

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 18 July 2018 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Mr Brown - working, Mrs Slator - on holiday.

**Present:** Ms Newland Mr Sole, Mr Barnes, Cllr Williams, Cllr Kindersley (later) and the Clerk..

**Minutes:** of the June meeting were agreed and signed.

**Declarations of Interest:** None received

**Members' Interests Forms:** One still to come

Cllr Williams joined the meeting and was invited to give a verbal report:-

- Thanked the village for welcoming her to the Car Show - it was very good with about 130 cars in attendance.
- She suggested that the Village Design Statement project is worth an application - this is already in hand.
- Cllr Williams is encouraging recycling as much as possible, because there is only another 10-15 years' worth of landfill available in South Cambs.
- Universal Credits - everything is done by e-mail or on-line, so please help anyone who is struggling with this.
- If the Parish Council is aware of anyone in difficulty, please let SCDC know and they will do what they can to help - 200 households have already been prevented from becoming homeless.
- Oxford-Cambridge Rail Link: Please try and attend the meeting about this. Ms Newland agreed to go to Litlington on 25th July on behalf of the village. Although there is no preferred route at this stage, the presentation will examine a route via Gamlingay and on through the new developments as it will solve a lot of other proposals, The presentation has been put together voluntarily by a group of engineers.
- Windows - tempting as it is to leave them open in the hot weather - please don't! Help to prevent burglaries.
- Clopton Close - Cllr Williams has made sure that Clopton Close will now be cut by SCDC. It was not being cut previously because it was not "on the route".
- Cllr Williams has a surgery at Steeple Morden Village Hall on 4 August. For further details please check her website.
- Standpipe - it was reported that 300/400 gallons is being drawn off approximately hourly by a truck with a tank on it recently. Cllr Williams will make enquiries about this.
- Emergency Plan - does Croydon have one? Cllr Williams will send a template for Council.

Cllr Williams' written report to the meeting (circulated to Councillors):-

**Planning:** The Council is now making planning decisions on the basis that a 5-year land supply has been achieved. It is now with the Independent Inspector and we await their response. The Council has been successful in a grant to support 6-8 parishes in creating a Village Design Statement. These statements allow for villages to create a planning document that advises developers the style and design that is important to the character of villages. These are quicker to produce than Neighbourhood Plans, though can complement them if parishes would like to pursue these. Village Design Statements, unlike Parish Plans, are planning documents and do provide weight in planning decisions. If you would like and further information, then please do get in contact.

**Environment:** The Council would like to encourage as much recycling as possible. key issues are contamination and capacity. They are encouraging residents to wash and squash their rubbish. Many people have now ordered extra blue and green bins, and we are encouraging residents to

request bins where applicable. Please be aware that due to high demand the delivery of these bins is taking 6-8 weeks.

**Universal Credit:** Universal Credit comes into our area on 17th October. SCDC are offering a wide range of support for those that this will affect. There will be an encouragement of those who will be impacted to get in touch.

**Potholes and other Highway issues:** Please continue reporting potholes to the County Council. Below is the link that allows you not only to report the potholes, but also claim compensation for damage caused by potholes and highway faults.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-athways/roadworks-and-faults/>

**Confidentiality Issues:** If residents are concerned with issues like planning breaches, but wish that other residents do not know their identity, I would encourage them to get in touch with SCDC direct who are able to protect a complainant's identity. Any Councillor would be subject to the Freedom of Information request, although as a District Councillor I would be notified, just with less personal detail. Please note that if a resident wishes to talk to a Councillor about any personal issues, this would be treated as confidential - this only applies if it involves another resident.

**Crime:** There has sadly been an influx in our levels of crime in the area. I would encourage residents to be diligent and please do report any criminal activity to the police. Especially in this hot weather please ensure that all windows are closed and locked when leaving home, and maybe leave a light on when out in the evenings. Regular updates are available from e-cops - the link is below:-

[https://ecops.org.uk/da/202480/South\\_Cambs\\_crime\\_update.html](https://ecops.org.uk/da/202480/South_Cambs_crime_update.html)

Cllr Heather Williams can be contacted at Cllr.Williamsh@scambs.gov.uk, or 07885 774775

#### **Matters Arising and Village Issues: Implementation Group:**

- There is possible movement on the proposed housing site. A meeting will be taking place in early August to discuss this further with the interested parties.

**Village Design Statement:** Mrs Slator and others have prepared an application, which was circulated to Councillors. The application was unanimously supported by the Council, and will be sent to SCDC after this meeting.

**Lower Road:** The white lines have not been replaced yet - CCC highways stated that the B1042 is due for resurfacing works in 2019, and as the white lines have not faded by 70%, then the repainting will be carried out after this; the situation continues to be monitored.

**Trees:** Some trees have been planted on Highways ground and Cllr Kindersley is to make enquiries regarding the legality of this - a response is awaited. A licence needs to be obtained from CCC before any trees may be planted on Highways ground.

**Website and Webmaster:** Mr Wheeler has been webmaster since the village website's inception, and has decided to hand over the reins to someone new. Mr Wenman is prepared to investigate what is involved and see if he is able to take this on and Mr Ralph said he would send an E-News round the village asking if anyone would be interested in the position. As Mr Wenman was not at the meeting, there was no further information available.

**Dispensation Forms:** Distributed to Councillors for consideration - may not be required.

**Bags of Help:** Tesco is asking for local projects to use in-store as they are short of schemes in this area.

**Co-option:** As no electors have requested an election to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council, the place will be filled by co-option. Clerk to advertise this.

#### **Correspondence**

**Licensing and Gambling Consultations:** Council had no comments to make on this.

**SCDC Register of Electors:** The monthly changes were circulated to Councillors.

**Toilets:** There was confusion over the supplier of the toilets for the Car Show. Because of this, two companies provided toilets, one of which was paid by Mrs Walters. After discussion, it was agreed

that Council would reimburse Mrs Walters £120-00 and the Car Show would be asked to make up the difference of £114-00, so that she was not out of pocket. All in favour.

Cllr Kindersley joined the meeting and was invited to give a verbal report:-

**Oxford-Cambridge Rail Link:** The route suggested is Baldock to Cambridge and this would run near the A505, Wimpole Avenue and Wendy. A group of engineers have come up with a much better proposal and Cllr Kindersley and others are putting this route forward to the Mayor on Friday 20th July.

Cllr Kindersley's written report to the meeting (circulated to Councillors):-

**Combined Authority:** Following last month's outline of how complex local government is currently the Mayor and Combined Authority have been hitting the headlines again. The Secretary of State has written to the Mayor to tell him and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (delivering The City Deal) to get their acts together and find a way of working collaboratively. To be fair to the GCP they have done their best but the Mayor has seen fit to put a (supposedly) temporary stop to the well developed plans to run a fast public transport service into Cambridge from Cambourne and similarly along the A1307. The Mayor has said that he hates Park and Rides but fails to appreciate that they are only way that those of us living in the villages distant to Cambridge can get to use public transport and avoid congestion. The Mayor is aiming for 100% of people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to make 100% of their journeys on public transport. That rather begs the question of what about people who are disabled, who need to carry equipment for work or get their week's shopping home. What about people who drop their children off at school before going on to work, or the trades people and carers who make multiple journeys in a day? What about people who do not work in Cambridge? And what about the cost? Even with the City Council hiking up the cost of City Centre parking by a lot it can still be cheaper to drive into Cambridge and park when you have a car full of people. Park and Rides need to be open for longer hours, with spaces.

Having said all of that the Mayor has rather bizarrely 'approved' a new Park and Ride at Scotland Farm in Dry Drayton but that is a nonsense without a transport system linking it to Cambridge. He was committed to an underground CAM Metro system but is now talking about Light Rail! The bottom line is that he needs to make a decision about what public transport system he is supporting, where it is to go and how he is going to pay for it because light rail will cost billions.

The other major issues that the Mayor fails to address is the risk that by halting the transport plans for Cambourne and the proposed new development at Bourn Airfield that the planning inspector, who has been inspecting our plan for well over four years, will decide that it is not good enough. The other risk is that the Government will pull the plug on the £400 million of funding for transport, skills and housing that is due to the GCP. One cannot help but wonder if the Mayor would like that to happen as it would leave him the only player in the transport game! It is a very frustrating situation and one that needs to be resolved sooner rather than later.

**Can you help?** Cambridgeshire County Council is currently appealing for help with reablement services and is actively recruiting support workers.

Reablement helps people to leave hospital when they might otherwise be unable to. Each person may have been admitted for different reasons, but after discharge they need some help to get back on their feet. Put simply, reablement helps people regain independence at home.

We can help many more people and really make a difference – but we need more reablement support workers. You don't need any specific experience to become a reablement worker, just the right attitudes and values. Reablement workers are calm and friendly problem-solvers who genuinely enjoy helping people.

What's more, they get to see first-hand the difference they make to people's lives. Reablement support workers motivate and inspire people to re-learn tasks and activities that are key to their quality of life. Reablement support workers go out into the community. They usually see several service users each day. They help people to stay on track to stay independent.

Support usually lasts less than six weeks and helps people carry out tasks they identify as important. This may be cooking, getting down the steps into the garden, or dressing themselves. Each programme is tailored to the individual. Unlike care - which treats individuals as passive recipients - reablement works in partnership with the individual.

If the service user needs further support afterwards, support outside of the reablement service will support their ongoing care needs.

If you like the sound of this then please call on 01223 475920 or email [recruitment.cfa@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment.cfa@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**GP Provision:** Sebastian and Aidan and a number of Parish Councillors locally have met with Heidi Allen MP to discuss the issue of GP provision centered around new developments for example in Barrington and Orwell. Helpfully the Acting Interim Chief Officer at the CCG and the Acting Director of Planning and Primary Care CCG also attended. We set out our concerns (and those of a number of GPs) and various actions were agreed. The CG need much better control and management of Section 106 funds and in particular if there are any about to expire; the CCG and NHS need to be better at getting 106 money (similar to the schools formula used) and when they do get funding to have a structure that is as streamlined as possible. It's a start....

**Civic Affairs at South Cambs:** The new Civic Affairs committee at South Cambs has now discussed how Full Council meetings could be more open to the public. It was agreed on an interim 12 month pilot with the public able to submit written questions up to 15 mins in advance of the meeting on any item on the agenda. Please do make use of this - we would love to hear from you.

#### **Recycling:**

Recycling rates are going down nationally and also in S Cambs even though we have been reasonably good at it. If we don't reduce our waste and improve recycling than we are going to end up with more incinerators on our doorsteps to deal with all the stuff that can no longer go into landfill because all the landfill sites are full. It's useful to remember some tips about recycling for the blue bin:

Everything must be clean - contamination from food costs us money - which is your money. Black plastic cannot be recycled but ALL other plastic can go in the blue bin. Please do not put things inside each other so your cereal box and the paper liner can both be recycled but must be separated from each other.

**Gamlingay and Gransden Cubs and Scouts AGM:** Bridget was delighted to be invited to the Scouts AGM and to learn about all of the very impressive activities and adventures which they have embarked upon in the past year. Many congratulations to the 3 very impressive young men who have gained places at the next USA Jamboree and to those adults who have supported the whole of the local cub and scout movement so diligently.

**Robinson Court:** The redevelopment of Robinson Court should be reaching completion by the end of July. The houses are looking really nice and appear to be of high quality and well designed. We are very disappointed that the new parking places in Grays Rd, which we had been assured would be completed in the same time frame, seem not yet to have planning permission. We are looking into what has held this process up. It is going to be very annoying for local residents who have put up with considerable disruption for the past year as the houses have been built to have further disruption once the parking bays are installed. We can but apologise for this and will do our best to keep you informed.

**Motor Bikes and Quad Bikes:** We are getting reports of young people on motor bikes and quad bikes riding on the public footpath which leads from Grays Rd to Gamlingay Wood. This is a public right of way up to the path to the allotments and so motorised vehicles are not allowed to use it. We have reported this to the police as it is a matter of public safety as well as a serious nuisance to local residents - many of whom are elderly and find it intimidating.

#### **Police Stations and other police matters:**

We have been notified that our 'local' police station at Cambourne, which now houses only 3 PCSO and no warranted officers, has been closed for a week for general enquiries. However, it is up and running again now but is only open from 10am till 3 pm on Mondays and we have not been given a phone number!

If you need to contact the Police please call 101 or 999 in an emergency or via [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk) website.

The Police and Crime Commissioner recently announced the 'new Policing Model' and support for our communities. What does this actually mean for the noticeable spike in reports of criminal activity across the villages? The weekly reports of reported crimes are showing a marked

increase in domestic crimes in particular and we have recently learnt that South Cambs has the 3rd lowest crime solving statistics in the country with a solving rate of a staggering 4.8%.

**CARER'S ALLOWANCE FACT SHEET :** A local Citizens Advice Bureau advisor has forwarded to us the Disability Rights UK Factsheet, which he says 'is always written in plain English and doesn't expect the reader to have a deep understanding of the benefits system.' We hope this is useful to anyone with queries. <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/carers-allowance-ca> Bridget has particular expertise in this area so please do not hesitate to contact her if you are finding the bureaucracy impenetrable.

**Cambridgeshire schools call for fair funding:** Cambridgeshire is one of the worst funded education authorities in England. The county receives £400 less per child than the average funded authority and £1,600 less per child than Westminster.

The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum has written to the Secretary of State for Education to call for an increase in funding for all the county's early years, primary and secondary schools and has also responded to calls for evidence on school and college funding and support for children with special educational needs from the Education Select Committee.

Although two-thirds of Cambridgeshire schools saw a modest increase in funding for 2018-19 this has been more than completely eroded by increasing costs including salary increases and growing recruitment costs, inflation and the apprentice levy.

The nature of our county means that there are a high number of small, rural schools who have been seriously disadvantaged by the cut in the lump sum allocation for each school from £150,000 to £110,000. This is equivalent to the full costs of about one teacher. The High Needs budget is also under enormous pressure with increasing numbers of children with high needs and the complexity of their needs is rising as well. Funding for early years childcare is also under pressure as Government funding levels for 30 hours of 'free' childcare do not cover the costs of delivery.

**TRAINS - SAY NO MORE:** We are now into the second month of a historic failure of rail services, affecting countless people who depend on the train to get them to work, school or other essential destinations. The May 20th roll-out of the new Thameslink timetable should have seen improved services for stations with half-hourly off-peak services all day – instead the service is less than what it was pre-May 20th and completely unpredictable.

The pattern of peak-time cancellations and stop-skipping our small stations, non-working bus replacement services, returning people home late from the wrong stations by taxi, demands an assurance that a full restoration of the old timetable be implemented as soon as possible.

From Royston, a concerted effort to restore some peak time London trains lost in the new timetable configuration is being championed by the Royston and Villages Rail User Group. The two Rail User Groups are coordinating on behalf of common rail users.

**Innovate and Cultivate Fund:** The latest rounds of the Cambridgeshire County Council's Innovate & Cultivate Fund are now open. The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications include adult social care, children and families services, and the waste service.

The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. The Innovate and Cultivate Fund has two funding streams: a 'Cultivate' stream for small grants of £2,000-£10,000 and an 'Innovate' stream for larger grants of up to £50,000. Cambridgeshire Community Foundation can answer questions about applying for the Fund: [info@cambscf.org.uk](mailto:info@cambscf.org.uk).

#### **Finance:**

**Internal Audit:** Mr Locke's invoice for £40-00 was presented to Council for payment. All were in favour and a cheque for this was signed.

**Bank Mandate:** Mr Barnes has taken the Mandate into Barclays, and he should be made an active signatory within 10 working days..

**NSI:** The letter Clerk sent was not acceptable and further paperwork has been received, which will require all the signatories to sign. As some Councillors were not in the meeting, Clerk will try and see them to obtain signatures over the summer break..

**Bank Statement:** The balance at the end of June 2018 is £5896-79.

**Items for next agenda:** None put forward

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 19 September 2018 in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.  
As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

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