots and the surrounding villages.

As a consequence of this, NATS have made two changes - they have rotated the stack slightly so that it no longer flies above Huntingdon and increased its height by 1000ft to reduce noise concerns. However, the new stack location is still above St Neots, Toseland, Yelling and Great Paxton and will be used in flight operations from February 2022.

The exit route for the stack is over Abbotsley, over which aircraft will descend below the 9000ft holding height. This is very disappointing. Since there is very little technical information available in the consultation documents, we will have to see how serious the noise impact actually is.

Like most of these consultation processes, it rather seems that these decisions are determined before the consultation process.

https://www.nats.aero/news/airspace-change-final-design-modified-following-consultation-feedback/

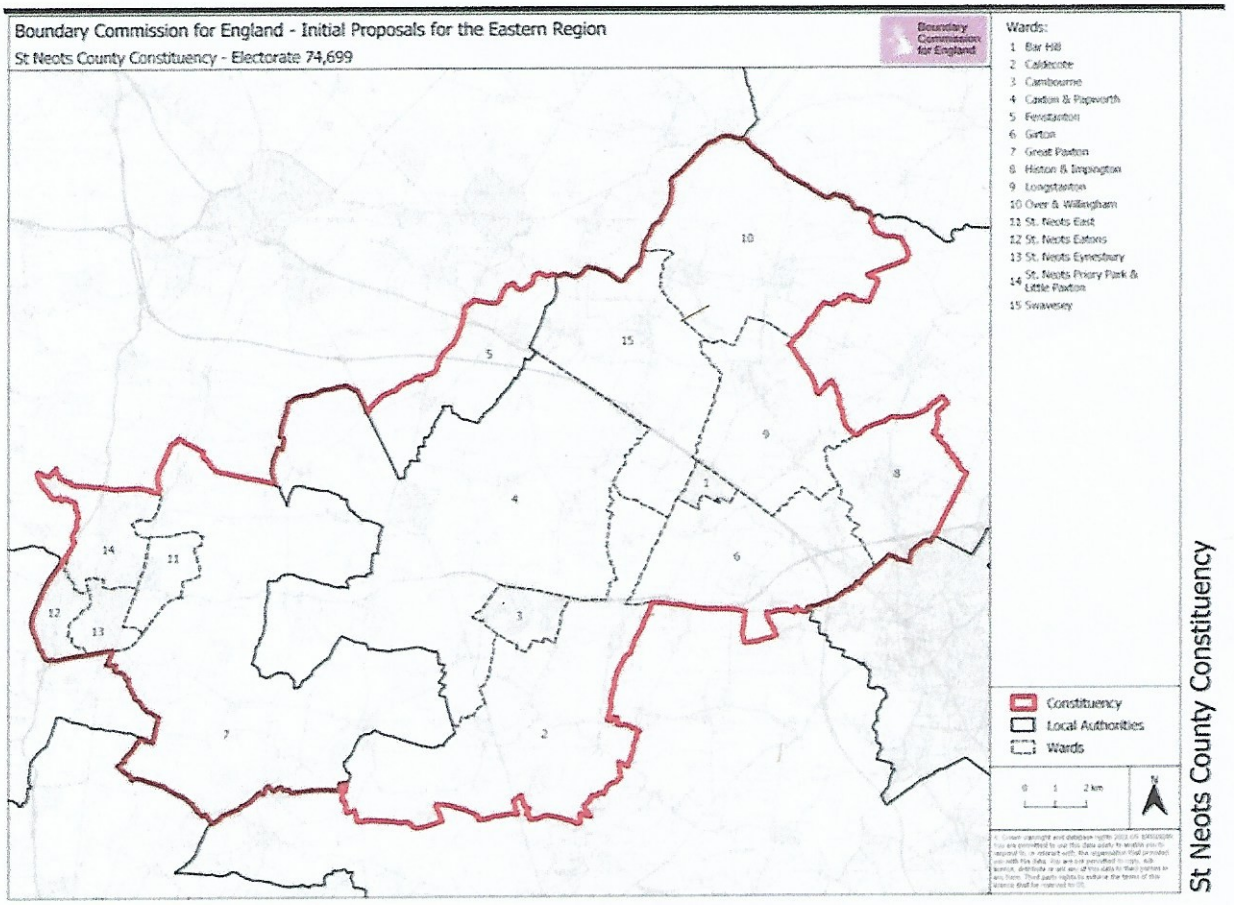
Parliamentary Constituency Consultation

The Boundary Commission published proposed changes to the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. The most significant potential change is the formation of a new "St Neots Constituency" which will include St Neots, Abbostley, Great Paxton, Waresely, Gransden, Longstowe, Cambourne, Girton, Willingham, Elsworth, Swavesey and other areas.

If enacted, this means that we would no longer be part of Jonathan Djanogly's Huntingdon Constituency and would likely mean that we are represented by a different MP.

St Neots Town Council's response is that the new St Neots Constituency should include the Bedfordshire rural villages that are included in the town's sphere of influence, rather than distant towns in central Cambs. That response also questioned some of the population estimates, suggesting that the new constituency would be significantly over-population before it is ever enacted.

https://www.bcereviews.org.uk



Highways

The Local Highway Improvement window opened at the start of this month and will close at the end of September. Most of the 20/21 submissions were funded, including applications from Abbotsley, Great Paxton and Waresley. There is £210k set aside for Huntingdonshire projects for 2021/22, so you should consider applying.

Ian Winfield, our patch Highways Officer, has left his role. There are currently 7 vacancies for Highways Officers, so it might take some time before we are allocated a new one. We are currently sharing an officer on a temporary basis.

Household Recycling Centres

The Household Recycling Centres are currently operating under a booking system, for reasons of Covid-19 safety. Restrictions are being slowly relaxed until the booking system is retired at the end of September.

Grass Verges

CCC is supposed to cut verges INSIDE the village boundaries THREE times a year. The first cut should have taken place on June 21, although I'm not sure that it did (it would help me greatly if you could monitor this and report back to me).

Due to a change in policy (for reasons of biodiversity and probably cost-cutting) verges OUTSIDE the village boundaries are supposed to be cut TWICE a year, with the first cut planned for mid-July (again I'm not sure if this happened).

Contact Me

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Appendix B: District Councillor Richard West Report to Waresley Parish Council Meeting 2 September 2021.

CONSULTATIONS
I have to report to the parish council have no new updates on the East West Rail, or the A428 upgrade also the London Luton Airport NATS new stacking arrangements.

DISTRICT COUNCIL
There is work going on in Pathfinder House to meet in heating lighting the national targets to offset climate change.
I am missing visiting pathfinder house to discuss with officers ward issues finding the email telephone systems slow and there is evidence service levels are suffering.

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