

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Brown - unwell

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

Minutes: of the March meeting and April planning meeting were agreed and signed.

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Mrs Slator indicated she was willing to continue as Chairman and this was unanimously agreed by all councillors.

Vice Chairman: Mr Barnes was also willing to continue in the role of Vice Chairman and this was unanimously agreed by all councillors.

Declarations of Interest: None received.

Members' Interest Forms: Last year's forms were distributed to councillors for any corrections or amendments that had taken place in the year. Ms Newland made an amendment to her form, which the Clerk will send on to the Monitoring Officer at SCDC. Other councillors present re-signed and dated their forms as still correct.

As both Cllr Kindersley and Cllr Williams were already present, it was decided to allow them to present their reports at this point, as both had further appointments to go on to.

CCC report from Cllr Kindersley

Air Pollution: CCC is currently working on a strategy to be carbon neutral by 2050. With the current pollution in Cambridge, this may be a difficult strategy to complete.

Options in relation to the Shire Hall tender process: This was done in a closed session, so Cllr Kindersley was unable to report anything to Council. He did feel that a large legal bill is likely to be coming from this.

Marshalls: Marshalls Airfield in Cambridge is considering a move out of the city to one of the nearby airfields (Duxford, Wyton) If Duxford is the airfield chosen the runway will need to be extended, which will impact on the Pet Crematorium. Marshalls have agreed to pay towards the Metro under Cambridge, but only if it is agreed that no affordable housing is built on their old site in the centre of the city.

East-West Rail: If the Metro does go ahead, this will muddy the waters in respect of East-West Rail. Objections to the Orwell route are such that two other routes are likely to be given more consideration. Cllr Kindersley and others in the CamBed Railroad are meeting with lawyers in London re: the route for the railway.

Buses: Grants are in place to keep the services running for the next 2 years.

Cllr Kindersley asked about Croydon's speed dips. The Clerk reported that she had spent almost an hour with Mr Carroll and his colleague Archie at the site in question, whilst they measured and discussed the best way forward for the repairs. It is likely that when Mr Carroll applies for a Road Closure notice for Croydon Hill to repair the "trench" at the side of that road in time for the cycle road race, he will include Croydon High Street in the Order. This will enable the repair to be undertaken effectively, along with a section of the pathway that has collapsed on one side. Mr Carroll did not feel that there is any problem with the drains and that the dips are being caused by settlement. He also said that it can take up to 12 weeks to obtain a Road Closure notice, so not to expect anything immediate! Archie was able to fill in the hole adjacent to a circular water inspection cover outside Cottiers End, which was quite deep.

SCDC report from Cllr Williams

Cllr Williams was recently a substitute on the Grants Advisory Group, who were reviewing the rules for applications to the Community Chest fund. The criteria for this was recently dropped so that villages with more than 150 electors (Croydon) were no longer eligible to apply for funding through the fund. Cllr Williams felt this is unfair and is trying hard to get this figure raised, possibly to 200.

Marshalls: Marshalls is considering moving out of Cambridge to another airfield, possibly Duxford, and this would leave a huge parcel of land in Cambridge for housing.

Local Plan: When the Local Plan is next re-examined it will no longer be just SCDC, but will be a joint plan between Cambridge City and SCDC.

Business Rates: There is a small reduction in business rates available. Please contact either Cllr Williams or the Rates Department at SCDC for further information.

Fly tipping: This is on the increase - recently 30 tons of waste was fly tipped at Fulbourn. The unfortunate landowner where the fly tipping occurs becomes responsible for disposing of the rubbish left on their land. Please make sure to use a recognised company and check their waste transportation licence, which all companies carrying waste must have. This can be checked online. However, even reputable companies may still fly tip to avoid the waste disposal charges.

SCDC Accounts: Cllr Williams reported that the March 2018 accounts for SCDC have still not been audited, and this is unlikely to be done before August 2019. Apparently, there is no financial penalty for a late audit, but the fees from the external auditor could be quite high.

Management: There is still an interim CEO at SCDC and for the 5 management positions there are only 3 in post. There are approximately 100 vacancies at SCDC at present and the planning department will be going into shared partnership with Cambridge City - the merger could cost in the region of £500,000 to implement.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Implementation Group:

Village Clean-Up: This will take place in the morning of Saturday 18th May - all are welcome to help.

Speedwatch: There are already several volunteers, but realistically a few more are needed before the training can be undertaken. Mr Wheeler and the Clerk offered to join the volunteers.

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership: Information about this can be found on this link

<https://tumihawkins.org.uk/south-cambridgeshire-district-council/sustainable-parish-energy-partnership-spep/>

Website: This is now up to date, thanks to George.

Tuesday Group: The next meeting is on Tuesday 4th June when preparations for the display at the Car Show will be made. The display includes Clopton and the Clopton Way, along with information on the church vault and why it is roped off. Cambridge Field Archaeology Group have been invited to see what items can be displayed as part of an exhibit.

Housing Needs Survey: The Survey has been completed and hopefully all households in the village have responded. No results have been received, but hopefully these will be back shortly. Mr Wheeler felt that too many businesses who do not have employees working in the village were included. Mrs Slator stated that these results would be separated by ACRE. The IG sent a letter to the Parish Council requesting a change to the Terms of Reference, because of "unwarranted accusations and implied personal criticism" of the co-chairs. One of the IG co-chairs explained what was in the letter. Mrs Slator responded that it would be a great loss to the village if the IG disbanded altogether, but felt that maybe it was time to reassess/rebrand the group. There followed a discussion and some difference of opinion concerning the problems raised in the IG letter, and also in a letter received from a parishioner.

The following changes are anticipated :-

- up-to-date information on the housing requirement for Croydon should be available for use following the survey by ACRE in April 2019;
- the Parish Council was unable to consider the Hillson development at a meeting as no pre or full planning application was made.
- in future, any landowner or developer request should be undertaken through a formal sub-committee of the Parish Council, comprising Parish Councillors/IG members/ interested public, and have an official mandate. The committee can then report to Council.
- Openness and transparency in all negotiations is very important.

Emergency Plan Template: This has been sent off to SCDC, but as no acknowledgement has been received, and bearing in mind the IT problems that SCDC has been experiencing, Clerk will resend the plan.

Electric Vehicle Charging Point: Mr Wenman is interested in this for the Queen Adelaide and was passed details by the Clerk. Mr Brown has been leading on this and Clerk will make sure he has the information for the meeting in June.

Church Fabric: Mr Ralph reported that before anything can happen 2 years of monitoring has to take place. This is now achieved using a laser and not the old style "tell-tales" and will cost in the region of £100,000. Mr Ralph feels that nothing new will be discovered. The grants system is now favouring buildings that are for community use, and the historical aspect is not so highly considered in the process.

Churchyard Trees: These cannot be pollarding until after the nesting season, so this may happen in the autumn. Mrs Slator suggested that the Parochial Church Council applies to the Parish Council in time for the consideration of the precept for next year.

Fete Toilets: The toilets are required to be covered by insurance for damage. It is not clear if the Reading Room insurance will do this, so the Clerk will contact Council's insurers to check if the Fete section of the insurance will do this.

Defibrillator: BT will not allow the use of electricity from the phone box to power a defibrillator sited next to the box. They will however, sell the phone box to Council and the Defibrillator can be sited inside. Clerk will contact BT to discover how much the phone box is currently used, as it would be irresponsible to get rid of an important provision.

High Street Speed Dips: See Cllr Kindersley's report.

A Christmas Carol: As there has been no response to Council's enquiry, it was assumed that the Reading Room venue is too small to generate the return the group requires.

Councillors' e-mail addresses: There was a discussion about each Councillor having a separate e-mail address for Council business. This will be looked into further when a new website is up and running.

Correspondence:

Letter: Mr Barnes recently attended Mr Bryant's funeral in Orwell and Council received a very nice letter thanking them for sending a representative.

CAPALC: Asking if Council would like to join the membership for £152-00 this year. Council felt that the subs they fund for the Clerk's association (in the region of £65-00 per year) is better value.

Electoral register: Alteration circulated for Councillors' information.

Job Centre: Request for Croydon to include a link to unofficial job centres on the website. Councillors declined the offer, and Clerk will respond to this.

Gliding Club: Has an Open Day on 30 June. There is a poster to go into the notice board advertising this. Flights are available, but must be booked in advance.

Scams: On-line training to become more aware of scams is available at

<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/become-a-friend>. Mrs Slator has undertaken the training already and felt it may be useful.

Electronic correspondence: All circulated.

Planning:

28 High Street:

The application for this development has been withdrawn.

Brickyard Farm S/0601/19/FL:

Change of use for redundant Building. This has gone to appeal.

Finance:

Bank Statement: Current account balance at the end of April is £12962-59. The cheque for the hire of the Fete toilets had been cashed.

Precept: The first instalment of the precept received.

Exemption: As the Parish Council neither receives nor spends £25,000 gross in the year, the Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chair and will be returned to PKF Littlejohn by the Clerk.

Payments: The following were presented for payment:-

BHIB Insurance	£364 - 35
Churchyard maintenance	£400 - 00
Reading Room rental	£208 - 00
Clerk's salary + petty cash	£1179 - 99

All were in favour, and the cheques were signed - Clerk will distribute as required.

Items for next agenda: None put forward

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19 June at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9.42pm.

Signed

Date

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