

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE
(Cadwell, Codicote, Graveley & Wymondley, Hitchwood, Hoo, Kimpton,
Knebworth and Offa Wards)**

**Meeting held in the Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth on
Thursday 2 February 2006 at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

PRESENT: *Councillors D.J Barnard (Chairman), Mrs C.P.A Strong (Vice
Chairman), Alan Bardett, Sal Jarvis, David Miller, Karry Omer and
F.R.B Wordsworth.*

IN ATTENDANCE: *Planning Control & Conservation Manager, Community Development
Manager, Principal Planning Officer, Area Planning Officer,
Community Development Officer, and Committee Administrator.*

123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tricia Gibbs and D.J. Horrell.

124. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 22 December 2005 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

125. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

No items were presented for consideration by the Committee.

126. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Sal Jarvis declared a personal interest in agenda item 8, Appendix 1.8 grant request from Graveley Cricket club, as her son was a member of the club. Councillor Sal Jarvis took no part in the discussion and did not vote on the matter. Minute number 130 refers.

127. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Mark Barker had given due notice that he wished to speak at the meeting about the proposed re-routing of the access to Great Ashby District Park and siting of a proposed pavilion and car park. Mr Barker prefaced his presentation by stating that as Chairman of the Great Ashby Community Group, it was his responsibility to represent the views of all members of the group and that was why he had previously presented a petition to move the access of the Great Ashby District Park.

Mr Barker presented a petition to the Committee regarding this matter from the local residents of the area. More than 100 individuals had signed the petition objecting to the proposed re-routing of the access to Great Ashby District Park from Serpentine Close to a point from Dixons Roundabout, Great Ashby Way to the rear of houses in Thirlmere, for the following reasons:

- Environmental issues, i.e. woodland wildlife
- Cost - possibility of funds used to re-route when access was already in place
- Potential erosion of greenbelt land
- Security of homes compromised
- Increase likelihood of anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and motorbikes

Mr Barker also advised the Committee that members were welcome to a meeting of the Great Ashby Community Group that would take place on Thursday 9 February 2006 at 7.30 p.m. at the Great Ashby Community Centre.

The Chairman of the Southern Rural Area Committee thanked Mr Barker for his presentation and with the agreement of the Committee, advised him that the petition would be forwarded to the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership - Joint Member Panel for investigation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the formal receipt of the petition be confirmed;
- (2) That the petition be forwarded to the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership – Joint Member Panel.

RECOMMENDED TO THE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP – JOINT MEMBER PANEL

- (1) That the North Hertfordshire District Manager consider the details contained in the counter petition to retain the current access to Great Ashby District Park at Serpentine Close;
- (2) That after investigation of the above recommendation, the North Hertfordshire District Manager be requested to present a report to the next meeting of the Joint Member Panel to be held on 24 April 2006.

128. PRESENTATION BY HITCHIN POLICE

Inspector P Wright of the Hitchin Police gave an oral presentation that apprised the Committee about neighbourhood policing in Hitchin and the surrounding rural area. He advised the Committee that there was a real commitment to support neighbourhood policing in these areas and went on to explain about the following:

- The role of Community Support Officers, Special Policemen, Wardens and Night Watch Schemes
- Government targets for crime reduction
- Dedicated, local teams in place
- Pathfinder status of Hitchin now in place
- The make up of Local Community Teams.

He also updated the Committee about the district's crime figures and detection rate and invited members to contact him if they had any issues they wished to discuss.

The Chairman of Southern Rural Area Committee thanked Inspector Wright for his interesting and informative talk.

129. SOUTHERN RURAL CHAMPION NEWS

The Community Development Officer for Southern Rural Area (CDO) introduced a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services that advised the Committee of the activities and schemes with which the Community Development Officer has been involved since the previous Committee meeting. The report also brought the Committee's attention to some important community based activities that would be taking place during the next few months.

The CDO introduced Tim Stephen to the committee and clarified his role as the Community Development Manager.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report of the Community Development Officer for Southern Rural Area be noted;
- (2) That the actions taken by the Community Development Officer for Southern Rural Area to promote greater community capacity and well being for rural communities be endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that the Committee was kept informed about the work of the Community Development Officer in this area.

130. SOUTHERN RURAL COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT & AREA VISIONING BUDGETS 2005/2006

The Community Development Officer for Southern Rural Area (CDO) introduced a report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services that advised the Committee on the current expenditure and balances of the Area Committee delegated budgets.

The report also brought to the Committee's attention details of requests that had been received for Area Committee Development Discretionary Grant Funding made by community groups and local organisations.

During a discussion that took place, the following points were made:

- The Community Development Manager confirmed that any unallocated money from the Area Visioning budget could be carried forward into the Visioning budget;
- That the method of awarding grants from the budget would be discussed at the next meeting of Southern Rural Area Committee on 16 March 2006;
- It was acknowledged that a lot of good work had been carried out for youth projects over the last year and it was suggested that perhaps the focus should shift to the 50 plus age group in the area.

The following documents were tabled at the meeting:

Revised Appendix 1 – Summary of Applications and Criteria Recommendations for Funding for 2005/2006

Revised Appendix 1.9 - Grant request from Great Ashby 50+ Friendship.

The following documents were appended to the report:

Appendix 1.1 – 1.26 – Grant Applications.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the budgetary expenditure, balances and carry forwards from the Ward Development Budgets and the allocated Visioning Budgets be noted;

(2) That the following grant applications be approved:

GRANT APPLICATION FROM HOLWELL VILLAGE HALL – INSTALLATION OF HEARING LOOP

RESOLVED: That £500 be awarded to Holwell Village Hall toward the cost of the Installation of hearing loop.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM ICKLEFORD CRICKET CLUB - TO REFURBISH OUTDOOR CRICKET NETS

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded to Ickleford Cricket Club toward the cost of refurbishment to outdoor cricket nets.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM ICKLEFORD PARISH COUNCIL - BENCH & MAP BOARD ON LOWER GREEN

RESOLVED: That £500 be awarded to Ickleford Parish Council toward the cost of a bench and map board on Lower Green.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM ICKLEFORD PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE - CONSULTATION COSTS FOR PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded to Ickleford Parish Plan Steering Committee toward the consultation costs for Parish Plan.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM ICKLEFORD SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB - REPLACE FRONT DOOR & FRAME AND FIRE DOOR

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded to Ickleford Sports and Recreation Club toward the cost of replacement of front door and frame and fire door.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM CODICOTE YOUTH PROJECT - SUPPORT COSTS OF A YOUTH SHELTER

RESOLVED: That £499 be awarded to Codicote Youth Project to support costs of a youth shelter.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM CODICOTE PEACE MEMORIAL HALL - REPLACEMENT BOILER

RESOLVED: That £500 be awarded to Codicote Peace Memorial Hall toward the cost of a replacement boiler.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM GRAVELEY CRICKET CLUB - TO PURCHASE OUTDOOR NETS

Councillor Sal Jarvis declared a personal interest in this application as her son was a member of the club. Councillor Sal Jarvis took no part in the discussion and did not vote on the matter.

RESOLVED: That £679 be awarded to Graveley Cricket Club toward the cost of the purchase outdoor nets.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM GREAT ASHBY 50+ FRIENDSHIP CLUB – TO SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR THE CLUB

RESOLVED: That £500 be awarded to Great Ashby 50+ Friendship Club toward supporting resources for the club.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM ST. MARY'S PCC, WYMONDLEY - REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF PARISH CLOCK

RESOLVED: That no funds be awarded to St Mary's PCC, Wymondley toward the cost of the repair and restoration of parish clock.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM WYMONDLEY BAPTIST CHURCH - REFURBISHMENT OF CHURCH HALL KITCHEN

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded to Wymondley Baptist Church toward the cost of the refurbishment of Church Hall kitchen.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM WYMONDLEY BAPTIST CHURCH - 1 WEEK HOLIDAY CLUB

RESOLVED: That £160 be awarded to Wymondley Baptist Church to support the cost of a 1 week holiday club.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM ST. IPPOLYTS YOUTH CLUB - PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

RESOLVED: That £500 be awarded to St Ippolyts Youth club toward the cost of the purchase of additional equipment and materials.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM KINGS WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL - REFURBISHMENT OF CHILDREN'S PLAY EQUIPMENT

RESOLVED: That £550 be awarded to Kings Walden Parish Council toward the cost of the refurbishment of children's play equipment.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM LILLEY PARISH COUNCIL - REPLACEMENT OF RECREATION GROUND SEAT

RESOLVED: That £444 be awarded to Lilley Parish Council toward the cost of the replacement of recreation ground seat.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM PRESTON CRICKET CLUB – PURCHASE OF ALL-WEATHER CRICKET PRACTICE NETS

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded to Preston Cricket Club toward the cost of all-weather cricket practice nets.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM PRESTON TENNIS CLUB - TENNIS EQUIPMENT STORAGE FACILITY

RESOLVED: That £448 be awarded to Preston Tennis Club toward the cost of tennis equipment storage facility.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM KIMPTON CRICKET CLUB - RE-LAY WATER SUPPLY TO PAVILION

RESOLVED: That £585 be awarded to Kimpton Cricket Club toward the cost of relaying water supply to pavilion.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM KIMPTON MEMORIAL HALL - PURCHASE 20 CHAIRS

RESOLVED: That £450 be awarded to Kimpton Memorial Hall toward the cost of purchasing 20 chairs.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM KNEBWORTH BOWLS CLUB - PATH FOR THE MOBILITY-IMPAIRED

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded to Knebworth Bowls Club toward the cost of a path for the mobility-impaired.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM KNEBWORTH PARISH COUNCIL - PURCHASE OF 2 MICROPHONES, 6 TABLES & 30 CHAIRS

RESOLVED: That £500 be awarded to Knebworth Parish Council toward the cost of purchasing 2 microphones, 6 tables and 30 chairs.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM KNEBWORTH PARISH PLAN GROUP - PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION OF PARISH PLAN DOCUMENT

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded to Knebworth Parish Plan Group toward the cost of the printing and distribution of the Parish Plan.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM KNEBWORTH SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP - UPGRADE WORK TO SCOUT HUT ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

RESOLVED: That £763 be awarded to Knebworth Scout and Guide Group toward the cost of upgrade work to Scout Hut electrical system.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM OFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL - REPLACEMENT SEE-SAW FOR PLAY PARK

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded to Offley Parish Council toward the cost of replacement see-saw for play park.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM PIRTON JOYCARE - ANNUAL TRANSPORT COSTS, INSURANCE

RESOLVED: That no funds be awarded to Pirton Joycare toward annual transport costs, insurance.

GRANT APPLICATION FROM PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL - REPLACEMENT OF SLIDE IN RECREATION GROUND

RESOLVED: That £750 be awarded to Pirton Parish Council toward the cost of a replacement slide in recreation ground.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that the Committee were aware of the awarding of financial assistance to voluntary and community organisations, schemes and initiatives.

131. VISIONING UPDATE REPORT 2005/2006

This item was deferred until the next meeting of Southern Rural Area Committee on 16 March 2006.

132. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee heard oral representations regarding the following items:

Land at Mendip Way, Great Ashby
Cheryl Boyle spoke as an objector.

Neighbourhood Centre, Great Ashby
Mr Tony Hunter and Mr Mark Barker spoke against the discharge of S106.

197 Park Lane, Old Knebworth
Mr Matt Cain spoke as the applicant.

26A Stevenage Road, Knebworth
Mr Howard Green spoke as the applicant.

Land adjacent 8, Hampden, Kimpton.
Mr David Goodge, spoke as an objector.
Mr Peter Sayer spoke as the applicant.

RESOLVED: To determine the applications as set out in the report of the Planning Control and Conservation Manager, as indicated in the following schedule:

The Schedule

Reference Number	Description of Development and location	Decision
05/01741/ 1	<p>Land beneath overhead lines, between phase GA13 (Great Ashby) and BP3 (Burleigh Park) with access off, Mendip Way, Great Ashby, Stevenage</p> <p>Outline Application (siting, design, external appearance and landscaping reserved) for residential development of 1.66 hectares of former agricultural land with new access off Mendip Way.</p>	<p>Refused (as per report)</p>
5/01783/ 1	<p>South of Neighbourhood Centre, Land off, Great Ashby Way, Stevenage, SG1</p> <p>Application under the provisions of Section 106A(3) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the development of land at the Neighbourhood Centre, Great Ashby, Stevenage for the discharge of the obligation imposed by clause 5.3.2 of the Section 106 Agreement dated 23 March 1993 to procure premises for a doctors surgery within the centre.</p>	<p>Deferred (see (a) below)</p>
05/01699/ 1	<p>Justice House, Westmill Lane, Ickleford, SG5</p> <p>Conversion of existing house to form ground floor 2 bedroom flat, first floor studio flat and first and second floor 1 bedroom flat with 3 associated car parking spaces.</p>	<p>Granted (see (b) below))</p>
05/01701/ 1HH	<p>197 Park Lane, Old Knebworth, SG3 6PR</p> <p>Part two storey, part single storey rear extension. First floor side extension.</p>	<p>Granted (as per report)</p>
05/01728/ 1HH	<p>26A Stevenage Road, Knebworth, SG3 6AW</p> <p>Two storey side extension, entrance porch, ground and first floor front bay windows and rear conservatory. Detached single garage to the front of the property.</p>	<p>Granted (as per report)</p>
05/01680/ 1	<p>Danesbury Park Caravan Site, Danesbury Park Road, Welwyn, AL6</p> <p>Conversion of generator/store room to 2 three bedroom dwellings with front entrance canopy, incorporating six dormer windows to front roof slope and four dormer windows and two rooflights to rear roof slope. 4 parking spaces and new access drive (as a variation to application number 04/01644/1 granted 17/12/2004)</p>	<p>Granted (as per report)</p>

05/01719/ 1HH	Jacks Hill Farm, Jacks Hill, Graveley, SG4 7EQ First floor side extension incorporating three dormer windows to rear and side roof slopes and glazed screen. Two dormer windows in existing side (west) roof. First floor rear extension.	Withdrawn
05/01737/ 1	Land adjacent 8, Hampden, Kimpton, SG4 Detached two bedroom bungalow with integral garage as amended by plans received on 16th January 2006.	Granted (see (c) below)

- (a) That with regard to Planning Application 5/01783/1, it was **RESOLVED** that the decision to determine the application be **DEFERRED** until the next meeting of Southern Rural Area Committee on 16 March 2006 to allow time to assess the outcome of a meeting of the Primary Care Trust to be held on 16 February 2006 which is to be attended by Mrs Barbara Follett MP and Mr Oliver Heald MP.
- (b) That with regard to Planning Application 05/01699/1, it was **RESOLVED** that permission be **GRANTED** subject to condition 4 of the Planning Control and Conservation Manager's recommendation being amended to read "kitchen" rather than "en-suite". In addition, the Committee requested that a covering letter be sent with the decision notice advising the applicant that the decision was based on the existing garden being kept as a communal garden for the flats.
- (c) That with regard to Planning Application 05/01737/1, it was **RESOLVED** that permission be **GRANTED** as per the Planning Control and Conservation Manager's recommendation subject to additional condition number 11 to read:

11. The bungalow, hereby permitted, shall not exceed 4.6m in height or be more than 0.5m above the ridge height of 8 Hampden without the prior written agreement of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the proposed dwelling does not have any overbearing relationship upon nearby properties or be detrimental to the visual amenities of the street scene.

133. PLANNING APPEALS

The Planning Control and Conservation Manager reported that the following Planning Appeal had been lodged since the meeting of the Committee on 22 December 2005.

Appellant:	Odyssey Health and Fitness
Reference Number:	05/01111/1
Address:	Knebworth Leisure Centre (Oydessey Health Club), Old Knebworth Lane, Stevenage
Description:	Formation of new vehicular access and ancillary engineering operations to facilitate internal link access road.
Procedure:	Written representations.

The Planning Control and Conservation Manager reported that the following appeals had been determined since the last meeting of the Committee on 22 December 2005.

Appellant:	Mr P Boyle
Reference Number:	03/00351/ENF

Address: Minsden Farm, Hitchwood lane, Preston
Description: Enforcement Notice: Change of use of an agricultural barn from an agricultural use to a mixed use for agricultural and independent self contained residential dwelling.

Committee/Delegated Committee
Appeal Decision: Allowed (22.11.05) Award of costs fails.

Appellant: The Opening Residents Association
Reference Number: 03/01633/1
Address: The Opening, Codicote
Description: Two double gates and bollards at either end of The Opening
Committee/Delegated Opening
Decision: Delegated
Allowed (31.01.06). Award of costs allowed.

Appellant: Mr S T and Mrs A Smyth
Reference Number: 03/00336/1ENF
Address: Land at Water Meadow Farm, Lower Titmore Green, Lt Wymondley
Description: Enforcement Notice: Change of use of agricultural land from an agricultural use to a mixed use of agriculture, waste site and/or builders storage yard.

Committee/Delegated Committee
Decision: Dismissed (09.01.06). Partial award of costs to Council.

The meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

Chairman

.....