

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 10 April 2019 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: None received

Present: Mr Sole, Ms Newland, Mr Wheeler, Mr Barnes, Mr Brown, Mrs Slator, Mr Wenman Cllr Williams, Cllr Kindersley, one member of the public and the Clerk.

The Chair, Mrs Slator, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Police Report: A request to either attend or send a report was sent to the Police, but neither report nor representation was available.

County Council report from Cllr Kindersley:

I report monthly to the Parish Council on developments at the County level. This report pulls together the trends over the last year and looks ahead to the future. As ever, I am very happy to engage with any residents who would like further details.

1. The political balance of the Council: The political composition of the Council now stands as: 36 Conservatives, 14 Liberal Democrats, 7 Labour, 2 St. Neots Independents, 2 Independents making 61 councillors in total. The Council has seven decision-making committees. with a majority of Conservatives on each committee and every Committee chaired and vice-chaired by a Conservative. The committees are:

Adults Children and Young People, Commercial and Investment, Communities and Partnerships, Economy and Environment Health, Highways and Community Infrastructure. The overall political and financial direction of the Council is in the hands of the General Purposes Committee comprising 15 members. This is chaired by the Leader of the Council who is also the Leader of the Conservative Group.

In addition there are several more smaller committees covering Planning, Audit and Accounts, Constitution and Ethics, Pensions, Staffing Appeals etc. All the committees are chaired by Conservatives except Audit and Accounts which is chaired by a Lib Dem.

2. Council officers: The Chief Executive, Gillian Beasley, is shared with Peterborough as part of the policy of reducing back office costs and several other senior posts are also shared with Peterborough. The trend of recent years i.e. to reduce council staff, has continued.

3. What the Council provides: Social services to children and young people, older people, people with mental health problems, physical and learning disabilities; Planning of school places and some support for schools (although the funding for day-to-day running comes from central government); Coordinated Early Years provision, nurseries etc.; Libraries; road maintenance; road safety measures; Overall transport strategy; Growth and wider development issues; Trading standards; waste disposal and recycling centres.

4. The key issues faced by Cambridgeshire County Council: reduced funding; increasing costs increasing demand: This year has seen a continuation and intensification of the debate on how to continue to provide the services residents have come to expect but in a context of severe financial pressures. Central government has continued to reduce its revenue grant to local authorities; locally that is from £86 million in 2013-14 to nil for the coming 2019-20 year. Councils have some but not much flexibility to increase tax levels (see below, para. 6). The demand for services is increasing as the elderly population and the under-fives increase and services are costing more.

5. Council Tax: For several years the government has capped the levels by which local councils can increase tax. It was usually 2% but last year the government allowed upper tier councils with social care responsibilities to increase council tax by 2% on top of the normal 2% permitted increase. Cambridgeshire CC decided to accept the 2% social care increase but decided on no increase in the basic council tax.

For the coming year 2019-20, the Council has voted for the 2% increase for adult social care plus 2.99% which can be used for other services. The cost to a Band D household of every

1% increase is 23p per week. The 4.99% increase will cost £1.15 per week. Over 60% of households in Cambridgeshire are in the lower bands A-C.

The Council's Chief Finance Officer has informed councillors that the savings needed over the next five years amount to £69 million (in a gross budget of £573 million).

6. Services for older people: More and more people are living longer and, in the main, healthier lives. When they do become dependent, the cost to the Council is very considerable. The Council's aim is to enable more people to live longer at home and be supported there rather than going into sheltered accommodation. The policy of 'Transformation' is based on a significant reduction in personnel together with higher expectations on the voluntary sector and an assumption of a willingness on the part of beneficiaries to accept new ways of being supported. While there is obviously merit in trying to find new ways of providing services, there can be no disguising the fact that provision will get worse for some and this is a matter of great concern, both locally and nationally.

7. Transport and Highways: a). The bus services continue to cause concern for their frequency and reliability.

b). Road maintenance and footpath repair are an increasing source of complaint from residents.

8. Education: All Cambridgeshire secondary schools are now 'academies' which means that the Council has no jurisdiction over them. The proportion of Cambridgeshire secondary school pupils attending schools rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' has increased since last year. National research findings confirm that becoming an academy does not of itself raise standards.

Only a small minority of primaries have become academies. The Ofsted assessment of our primary schools is much more positive and the improvement has been more marked in the maintained primaries than in the academies. The financial advantage of being an academy, significant in the earlier days of the policy, has now disappeared. The County Council retains responsibility for the 'well-being' of children in academies though it has no formal role in intervening when things go wrong.

Central government grant to Cambridgeshire improved in 15-16, was maintained for 16-17, 17-18 and 18-19. A 'National Funding Formula' published in September 2017 was a small move in the right direction. But costs in schools have increased at a higher rate. Independent researchers confirm that, in real terms, funds available to schools have been cut by 8% since 2010. The government has maintained its provision of free school meals for all infant school pupils irrespective of financial need. The Pupil Premium (allocated to children whose families qualify for free school meals) has been protected at £935 for secondary and £1,300 for primary pupils. This is spent on 'narrowing the gap' in academic attainment between the well-off and the poor and appears to be having a positive effect. Major reductions in the services for young people, particularly those benefiting from the Children's Centres, are included in the CCC Business Plan.

9. Combined Authority: Since May 2017 there has been a 'Combined Authority' for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with James Palmer (Con.) as Mayor. The combined authority comprises Peterborough City Council (a unitary authority), the district councils of Huntingdonshire, Fenland, East Cambs, South Cambs and Cambridge City, and the County Council. The Mayor has a Cabinet comprising the Council Leaders from all the constituent councils, i.e. five Conservatives, one Labour and one Lib Dem, and there is also a scrutiny panel. The Mayor has been focusing on getting grants particularly for transport improvement. The government has also allocated the CA money towards housing developments. The original 'Devolution Deal' provides an extra £20 million per year for the next 30 years and this is to be used for a wide range of infrastructure projects across the combined areas. The office of mayor and staff, originally costed at £800k per year, has now risen to nearly £6 million. The salary of the Mayor has risen to over £80k. It is too early to evaluate the effectiveness of this new development. Some people are already saying that the introduction of a Combined Authority makes it unnecessary to have County and District Councils as well and perhaps one of the layers of local government could be pruned to save costs. Some critics of the Mayor point to the fact that nearly all his transport improvement schemes are based in the part of the county where he lives.

10. The future for local government services and the implication for communities

a). It is now becoming increasingly clear that the structure and funding of local government as we have known it for many years is changing. The Local Government Association, a cross-party organisation, is sounding the alarm-bells. Lord Porter, the LGA Chairman (Con) said in March 2019: 'Even if we scale back all our discretionary services, we will not be able to fill the funding gap facing children's services, adult social care and homelessness, nor meet the rising demand for these statutory services.'

In recent months the truth of that statement has become increasingly apparent. Our neighbouring County (Northamptonshire) has collapsed financially. Cambs CC imposed a 1.2% salary cut on its employees last Christmas. The growing expectation is that services will be 'transformed' and local groups - parish councils, voluntary groups – will come to the rescue of those people in the greatest need.

b). The County Council is working hard on making savings in its procedures and in increasing income. For example, it has set itself up as a property company and is trying to sell off some of its land holdings for housing. It is also planning to move its HQ offices out of Shire Hall in Cambridge to a new building in Alconbury Weald. This will enable the existing impressive building in Cambridge to be leased, possibly as a luxury hotel. The new building will be much smaller than the current Shire Hall and more staff will be located in some of the existing council properties.

11. National uncertainty: There is not space in this report to go into all the details of the Brexit debate. The gap between this report being written, then published and distributed means that any comments would be out of date in this rapidly moving and bewildering situation. What we do know for sure is that, unless there is a second referendum resulting in the UK staying in the EU, there will be implications for local government. The County Council has started work on assessing the risks and is putting in place measures to minimise them. The County Council's Audit and Accounts Committee has considered a report on the potential local impact of Brexit. It listed 16 potential risks, of which 10 have been scored as having potentially high or very high impact should they come into effect. The highest risk issues are:

Workforce recruitment and retention, both within the council and in the services we commission

Ensuring EU citizens are fully informed, especially those who are vulnerable and for whom we have a statutory responsibility

- Community reactions, including increased community tensions
- Impact on council finances should there be a negative national financial reaction
- Interruption to supplies and services, including medicines and fuel
- Impact on travel and road infrastructure caused by disruption to and from ports.

12. Gamlingay Division: The Gamlingay Division comprises the Parishes of Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Litlington, Hatley, Orwell, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow & Wimpole.

I produce a monthly report covering matters of interest (I hope) for readers, which is sent to and distributed by Parish Council/Meetings as they see fit. I endeavour to attend monthly Parish Council meetings – generally at high speed as a number clash: Arrington/Guilden Morden, Litlington/Gamlingay, Orwell/Croydon and so on.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact YOUR County Councillor, Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or skindersley@hotmail.com or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA

Lastly, I would wish to record my thanks to the Parish Councils, their Clerks and Councillors who are friendly, welcoming and interested in hearing what I have to say (at least that's the impression they give!) and I am very grateful for their support, questions and the casework they task me with.

Cllr Kindersley's monthly report to Council:-

Bob Bryant: It is with great sadness that we mark the death of Bob Bryant. He represented Orwell, Barrington and Wimpole for many years on South Cambridgeshire District Council of

which he was Chairman in 2000. He also chaired Orwell Parish Council and was instrumental in driving many local projects. As an Independent he had no political master and was brave, sincere, hard-working and dedicated to his community of Orwell and the wider South Cambs. He was an inspiring role model to many of us and we will miss him very much.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have commenced work on the new joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan to provide a sustainable vision for the future of the area. This includes planning for new housing and economic development to meet our needs and protect and enhance our environment. An early step in the plan preparation process is to gather information on what land is available and suitable for development. As a part of this work, a 'Call for Sites' consultation ran between the 11 February 2019 and 25 March 2019.

Cambridgeshire County Council, as landowner, submitted 64 sites as part of this consultation. These sites will be evaluated by both councils and it is highly likely that a large number of the sites will be unsuccessful. The sites submitted from the Gamlingay Division are:

- Site 55 - Litlington, Sheen Farm, Litlington
- Site 56 - Litlington, Hill farm, centre of Litlington
- Site 57- Litlington, Bury farm, Abington Road
- Site 58 - Litlington, Ashwell Street, land behind Royston Road housing
- Site 59 - Steeple Morden, Sundale Farm, Litlington Road
- Site 60 - Steeple Morden, Sundale Farm, Litlington Road
- Site 54 - Litlington, Darwin Farm, Bassingbourn Road
- Site 62 - Guilden Morden, Ashwell Road
- Site B - Gamlingay, Gamlingay First School

This last site is a frankly idiotic selection. The old school is earmarked for the provision of pre-school settings (and possibly more) of which there is a great need locally and which the County Council has a statutory duty to provide (and currently isn't). The land is a Protected Village Amenity Area and a designated asset of local community value. Last, but not least, the land was compulsorily purchased in the '40s from Merton College to whom (following the Criche! Downs rule) it must be offered back. So even IF the land got planning permission (and it's a giant IF) the beneficiary would be the College, not the County. You couldn't make it up, sometimes.

Gamlingay Village Primary: Congratulations to the staff and pupils at Gamlingay Village Primary on the results of their recent Ofsted. This school continues to be judged as a 'good' school. It is brilliant to read the Inspector's report – "The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the previous inspection. You have successfully led the school through a period of considerable turbulence. The school roll has almost doubled, which has presented a challenge for settling in new staff and pupils. At all times, you, the governors and the trust have put pupils first, and this shines through in your focus on caring about every individual pupil. As a result, Gamlingay is a happy school, where pupils feel safe and make good progress."

Rescue Project of the Year: Highways England's work to tap into the nation's history while delivering huge road improvements has received national recognition. Both the A14 and Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology teams are working together monitoring the archaeological excavations. In a public vote, the archaeological work carried out as part of the upgrade of the A14, was awarded the top gong "Rescue Project of the Year" in the 2019 Current Archaeology Awards. Finds so far have included three Anglo Saxon villages, an abandoned medieval village, 100,000-year old woolly mammoth tusks and a woolly rhino skull, a Roman supply depot and rare Roman coins from the third century.

Family Safeguarding: Cambridgeshire CC will take a leading national role in supporting the Government's nationwide roll out of Family Safeguarding. This is sort of good news as the only Councils eligible for the programme are those rated 'requires improvement' by Ofsted

and having either high or rising rates of children in care over the last three years, which Cambridgeshire, sadly, does.

This is an approach that improves outcomes for vulnerable children and young people by involving multi-disciplinary teams in children's social care. Family Safeguarding brings a range of adult practitioners into children's teams to work alongside social workers, including those who work with adult mental and emotional health issues; Domestic abuse (both in supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour and in supporting victims) and adults who have substance or alcohol misuse issues.

Mobile Phone Coverage Survey Work: Cambridgeshire County Council commissioned AWTG to carry out a survey of Mobile Phone Coverage Survey in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Many of us have unreliable mobile phone reception in our Parishes and are aware of many other black spots in the area so this can only be a good thing. This work has confirmed what we all suspected - coverage is much worse and more patchy than all the official data has suggested. We are now being told that a plan is being put together to sort this out.

The Dragon Patcher: The new road mending Dragon Patcher has been busy. Very necessary work has been done to repair road edges in Guilden Morden and Steeple Morden. Thanks to some extra Government funding works have also been completed in Gamlingay on various pavements through the village and in Malthouse Way in Barrington. Still work to be done - we have recently reported issues on Croydon Hill and at New Shingay.

Council and Combined Authority CEOs: The CEO of South Cambridgeshire District Council has taken early retirement. Mike Hill who was the director responsible for Environmental Services is acting up as interim while a new permanent CEO is recruited. The council is also undertaking a review of all of its operations to make it more efficient and to greatly improve the services it gives to the residents. This is a big piece of work which will take a long time to implement fully but which you should start to see the benefits of quite quickly.

The adverts should be going out soon for the new CEO.

The Combined Authority has also been without a CEO for quite some time and interviews took place last week for a replacement. No appointment was made and so interim directors remain in place for the time being, one of whom is also running East Cambridgeshire District Council. This is far from satisfactory as the CA has a very ambitious number of extremely expensive projects to deliver and it is difficult to see how they can make real progress without first class organisational leadership.

The high profile CAM Metro project which aims to run largely off road using wheeled, tram style vehicles out to the furthest reaches of South Cambridgeshire and beyond (St Neots, Haverhill) has been costed at a staggering £4 billion. Goodness only knows what that cost will be when and if it finally gets built. The really expensive part is the tunnelling under Cambridge City and the creation of an underground station somewhere under the historic city centre. Critical to this is a new Cambridge South Station to serve Addenbrookes and the Bio Medical campus both of which are growing at significant rates and which will have tens of thousands of new employees before long. The CA agreed to spend up to £100,000 to do a feasibility study into whether there is currently capacity in the timetable to create an extra stop at Cambridge South with a view to putting a temporary station there while to finds the money - along with Government - to build a permanent station. This money is in addition to £5 million already spent on the Cambridge South Station project some of which came from businesses in that area.

Bridget has persuaded the Combined Authority to include a project for upgrading all of the A10 junctions alongside their preferred project to dual the whole road. The complete dualling will cost up to £500m and it is difficult to see where this sort of money will come from bearing in mind that the A10 is not even a trunk road. Having said that, congestion and safety is a huge issue and so a more modest (under £100m) project which would deliver considerable improvements seems like a sensible compromise. Business cases will now be worked on for both projects.

Buses especially the 75: All subsidised bus services will continue after the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority who are responsible for their provision

agreed funding for the 2019/20 financial year. A retendering process has been undertaken for the 27 current contracted services which has taken longer than expected but please be assured that there will be no gap in service. Hopefully this reassures Orwell, Barrington, Arrington and Croydon residents using the 75.

Refugees: South Cambs has announced that it will be working with the City Council to provide homes for five Syrian Refugee families.

Moving the Sewage Works: An application for over £200 million to Government from South Cambs, Cambridge City and the County Council to move the existing sewage/water works from North Cambridge has been successful. Moving this quite smelly facility will free up a significant site for some 7,000 houses. The next big decision is where will the new sewage/ water works go. It will be in South Cambs and has to be close to the river and not in the flood plain which greatly restricts the options. The plan is further complicated by the need to increase the amount of 'sludge' from outside our area which the new facility will treat. It was this which made it eligible for the funding but it will involve significant lorry movement which means that there has to be first class infrastructure to support the new site.

Parking at Ashwell & Morden Station: A freight issue for many years. Because of the increased, better stopping services now using the station demand has risen for car parking which has in turn led to an increase in vehicles parking along the road verges down Station Road and Ashwell Road in particular. This causes endless difficulties for local farmers and is dangerous for those drivers especially returning in the dark.

The legal position is that it is not an offence to park a motor vehicle (with the exception of an HGV) on a grass verge or pavement unless it is causing an obstruction or there is a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) or byelaw in place prohibiting it. It may be a criminal offence if the parking causes an obstruction or damage, but this would be a matter for the Police.

Some years ago a local landowner obtained planning permission to develop a secondary station carpark. This was never implemented. Discussions with the landowner, however, indicate a willingness to resurrect the plan in association with several other local projects. It may well be that once this happens the Highways Authority could then implement physical restrictions on the verges to stop the 'fly parking'. Discussions continue.

In the meantime, the parking continues, and expands. An additional concern is that a blanket removal of that parking now would displace considerable numbers of vehicles which – behaving like water or teenagers – would find other places, possibly less suitable, to park.

Gamlingay's Lupin Field: Concerns have been expressed about the clearance of the Lupin Field (again). This field (and most of the other fields along this edge of Gamlingay) have been identified by the DRAFT Village Design Guide as sensitive and in need of enhanced protection. The public consultation on the draft starts 15th April and the Village Consultation day is the 30th April 3pm- 7.30pm at the Eco Hub. If you want to protect fields like the Lupin Field residents need to get involved, residents need to respond to the consultation and residents need to support the plan! They also need to get family, friends and neighbours in Gamlingay to do the same. The more people involved and giving their view the more robust the document will be. Why should one worry? Well, some residents on Greenacres have already received letters of interest from a developer who has that land in their sights for residential development. So - ACT NOW. The Parish Council will send links to the draft document and will no doubt be doing more advertising of the consultation. Please get involved - thank you.

Brexit: Who knows?

District Council report from Cllr Williams:-

May 2018 Elections: Since May SCDC has reduced its number of Councillors from 57 to 45. There has also been a change of administration following the election results in May SCDC is now a Liberal Democrat administration with the overall political balance of the council being 30 Liberal Democrats, 11 Conservatives, 2 Labour and 2 Independents. The next District Council election will be in 2022 (except in the event of a by-election).

Planning: Since July, SCDC has been able to refuse applications on the basis of a five year land supply. The Local Plan was formally adopted in September 2018. With the help of

officers I have arranged two meetings in the ward to help parish councillors and parishioners with what these changes mean when assessing planning applications. The process of Exception sites was also explained, and I hope all who took part felt a benefit from the meeting.

Grants: During September Cabinet agreed changes to the qualifying criteria of the Community Chest Grants. I made representation on behalf of the Mordens parishes at the Grants Advisory meeting, where I asked the committee to look into allowing smaller parishes to apply. Smaller parishes with less than 160 electors are able to apply and have been encouraging that this threshold should be increased.

At November's Full council meeting I seconded a motion that called for the administration to give re-consideration to the barring of some parish councils from accessing the Community Chest funding. This is because of my concerns about where the line has been drawn to define which parishes were "small" for the purposes of the policy. Only Parish meetings or parish councils with less than 160 registered electors can currently apply for Community Chest Funding, meaning many parishes in the Mordens ward no longer qualify. I also feel that Council Tax is collected on the basis of households, not electorate, and feel that the link to the number of electors is unfair as not everyone qualifies for inclusion on the electoral roll. I am also concerned that small community groups could apply for funding, but if the scheme is on parish council land, the parish council is expected to contribute 50% of the cost and this could discourage proactive groups from being able to apply for funding. The explanation below is what has been given as the reason for the change in criteria

"the scheme is no longer be open to Parish Councils with more than 160 registered electors. This is because, the larger villages are, the more funding their local Parish Council can raise on their own via their dedicated Council Tax precepts."

The Elite Athletes Grant Scheme, I am disappointed to report, has been disbanded. This was a pot of £10,000 that was available to aspiring athletes to support them in their sport. This was part of a legacy from the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Environmental Health: This Summer we saw a heatwave and this put extra demand on our refuse collection team. There are more than 150 frontline bin collection staff with each crew emptying up to 1,300 bins each day. On average each refuse collector will walk around 12 miles per shift. If you combine this with often moving heavy bins from kerbside to refuse truck the job really does make for hard work, especially during a heatwave while wearing thick protective clothing. I thought that the refuse collection did a very good job during this difficult period.

There has been a wash and squash campaign, encouraging residents to keep their recycling clean and squash bulky items such as cartons and bottles to maximise capacity, not only for the amount of rubbish in a lorry, but to help you fit more recycling in your blue bin.

The council unanimously voted in support of a motion for South Cambs to have a zero-carbon footprint by 2050. There has been the introduction of a Green Bin Charge, for any additional green bins. This sum will be £35 per annum, and is not something that I have supported as I feel we ought to be supporting residents to recycle as much as possible in any way we can, I fear this may deter people from this.

Council Tax: Following the Budget in February, you will see that SCDC has increased its own element of council tax. This equates to £5 for an average Band D property. For the 2018 year Council Tax Collection rates at SCDC were some of the best in the country, coming 3rd for domestic rates and 25th for Business Rates. I think this is a fantastic thing for our community and thank all residents and business owners who ensure timely payment of the council tax/business rates.

East West Rail: There was unanimous support at Full Council in September that all route options at this stage should be evaluated along with other aspirations for environment etc. The council will now write to the East West Railway Company, the Department of Transport, Network Rail and our MPs to expressing the views supported at the meeting.

While stating that there was a lack of information provided in the recent consultation, SCDC support in principle a route that provides a station at Cambourne. This is something that I entirely support.

IT Crisis: There have been many issues this year at SCDC in relation to IT. This has included interruption to emails and resulted at one stage resulted in departments, such as planning, being unable to access the systems. This has created a back log of work that officers are working to clear but are under extreme pressure. The Council's Scrutiny and Overview Committee is looking into what has caused this and what measures can be put in place for the future to mitigate against this happening again.

Staffing: Headline news was the departure of the former Chief Executive, Ms Beverly Agass. For Legal reasons councillors are very restricted in what can be said on this matter but I am able to divulge that £202,500 was paid to provide Ms Agass with early access to her pension. I am also able to say that I voted against this.

The senior Management Team has changed this recent year with the loss of a Housing Director, Executive Director, Chief Executive. There is now an Interim Chief Executive (the Director of Health and Environmental Services who was also covering the Director of Housing's role). During the year the Cabinet has paid £90,000 for management consultants who will advise on a reorganisation of the council.

Budget - 2019: There is now a £100 million investment strategy, this money will be borrowed and invested in commercial opportunities. While I agree with the need to look for further opportunities for additional income to the council, I am uneasy with the proposal that was put to the council as this delegates decision to 4 people (2 officers, and 2 councillors). When decisions were taken on matters such as Ermine Street Housing, or the Cambridge Ice Rink, these were taken by the whole council and had gone through a through pre-scrutiny process.

There has been £2.5 million worth of cuts identified over the next 5 years but a further £3 million will need to be found. There is £500,000 allocated for a transformation programme in the planning department and £1 million budgeted for the organisation restructure.

Thank you: I would like to end by thanking the Parish Councils I serve and parishioners for inviting me to your meetings, as a new councillor you have been most welcoming, and I look forward to serving you through the year ahead. If I can be of any assistance then please do get in contact by any of the details below.

Monthly report from District Cllr Williams:.

Community Chest Grants: The first Half of the £58,000 is now available to be bid for in relation to Community Chest Grants, these grants are for up to £1,000. I have mentioned in previous months of the changes to eligibility in excluding the majority of Parish Councils from bidding. Below is the explanation given in a recent press release:

"the scheme is no longer be open to Parish Councils with more than 160 registered electors. This is because, the larger villages are, the more funding their local Parish Council can raise on their own via their dedicated Council Tax precepts."

I am disappointed that this is still the view, I will continue to make the case that a cut off of 160 electors is too low. I personally take the view also that this is an inappropriate criterion, as not all residents are able to vote and thereby not on the electoral roll, and that given council tax is paid on a household basis, I believe this ought to be the appropriate method of measurement.

Investment Strategy: The first investment of £13 million pounds has been made. This is the purchase of an office at the Cambridge Science Park. With this being a large amount spent so soon, it is unknown to councillors such as myself whether this will result in a request to advance further funds for investment in the first year (In the Budget report it was shown that £20 million a year for the next 5 years would be spent on investments made from the £100 million to be borrowed from the PwLB). At a recent Audit and Corporate Governance meeting it was also reported that this purchase has been made from Cash reserves as opposed to borrowing which had been the strategy proposed in the budget to full council on the 21st February 2019.

Elite Athletes Grant Scheme: I'm very disappointed to report that on 3rd April Cabinet took a decision to discontinue the elite Athletes Grant Scheme. I know residents of this ward have benefitted from this in the past. Unfortunately, the new administration does not feel this fits in

with their objectives. When this was discussed in a workshop I argued strongly that this grant was a great help to many aspiring young athletes and their parents as often the training and equipment is very costly and a barrier for some to progress with their talent. This pot of money (£10,000) was not a great sum in comparison to the entire expenditure of the council and could have and should have been continued in my view. I'd also like to add that this decision was taken with no consultation process.

Mr Brown asked Cllr Williams about the large loan that SCDC has. She was able to explain some of the details, but decisions are being made by two Councillors and two Officers, and a financial report will not be available until next year.

Both Councillors were thanked for their attendance and reports, and as there were no further questions they left the meeting.



Petersfield Annual Report - March 2019

Pupil Report - Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 spoke to Linda Meredith.

I spoke to seven children, one from each year group and in response to my question 'What makes Petersfield School special?' the children gave a wide variety of answers. A Key Stage 2 child said that the school advertises (promotes) inclusion and that this is done well in PSHE (personal, social and health education). The current term's program has been designed by the PSHE service to allow children to think about specific questions and challenges in developing positive friendships in gender groups before discussing them with their class peers. Another child said that they liked the design and layout of the school. It was spacious and all classes were close to the outside field. Several children agreed that the teaching staff are helpful and kind and they come over, at playtime, if someone can't find anyone to play with. The staff play with the children and help them to join in with a game. The adults always take the time and trouble to come over to talk to children, even if they are just walking past. The children agreed that lessons are always interesting and fun and at playtimes there are lots of different things to do. They all felt playing with friends was important. They liked the fact that every class did something different, this was exciting because it meant there was lots to talk about with friends from other classes. A younger child informed me that they learn good things, recently learning how to measure using metres, centimetres and millimetres. This was very exciting as they were measuring books, tables and the floor using rulers. Measuring takes place all the way to year 6, with suitably complex problems, and all the children agreed they liked practical maths. There was a strong consensus regarding school dinners. One child saying they were brilliant and another saying the new menu is very good. The importance of friendships was a recurring theme and one child told me she has great friends who are very kind. Finally, one child declared 'I love reading'.

Then I asked: 'What would make school even better?' It was felt it would be helpful to have someone (a volunteer) to help run the library as Y6 children, currently, help in the library twice a week, but this wasn't really enough. Also, the children wanted new books with one child's preference being for more non-fiction and crime stories. All children strongly agreed that they would like more swimming time, but realised it was a seasonal activity due to it being an outside pool. A covered pool would be a great asset, but expensive, along with the day to day running costs and any redevelopment costs of an increasingly aged pool. They would like more science lessons as they all agreed that science was a great subject. One child particularly enjoyed looking at rocks. Longer PE sessions would be good, some children said that changing time made the sessions shorter. Then came the request to have longer playtimes. Playtimes featured very highly throughout the conversation and, for many, were the highlight of the school day.

The children were extremely articulate and very forthright with their opinions. They are such a credit to the school, taking turns, listening politely to one another and backing one another up with additional information.

We are delighted to report that:

We were awarded a 'Gold Award' for completing Bishop Stephen's Lent challenge in 2018. This year, we are again rising to the challenge considering "When I am 64" and raising funds for Age concern. If you can knit, please help us with the project <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/the-big-knit/>.

We continue to raising standards, in particular this year we have focused on maths fluency and writing. The enthusiasm and progress demonstrated by our pupils is inspiring.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils who have participated in or organised a significant number of charity events including Sports Relief, Red Nose Day, Macmillan Coffee Morning, Shine, The Poppy Appeal, the Malawi Education Project and our Harvest collection.

Our School Council now meet with Mrs Jeffery, our new year 6 teacher and PSHE expert.

Our pupils continue to represent us in local competitions and events including academic events including the maths challenge and sporting competitions like tag rugby.

The stunning productions of Darwin Rocks (Key Stage 2, aged 7-11 pupils) and It's a Party (EYFS And KS1, aged 4-7) showcased our pupils' singing, drama and oracy skills.

Run Orwell inaugural race was highly successful in 2018. Please save the date as Run Orwell will be back on 30th June 2019. You can register to run at <https://www.runorwell.com/> or just attend to cheer others on and enjoy the refreshments.

Our Carols in the Stables at Wimpole (in December) continues to be a popular event despite being cancelled in 2017 due to bad weather. Please do join us again next year, weather permitting.

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed their action packed residential visit to Norfolk in June.

Classes continue to visit fun and exciting places to support our work on the school curriculum. These have included visits such as Wicken Fen, the Fitzwilliam, the National Space Centre, Ickworth and Ely Cathedral.

Year 5 and 6, along with other 8000 other school children, sang at the O2 'Young Voices'.

Our careers' week inspired pupils thanks to the parents and volunteers who talked about their jobs. Please contact us if you are prepared to share what you do with our pupils in next year's careers' week.

Our Class Assemblies and Celebration of Learning homework showcases continue to be a highlight as they demonstrate pupil enjoyment, learning, oracy skills and we all, adults and children, learn something new.

Our pupils continue to demonstrating a sound understanding of E-Safety. Visit <http://www.petersfield.cambs.sch.uk/site/pages/page.php?page=e-Safety> to find out more.

We continue to develop the wider curriculum during lunchtimes and after school with clubs including Athletics, multisports, football, street dance, circus skills and archery.

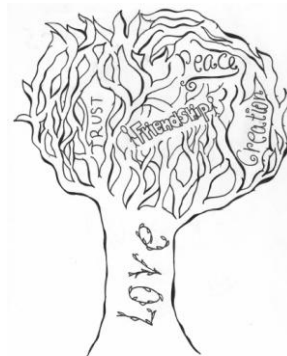
Our sensory garden is now open, thanks to FOPs, and is being used daily by our peer mediators.

Children in KS2 continue to benefit from Lego Programming sessions thanks to volunteer Mr Anderson.

Our sewing club, run by Mrs Bonfield, is very popular and has produced displays for remembrance and Christmas as well as many individual pupil creations.

As a cluster, our Barrington, Foxton and Petersfield (BFP) Partnership continues to collaborate in our 'Talking Together' project resulting in a day where pupils from the three schools entertained each other in a storytelling day.

We continue to work closely with Rev. Felicity as Collective Worship and Religious Education remain a central part of school life. RE-active sessions at Church and GenR8 led



Collective Worship continue to be welcome calendar dates. We are always delighted to have live music thanks to Mr Hollands.

Mrs Davy now leads our office team.

Mrs Want and Mrs Cooper have joined our Puffins team.

We now have 111 pupils on roll. We have 5 classes in school.

We have a vacancy for a caterer in school. Do you enjoy cooking and working with children?

We are also looking for a part time member of staff to join our Out of School Hours Puffins Team. Please do contact the school office if you are interested in either position.

Funding continues to be a crisis point. Please do look at the School Funding campaign <https://schoolcuts.org.uk> and get involved to support your local school.

'Friends of Petersfield' (FOPS), formerly the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), can now welcome all members of the community as supporters, not just parents and teachers. They continue to work tirelessly to raise money for books, mathematics, theatre visits, the sensory garden and other resources that we just could not afford for the children without them.

Our governing body has continued to expand. However, we currently have several vacant positions.

The donations of time, readers, interest, resources and money (which we are so grateful to receive from many different people and groups in the community) make an enormous difference, thank you!

If you have any spare time, we are always looking for volunteers to support the children's learning e.g. listening to readers, helping in the library, supporting the creative curriculum etc. We are, also, currently looking for new Governors. Both of these ways of supporting your local school bring huge rewards to both the school and yourself. If you have any suggestions as to how we can access funding sources, please do get in touch.

Please do look at the '[Latest News](#)' on the homepage of our school website www.petersfield.cambs.sch.uk to find out more! If you wish to contact us or find out more, please do not hesitate to do so by coming into school, calling 01223 207382 or emailing office@petersfield.cambs.sch.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.

Linda Meredith, Chair of Governors
Penrose, Co-Headteachers

Karen Gwynn and Laura

Croydon Reading Room report - Diana Walters

The Reading Room had to abandon the fund-raising Golf Day for the extension, but we are still hoping to do something when we are fully registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission. The new website has made a good job of raising the profile of the Reading Room with many new bookings and regular Tai Ji classes on Thursday, and Tuesday Group meetings with an interesting variety of activities. Wear and tear is an ongoing feature requiring constant maintenance and help. We are still planning to raise funds to build a storeroom attached to the building, a bigger food hatch and French doors out through the chimney, and to create a patio area suitable for a few small outside activities. Percy kindly did the plans last year and Church is interested in the shed for storage. We still hope to tidy up the pond, which could be such a lovely area in time. We will need the support of Mr Farrer and the Fresh Waterways Trust. We hope next year is another successful year. My thanks to all the Trustees, and for the continuing support of the Parish Council, which is always welcome. We are hoping for a villager to cut the grass at the front this year, but thank Council for their support with this last year. We welcome interested villagers to come to our AGM in the summer, and welcome all feedback and ideas.

Trustees:-

Chairman, Bookings Clerk and Caretaker - Diana Walters

Secretary - Janice Horsford

Treasurer - Chris Elsley

Frank Sole
Val Barnes
Judith Pillinger

Community Led Plan - Implementation Group

Thank you for the invitation to report to this meeting; apologies that neither of us is able to attend this evening.

The full Implementation Group (IG) has met twice in the past year with the last meeting being in December with eleven out of around fifteen members present and Sue Slator has continued to be the main link member from the Parish Council. Several smaller team meetings have taken place focused on particular areas of activity, and Peter Barnes and James Brown have joined some of these in relation to potential housing developments. Key activities for the year are listed below under headings used in the original plan.

Village Development: This continued to be a large part of the IG activity for much of the past year with a very significant change of direction from mid-year onwards. Jointly, with the above mentioned Councillors, the IG continued to front contacts and meetings requested by either landowners or developers (primarily one of each!). This IG involvement had the benefit of enabling the Parish Council to maintain the degree of separation it felt it needed.

As there are no sizeable development sites remaining within the current Village Development Framework, it is therefore the case that any developments of more than one or two homes must be sited in what are termed Exception Sites. During the year the planning situation with respect to Exception Sites changed dramatically. At the start of the year, many developments in such sites were going ahead across South Cambridgeshire, with these mostly being won on appeal against initial rejection by SCDC Planning. This situation had arisen because it was deemed that SCDC could not demonstrate a 5yr housing land supply, however, by mid-year this situation had turned around and developments in Exception Sites were once again brought under strict control. During these changing times the joint IG/PC team met several times with District Councillor Heather Williams and the SCDC Housing Development Office against a backdrop of a developer still looking to do a limited develop to the south of the High Street. Given the change in the planning situation with respect to Exception Sites, these were busy and rather difficult times.

As things now stand, development in an Exception Site would only be permitted in response to a demonstrated need for affordable homes and any such need must be established through an independent Housing Needs Survey (HNS) conducted by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). Further meetings followed, now including ACRE, and these eventually led to a decision by the Parish Council to instigate a HNS for people with a connection to Croydon – this has just been distributed to every household and all businesses notified. Another important factor is that the HNS will also consider all suitable sites in the parish. If any affordable homes development were to be proposed then a minimum number of market homes would also be permitted but only in sufficient numbers to make the scheme financially viable. It would not be sensible to give further serious thought to possible housing developments until the results of the HNS survey are known so this activity is on hold until such time.

Recreation & Facilities: To date, thoughts about the possibilities for community land for recreation purposes, even as small as a play area, have been seen as part of the consideration of possible housing developments. At this time last year the IG reported it was beginning to consider whether any alternative sites for a play area might be suitable but now given the HNS it is sensible for this to be put on hold until after the results are known.

It is pleasing to report that the two new village groups (neither of which is under the control of the IG) - First Tuesday Group and the Birding Group - have continued to meet and flourish. Tai Ji also continues in the Reading Room on a weekly basis.

Village Environment: With Parish Council support two more Village Tidy-up Days have taken place and a further one is planned for May 18th. Anyone can join in by simply turning up. A large amount of rubbish is always collected, paths cleared and branches cut back.

Thanks to Elaine Hughes for leading this and also to SCDC for collecting the filled bags. It would help if every household cleared in front of their own property! At one time SCDC were offering motorised path and roadside cleaners but these have not materialised. If we could get hold of these it would make a huge difference to what can be achieved – District Councillor Williams might you be able to help here?

Sustainability: Croydon continues to be a member of SPEP (the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership). Judith Pillinger has continued to be the main contact and SPEP information is being received. It is hoped to once again loan the SPEP thermal camera during winter 2019/20 and offer households, and other premises, the chance to establish key areas of heat loss. Thank you to Judith for leading this area and, as there are plenty of areas for environmental improvements, anyone interested please contact Judith on 07774-126686.

Communications: The e-News system is working well and the coverage continues to grow. Today it is being received by more than 70% of households and opening rates are above 70% and with a high of 84% which is a fantastic result – in fact, for a PC news item! Encouragingly there is good coverage and a good opening rate along Lower Road. Marian and the PCC secretary are both now trained and successfully sending messages.

The WhatsApp emergency reporting group - a modern day Neighbourhood Watch – currently has 37 members and continues to grow in number and effectiveness. This provides an easy way to alert people about anything suspicious and also to call for help in medical and other emergencies. Anyone wishing to join please contact Keith 07711-788490.

Efforts have also been made to support the village website. Following a break in transmission it is now back on air and is again being updated. PC membership details and minutes are up to date. It is important that any out of date information is reported to Judith on 07774-126686, or Malcolm 01223-208939. For the longer term, thoughts have turned towards the creation of a new, and easier to use, website with nominated correspondents to manage agreed areas.

Safety In addition to the safety aspect of the WhatsApp group, there are a few more areas which have been discussed or action planned.

Cameras: It is recognised that it would be difficult for the PC to “officially” organise the siting of security cameras but it is hoped that coverage will be provided by private citizens at least at both ends of the High Street. We are grateful to Keith Buchanan who has been leading on this. Thought should be given to signage to alert potential offenders that the community is on watch.

Speeding traffic: The Parish Council passed on information about Community Speedwatch and it is hoped to be able to set this in train. Speedwatch is an officially supported campaign with equipment and training provided and the details of offending vehicles automatically transmitted to the DVLA. Having three teams to adopt the three key roads would seem to be a good aspiration. We already have three volunteers but more are needed if this is to get underway. Names please to Malcolm on 208939.

Street lighting: This topic has been raised a few times in the context of safety and particularly in the very dark dip near to the Reading Room. It is recognised this is an emotive subject. A compromise which all sides might be able to live with could be the siting of one, or possibly two, modern down lights in this area. Some consideration of the practicality of this would be helpful.

Concluding remarks: We wish briefly to raise that, for a time during the past, as Co-Chairs we have felt under attack from a small number of residents questioning both the legitimacy and involvement of the IG in some areas. We do understand there are genuine concerns and that some topics spur conflicting arguments. We have given thought to how the role of the IG might be clarified and we have some proposals to bring to the Parish Council which we would like to table ahead of the May Parish Council meeting where, hopefully, these proposals will be agreed.

Finally, we would like to thank the members of the IG for their continued support and involvement. We also wish to thank the Parish Council for its continued support, also to Sue for her invaluable linking role. Separately, we would like to thank all Councillors, and the Clerk, for giving up their time for the benefit of the community in Croydon.

Thank you.

Malcolm & Jonathan - Implementation Group Co-Chairs

Chair of the Parish Council report - Mrs Sue Slator

After the last Annual meeting Chairman Garth Wheeler decided to resign as a Parish councillor. He was thanked for his many years of service to the council. For some months we sought a new councillor by advertising and inviting those who made contact with the council if they would consider standing. No-one came forward, so in February when Garth Wheeler asked to return, he was welcomed back as a co-opted councillor.

In November, I attended Cambridgeshire Local Council Conference. One of many topics covered was the concern that few younger people put themselves forward and we should all do more to encourage diverse membership of Parish Councils.

In the past year the Council has been working on a number of issues.

Planning.

A number of applications have been considered this year and council made comments as appropriate. No new dwellings were approved in past year. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was adopted in September 2018 and sets out the planning policies and land supply. All planning applications made in Croydon Parish will be judged against those strict guidelines by South Cambs.

This means development, outside of the defined envelope of the Parish is unlikely, unless it is considered to meet an identified affordable housing need on an exception site. On that basis, the Parish Council instigated an independent Housing Needs survey to identify if there is need within the Parish. This is ongoing and will be reported on fully when the results are available.

Website: The village website is currently being administered by George Ralph on a voluntary basis, for which we are most grateful. Working with the Implementation Group it is hoped to introduce a new, easier to use website in the coming year. We are legally required to make various Parish council documents available on line.

Village Emergency Plan: During the year a Village emergency plan has been written. This will be available on the website and includes a risk assessment and action plan, for events such as extreme weather or accidents. James Brown is the lead contact.

Community Benefit Fund

The current total is £16,649.90 and we will receive one further payment of £4935-00 During this period funding was used to run a Parish first Aid course, including CPR with the Tuesday Group. This was very well attended.

At the March meeting the PC agreed to investigate the costing/location of installing a defibrillator somewhere on the High Street using the fund. Cllr. James Brown said he was willing to install a defibrillator in the Valley Court Offices on Lower Road at the same time.

East West Rail: Earlier this year the consultation on East West Rail opened. We hosted a presentation by opposing CAMBED Rail in February. Until the route corridor is chosen later in the year, we will not know the likely impact on the Parish.

Thanks: Firstly I would like to thank Marian, who displays great knowledge and dedication in her invaluable role as Clerk.

I would like to thank Malcolm Ralph and Jonny Firth for the work they do with the Implementation Group. They and the other members are also thanked for the implementation of the e-news and WhatsApp communications. Many thanks to Elaine Hughes and her team for their efforts with the regular clean up days, which have made a very noticeable impact.

We thank the Reading Room trustees for maintaining the Reading Room.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who contribute to the life of the Parish in many different ways, including the councillors.

The Clerk presented the account for 2018 - 2019 to the meeting. There were no questions arising from this.

Croydon Parish Council Accounts April 2018 - March 2019

Receipts	
Precept	£3,265.00
Push Energy	£4,935.00
Interest - NSI	£84.48
Total Receipts	£8,284.48
Restricted Funds	
Community Benefit Fund	
Balance to date	£11,833.70
Total expenditure this year	-£118.80
Balance remaining	£16,649.90
Balances at 31 March 2019	
Investment Account	£11,866.05
Bank Account	£11,558.59
less unpresented cheques	£0.00
Total	£23,424.64

Payments		
Insurance	£351.63	
Reading Room	£131.00	
Reading Room (Grass Cutting)	£150.00	
Churchyard Maintenance	£400.00	
Election costs	£105.00	
Subs to SLCC Association	£63.00	
RBL wreath (2018)	£17.00	
Website	£41.90	
Auditor	£40.00	
Fete toilets	£336.00	
Clerk - annual salary	£1,100.00	
Clerk - petty cash	£85.17	
	£2,820.70	£2,820.70
Restricted Fund Purchases		
First Aid Course	£118.80	
Total Payments		£2,939.50
Balance at 31 March 2018	£18,079.66	
add receipts	£8,284.48	
less payments	-£2,939.50	
Total	£23,424.64	

Village Matters:

Church Fabric and Restoration

The condition of several areas of the building has continued to deteriorate, notably stonework around many of the windows and the mortar beds for most of the ridge tiles and tile dressings. Cracks to the base of the Tower appear to have grown and there is concern over some internal arches. Cracking of the Chancel Floor over the Downing family vault has also worsened and recently a decision was taken to rope off access to the Chancel. Towards the end of 2018 welcome news was received that a bid to the National Churches Trust for a small grant towards maintenance expenditure had been successful. A 50% grant was offered on works totalling £3400 to deal with water ingress issues including re-bedding ridge tiles and flaunchings, repointing of the joints to the capping stones at the east end of the Chancel and temporary sealing around many windows. As this work largely requires the use of lime mortar it could not be completed while the risk of frost remains.

A crucial site meeting took place on 1st February with representatives of Historic England (H.E.), members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), inspecting Architect, and the PCC. The stance taken by H.E. at this meeting was of great concern as, without support from this quarter, it would be very difficult to succeed with future grant applications. It was a great boost, therefore, that the H.E. representative was very enthusiastic about the historic significance and visual appeal of the building and immediately following the meeting wrote a very supportive report including practical support for developing a comprehensive monitoring programme of building movements. The other highly significant outcome was that H.E. agreed to All Saints' being added to the register of listed buildings most at risk – commonly referred to as The At Risk Register. At face value this, no doubt, appears to be an alarming development, whereas, in practice, it greatly increases the chances of success with key grant giving bodies - note Barrington Church has been on the Register for several years!

Following this meeting the Parish has received strong support from the DAC, both with practical help in formulating a grant application, and the development of a movement monitoring programme. The key grant giving body will be the (recently renamed) National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) and it is hoped that an application can be submitted before the summer holidays. The key areas for grant funding will be for launching the monitoring programme which will need to run for at least two years plus some emergency repairs. Two additional task areas have recently been added for consideration, namely, the Chancel Floor and the impact of the churchyard on the building, though the thinking relating to these is still in formation.

Chancel Floor: last year's report mentioned that the entrance to the Downing Vault had been identified and some small bore holes had been drilled in the outer Chancel Wall below ground level in an effort to establish the condition of the structure under the Chancel floor. This remains an on-going effort. Following a meeting with the members of the DAC and the Architect a decision was taken to urgently cut an access in to the vault below ground level to both establish the condition of the structure and to carry out any shoring up that might be required. For a short time this strategy was pursued but was then halted by the PCC as the potential growing costs, of even this limited intervention, became apparent, mostly professional fees! What was also in the PCC's mind was the potential opportunity for this activity to be included in the planned NHLF grant application under emergency holding repairs. As a result of this delay the Chancel has recently been roped off in its entirety, though hopefully for months rather than years.

Happily, a series of limited maintenance tasks has been carried out on the organ which has now been internally cleaned and, for the first time in many years, tuned! Those whom are familiar with its sound feel that it is much improved and far less asthmatic, though further relatively small tasks are planned.

Far less happily, damage was done to internal locked doors in an attempted break-in towards the end of last year. In the event nothing was taken and the police believe it is possible they were disturbed by traffic moving along Church Lane. The main entrance door was not locked at the time and police have commented that had it been then it also would have been badly damaged.

Moving on to the churchyard, the green boundary with the Rectory in the proximity of the Tower has been recommended for maintaining at hedge height and some of this has already been done - thank you to Peter Slator for doing this. The line of trees along Church Lane requires pollarding every three to four years and it was hoped that this would be done this Spring before the nesting season but this has not proved possible, to an extent because of the administrative hoops that needed to be gone through. It is now hoped for this work to be carried out in the Autumn. The North boundary to the churchyard presents a much greater problem as the trees have grown to a very considerable height and some die-back is evident. The Diocese has recommended that the Parish approaches a professional consultancy practice for a report on the management of these trees given there may be some risk to the public as well as to the church building, and in the case of the building, concerns also about tree roots affecting soil moisture levels and building foundations. The upkeep of this older churchyard is a challenge as any expenditure spent on it is money diverted from the building itself and, as it is no longer used for burials, the subject of closure has naturally come up from time to time. If closure were to happen, then the responsibility

may well pass to the PC, though the PC already supports the cost of controlling the grass in the churchyard. Wherever the responsibility lies, upkeep will be a challenge for this small community, it is to be hoped that current shared arrangements can continue. Very recently, an idea has developed in the context of the planned NHLF grant application to investigate the possibility of grant assistance for working up a scheme to manage and encourage nature, particularly bird, bat and insect life while at the same time controlling any adverse effects on the building. It is too early to say whether this bid is likely to be successful though what is clear is that wide community involvement will be needed to satisfy the NHLF criteria. These criteria demand significant engagement with, and involvement of, the community in its widest sense including the local community, schools and interest groups. This aspect alone will require careful thought and additional local effort.

Public thanks go Michael Norie for doing a great job of keeping the grass cut and the Churchyard tidy. Thanks also to the Parish Council for its continued financial support given towards the upkeep of the churchyard, without which, the full costs would be difficult to find. Recognition also needs to be given to Percy Mark's continued involvement with the care of the fabric of this ancient building. As in previous years, a very big thank you also to all in the parish who contribute financially in any way whether by regular giving or indirectly by helping to organise, and/or support fund-raising events. Without this continued support, the PCC would not be able to carry out emergency works nor would the parish look viable when applying for grant aid.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to present this report.
Malcolm Ralph & Carol McGeogh - Churchwardens

Community Benefit Fund:

This year is the fifth payment of the agreed sum of £4935-00, for which Council is very grateful. Council has already been discussing the idea that Push Energy could be approached for continuing support for the fund for the life of the Solar Farm, albeit at a reduced rate. This idea has also been suggested by parishioners, so the Clerk will draft a letter for consideration by the Councillors, with a view to applying for this with the invoice for the fifth payment.

Village Spring Clean:

This has already been arranged by the Implementation Group for a date in May.

Recycling Champions:

Mrs Slator reported to the meeting that the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Partnership is looking for volunteers to help spread the word about recycling within the community. There is no need to have any experience or previous knowledge, you just need to believe that recycling is important, be friendly and approachable, and be willing to convey your enthusiasm about helping the environment to others. Training will be provided. If you would like more information then please contact Birgitta Laurent on 01954 713614 or email: birgitta.laurent@scambs.gov.uk

Public Session: There were no questions from the floor.

Council Matters requiring attention before the next meeting:

Brickyard Farm S/0601/19/FL: Change of use of redundant building to a dwelling to include associated operational development and landscaping. This application was refused and the Delegation report is available on South Cambs District Council's website.

South House - TPO:

Felling of Cedar (TPO 3/04 Tree 6) due to size and location being inappropriate as close to adjacent property and causing severe negative impact. Replant with 3 Field Maples in garden. Council had no comments to make on this.

CCC Street Lighting attachment policy: As of 1 April, if you would like to attach any item to a County Council street light (such as a hanging basket, festive lighting, advertising banners, CCTV cameras or public transport information, etc), you will need to apply for an attachment licence online. These are for 12 months or 5 years and only commercial organisations will be charged for the attachments.

Salvation Army Clothes Bank: Enquiring if we would like one in Croydon on Council land, of which there is none.

Hatley Pilates and Yoga: Hatley is offering weekly yoga and 'pilates for healthy backs' classes being held at Hatley Village Hall. Council thought this may be of interest to the village and Clerk will obtain the poster from Hatley Clerk for display.

Register of Electors: Update received.

Zurich: Circular sent enquiring if Council would like a quote for their insurance. This company was one of those who quoted last year, but was too expensive.

Bank Statement: Bank Statement to the end of the financial year received. The balance at 31 March 2019 is £11558-59.

Latta Hire: The invoice from the company providing the toilets for this year's Car Show was presented for payment. It was resolved that a cheque for £246-00 be signed for the hire and the Hire Agreement was signed by the Chair for return with the cheque. It is unclear whether the Council's insurance or the Car Show's insurance will cover the toilets in the event of damage.

SCDC Business Plan: Cllr Williams has already given Council as many details about this as she is able to.

Speed sign: Council discussed this and felt that if the Speedwatch volunteers were able to provide ant data regarding the best place(s) to site a sign, this could be used to reinforce any application Council makes. Clerk will try to discover who has to be approached regarding the siting of a sign.

Mrs Slator was able to report that Mrs H Daw has agreed to audit the accounts for Council this year in the absence of Mr D Locke, for the same remuneration.

Date of Next AGM -15 April 2020 at 7.30pm

Date of Annual Parish Council Meeting - 15 May 2019

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Signed

Date