

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 18 September 2019 in the Reading Room at 6.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Mr Wheeler - detained at work, Mr Brown - away.

**Present:** Mr Sole, Mr Barnes, Mrs Slator, Ms Newland, Mr Wenman, Cllr Kindersley(latterly), Cllr Williams, the Clerk and two members of public.

**Minutes:** of the July meeting and the July, August and September planning meetings were agreed and signed.

**Declarations of Interest:** None received.

SCDC Cllr Williams gave a verbal report.

**Service Provider:** SCDC is moving to a new provider as the current system is not working at all well. Some e-mails are not getting through and there is no way of knowing they have, unless acknowledged by the recipient. There are more call handlers needed as the waiting time for clients can be over 5 minutes.

**Planning:** An external company, Terraquest, is being retained to assist with current workload of planning applications. Councillors are not well informed of the finer details at present but this company is validating and looking at minor applications. SCDC is still the one signing off the planning application, but the reports and site visits are undertaken by Terraquest. Councillors do need clarification of how this arrangement will work, and need to know the protocol involved.

**Flytipping:** Is still a problem locally - please report anything and if possible, obtain a vehicle registration number. All authorised waste carriers have a licence, which should be readily available for inspection.

**SCDC Accounts:** The accounts for 2018 are still unaudited, and no figures are available for 2019.

**East-West Rail Route:** This is still under discussion, and the announcement date is a lot later than originally planned.

**Ward Meeting:** Is being arranged to which all local Parishes are invited. Details to follow.

Written Report from Cllr Williams:

### **Getting in Touch with SCDC**

I am aware that for many residents, and councillors, getting in touch with the council has been difficult over recent months, there have been IT outages that have led to issues with the emails, problems with the phones which have led to officers being unable to hear voicemails and unacceptable call waiting times. In April this year the average call answer time was 6.11 mins that is over double what it was for April 2018 and over three times what it was in April 2017. In April 5171 phone calls were abandoned. This has rightfully gathered attention from the Scrutiny and Overview committee. Calls are processed by a department at the council called the Contact Centre, they are expected to be able to support residents and answer the majority of inquires without needing to refer residents on to specific departments. This team are incredibly hardworking but there simply are not enough in the team to handle the call volume. Recruitment is an issue in many departments currently but for the contact centre given the length of time it takes to train new recruitments is in a vulnerable position when low staffing happens. While these communication issues have been occurring the Contact Centre has also been given extra responsibilities such as printing and reprographics and the administration of complaints. I recently suggested that the department be able to have a rolling advert, meaning they can constantly recruit, an option other departments had available to them but the contact centre did not, I believe this has been established and I hope is helping. But the question I and others asked in February still I believe stands, that was this budget, (set Feb 2019) really the correct time to propose a reduction in the budget for Corporate Services and in turn the contact centre.

### **Ice Rink**

SCDC had recently agreed to increase its loan in relation to the ice rink following unexpected issues including unexploded bombs underground. Now that it is open and running the loan repayments can

begin the interest of which, I hope will be a valued income stream for the council to reinvest in our services.

### **Zero Carbon Community Grant**

I'm very pleased that community groups can now apply for this new grant. There are many imaginative schemes that can go for this grant, the deadline for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Grants can be made available for £1,000 to £15,000 and it covers a wide range from energy saving in community buildings, projects tackling fuel poverty, community tree planting and list goes on. These projects are also a time for people to get more involved in their communities, and I look forward to hearing about the projects put forward from groups in The Mordens Ward.

### **Planning Department**

A decision has been taken for the council to enter into a contract with a private company to perform duties that would normally be performed by our officers such as validation and assessment of some applications. For numerous reasons the planning department has been under increasing pressure and officers have been in the last months, in my opinion, under extreme pressure unable to give the service that residents rightfully expect. Some officers have at times had, individually, over 100 applications open on their work schedule. Even with extra hours this is not achievable and is unacceptable. I and others have been raising repetitively the issue of moral in the department with little meaningful reply. This drastic step taken is I am sure an attempt to relieve the pressure, however there is much surrounding this that makes myself uncomfortable with the situation we find ourselves in. Elected Councillors, elected to represent the views of their residents, were informed of this decision that had already been made via an email (14<sup>th</sup> August) a few hours before the topic appeared in a newspaper article. This decision has been made behind closed doors, doors closed to elected representatives and I strongly feel that this is highly inappropriate. The Director of Planning and Lead member for Planning were present at the Scrutiny meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August, where they had the opportunity to explain the situation. In my view at no point has a suitable explanation given as to why councillors were not able to raise any views or have knowledge of the decision until after the event. There have been plenty of meetings in the last 18 months that have been confidential, such as the departure of Ms Agass the Former Chief-Executive. The same confidentiality arrangements could have been made to make this decision in a scrutinized and democratic way, but the administration have chosen to not do this. I am saddened that lack of transparency appears, in my view, to becoming the trend at SCDC. The Practicalities surrounding such a contract at the time of writing this are yet to be "ironed out" but I will continue to raise residents' concerns including that it should be made clear to Parish councils, applicants and residents if an application is being dealt with by an SCDC officer or a private company, this I feel is key for transparency. It was made clear the need for the authority to ensure that the correct supervision would be required to ensure this contract works effectively, at the scrutiny meeting it was stated that this was something still being discussed and yet to be resolved. Only time will tell whether this will work, and I hope for our resident's sake it does, but the way that this situation has been handled is unacceptable.

### **Sickness Leave at SCDC**

Given the topics I have already mentioned it will be of no surprise that the sickness levels are increasing. One key area of concern is those days of leave from stress/depression and mental health. For Q1 of the 2019/2020 year, 662 days of officers' sickness leave was attributed to this. This is over 93% increase from Q1 of 2018/2019. I will be looking at how, as a council, officers are being supported and what steps are being taken to reduce these numbers as Mental Health issues ought to be a key concern of the authority's.

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

**Implementation Group:** It was announced that one of the Co-Chairs of the Implementation Group was standing down. This gentleman has been a Co-Chair since the Group's inception and Council wished to thank him and acknowledge his input formally in the minutes. Clerk was asked to send a Thank You card. Another member of the Group has stepped up to fill the position.

The future of the Group has been discussed and their commitment is still strong. The Group will remain in its current form until after the discussion/implementation of the Housing Needs Survey, and are ready to support this. Longer term, the Group may evolve into a Community Group,

**Speedwatch:** There are 5 volunteers at present, but as yet no-one is willing to lead the group. Without data from Speedwatch it will be difficult to prove the need for a speed sign. Once a co-ordinator is appointed then the training can commence.

**Website:** The specification has been sent to three independent web designers for quotations. When these are received, a discussion and decision can take place.

**Clopton Village Site:** Clerk has made contact with Peter Gaskin from the County Council with regards to the interpretive sign at the Clopton Village Site, and will arrange a meeting with him, which has to be during the day to accommodate Mr Gaskin's travel schedule.

**Zero Carbon:** The application time for grants is very short considering the information required, and therefore nothing has been collected. The Implementation Group suggested that in future, it might be feasible to gather information together and then, if a suitable grant was announced, everything would already be in place.

**Local Transport Plan:** The consultation period ends on 27th September. Please make sure your comments have been recorded before then. It was reported to Council that the consultation was "uninspiring".

**Community Gritting:** No interest.

**Parish Planning Forum:** Meeting at SCDC HQ in Cambourne on Wednesday 25th September at 6.00pm. The Clerk is available to attend and will do so on behalf of the Council.

**Greater Cambridge Partnership:** Consultation on-line regarding travel around the proposed Shelford, Stapleford and the proposed Cambridge South Railway station. The proposal would go through Nine Wells, which is a 1.2 hectare Local Nature Reserve east of Trumpington, on the southern outskirts of Cambridge, owned and managed by Cambridge City Council. The link to the consultation is below:-

[https://consultcamb.s.gov.uk/engagementhq.com/CSET-consultation-2019?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://consultcamb.s.gov.uk/engagementhq.com/CSET-consultation-2019?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

**Let's Get Moving:** Exercise for everyone! There are classes reasonably local and at the moment there is a Buggy Boot camp for Mums and their babies - in Waterbeach and Melbourn. Walk for Fun led by volunteers for all speeds of walkers, make friends and enjoy the environment - these are currently taking place at Fulbourn and Bar Hill. Walking Sport - including walking football at Sawston and Walking Netball at Histon. There is also New Age Curling (a variation of the ice Curling) and this can be found in Gamlingay, Fowlmere and Girton, to name a few. If anyone would like to start a group in Croydon, please contact Leah Collis - [leah.collis@scamb.s.gov.uk](mailto:leah.collis@scamb.s.gov.uk) There will be a notice in the board.

County Cllr Kindersley arrived following another meeting, and gave his verbal report:-

**CamBed Rail Road:** The CBRR Group may take East-West Rail to a judicial review, and the CBRR route is now being included in the consultation. Mayor Palmer attended a meeting in Guilden Morden on Monday 16th September and thought that an announcement on the chosen route consultation might be made in October. There is still a lot of support for the CBRR route. The group has done a lot of legal work and gathered information from many sources, including the National Trust.

**Earthworks:** A very large pile of earth, possibly topsoil, has appeared in the field opposite Valley Court Offices. Cllr Williams will investigate.

**Thriplow Waste Site:** An e-permit is required from October to be allowed to take waste into a Cambridgeshire site. E-permits are free of charge and will only be issued to Cambridgeshire residents on a one per household basis. The e-permit allows a maximum of 12 visits to a site within a 12 month period. If the allowance has been used up, another permit will not be issued until the 12 month period has passed. E-permits are available on-line from the end of September to start in October 2019, from the County Council website.

**Croydon School Bus:** The company holding the contract has surrendered it, with very little notice. The County Council is trying to source a replacement, but the route should continue to operate as usual.

As there were no matters on which Cllr Kinderlsy's input was required, the Chair thanked him for attending and he left the meeting.

Cllr Kindersley's written report:-

**Buses:** Central Bedfordshire which has already seen savage cuts to bus services over the last 10 years is set to lose even more services in changes due to come into place on 30th September following retendering by Central Bedfordshire Council of the 85/85A town service in Biggleswade and the 188/190

bus routes between Sandy/Blunham/Everton/Gamlingay/Potton/Biggleswade. The 188/190 Route will lose the following services:

- 05.40 Potton to Sandy
- 06.02 Potton to Sandy (via Gamlingay and Everton)
- 06.30 Biggleswade to Sandy
- 06.31 Sandy to Biggleswade (via Gamlingay & Potton)
- 07.06 Sandy to Biggleswade (via Gamlingay & Potton)
- 07.20 Biggleswade to Sandy

The first bus for Gamlingay to Sandy will now be at 07.33 rather than 06.13 and the first bus from Potton to Sandy will now be at 07.25 rather than 05.40.

**Household Waste Recycling ('Tips'):** CCC is to introduce a van and trailer e-permit scheme across Cambridgeshire's nine household recycling centres (HRCs). Starting in October the scheme will allow the Council to better regulate the use of vans and trailers at HRCs helping to ensure only household waste is delivered to sites.

Any resident planning to visit an HRC with a van or trailer should obtain an e-permit using an online system beforehand. These e-permits will be limited to 12 visits per year. To allow larger household and garden jobs, there will be an exemption to the scheme for trailers up to 1.5m (5ft) in length (excluding the towing mechanism bar) and 570 litre capacity.

Between 2012/13 and 2016/17 there was a 20% rise in waste collected at tips. The County evidently thinks that this is because unlawful trade waste is being disposed of at HRCs, which is ultimately at a cost to the council tax paying residents of Cambridgeshire. It's more likely to be, we would venture, because householders can't put old TVs etc in their bins which are often full. The result of this scheme is likely to be a big increase in fly-tipping.

**First School Site:** Residents continue to be concerned, quite rightly, about the future of the First School site. There is now security and the grounds are being maintained. By participating in the consultation for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan you will be able to voice your wishes for the future of the site.

**Public Transport Networks:** The Greater Cambridge Partnership has postponed a decision about the route of the CAM Metro from Cambridge to Cambourne for additional studies to be completed. A final route decision is now expected in October which should hopefully be about the same time that we know what route the East West rail link will take. South Cambs District Council is supportive of a Northern Route that goes through St Neots and puts a station at Cambourne thus linking many thousands of residents to the London mainline station as well as to Oxford, Milton Keynes etc. What we do not want is a route running via Sandy through Bassingbourn to Cambridge which will essentially create a semi impermeable barrier right through the centre of South Cambs and potentially splitting established communities in two. Additional to this will be the environmental damage of running a rail line through virgin farmland. The northern route will hopefully hug the existing A428 thus creating a transport corridor where opportunities for environmental enhancement can be exploited to the full.

**The future is green:** The new administration at South Cambs pledged to make South Cambs carbon neutral by 2050, and we are pleased to say that one of our initiatives towards this goal, the Zero Carbon Communities scheme, is now up and running and accepting applications. Community groups can bid for grants of up to £15,000 each on projects that reduce carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels.

Suitable projects include energy-saving improvements to community buildings, the installation of electric-vehicle charging points, tree planting, cycle paths or racks, and many more. South Cambs District Council is also consulting the public on its proposals to make new housing developments as green as possible, through sustainable design and construction that minimise carbon emissions (as well as running costs), flood risks, pollution and pressure on water sources.

**Financial mismanagement revealed:** South Cambs received a damning report from auditors about the previous administration's management of the council's finances. The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee heard that the extent of the last regime's chaotic accounting came to light with the appointment of an interim finance director last year, and that errors go back over several years. The full report (online) makes for grim reading. In May 2018 the council's accounts were a shambles and shockingly not in a fit state to be audited. This extraordinary and unacceptable situation was made worse by the continued failure to ensure that corrections requested by previous external auditors were done effectively and comprehensively.

**Is there to be a drought?:** Within the Cambridge region we continue to experience lower than average levels of rainfall. This is now starting to generate concerns among the public, relating to levels within watercourses and the local environment. We have seen a press release from Cambridge Water which says:

“We are closely monitoring the situation in conjunction with the Environment Agency. We are not at the point where we believe a drought should be declared. We have suffered from some exceptionally low levels of rainfall and without the rainfall, ultimately the whole system isn't sustainable in the long term.

There's no imminent risk of anyone's taps running dry, as there are adequate supplies to meet everyone's demand at the moment but we're really conscious of the environmental impact associated with the abstraction of our water. We're working very closely with the Cam Valley Forum and the Environment Agency. We've limited the volume that we abstract and reduced our licence capacity in order to make sure we minimise that environmental impact. We've done that by using some alternative sources and moving water around. However, in the longer term with the continued growth in population we are going to find it increasingly difficult to do that.

New developments will have a significant impact on demand. We're planning ahead and looking at our 25-year planning and investment strategy in order to make sure we'll be able to meet everyone's demands.

Invariably, we've all got a part to play in this. We all need to recognise that water is a precious resource and that we often take it for granted. So we all need to avoid, wherever we can, any waste or misuse of water. Increasingly we will need to implement recycling of grey water and rainwater harvesting, particularly in new developments, which will reduce the amount of water abstraction and allow us to better meet people's needs in the future.

We work with Water Resources East, where we look at the challenge across the region and what needs to be done. Within that group there are water companies and representatives from agriculture and energy, so all the users of this precious resource. Our challenge is to collectively look at how we can meet everyone's needs in a sustainable way. So the options we are discussing at the moment, construction of reservoirs, transfer mains using rivers to transfer water from wetter parts of the country and also desalination, which is an extreme measure and quite expensive to operate but potentially offers a solution to the problem.”

**Voter Registration:** South Cambs has recently sent letters to all homes in the district to ask them to confirm the names of people who are eligible to register to vote. Please respond! They need a response even if there are no changes and have to send someone to households who do not respond to chase response by law. Contact: elections@scambs.gov.uk or 03450 455 214

**Cambridge Ice Rink:** It's time to get your skates on as the new ice rink in Cambridge is now open. The company building this had quite a lot of money from the University but South Cambs was able to make them a large loan when they overran their budget due to finding lots of unexploded bombs on the site (which is on the old military airfield run by Marshalls in Cambridge). We made the loan because we felt that this would be a significant attraction to the residents of South Cambs. Let us know what you think of it.

**Genome Campus:** South Cambs has had a second briefing on the Genome Campus' proposals for a vast expansion of their site together with 1500 dwellings which would be exclusively for employees. The current workforce is some 2500; they anticipate this would rise to in excess of 8000. Therefore a great deal of ancillary development is also envisaged including a school, hotel and retail units. The proposals go against South Cambs Local Plan but entail significant benefits for the community. It will be an interesting and complex application to decide. It will also not fit the 40% affordable housing requirement because of the restrictions on how the housing will be handled; the scheme will make an overall loss not the usual developer's profits. We were told the total cost of the scheme is £932,822,110.00 -- they must have some very competent bean-counters.

**Homelessness:** Homelessness is an increasing problem and is especially concerning when it involves young people as is becoming more common. If you think you see a young person rough sleeping please ring the duty housing officer at South Cambs straight away. If the office is shut, phone the emergency number 01253 501117.

**New Council Houses:** The District Council bought 144 new Council houses last month (81 at Northstowe and 63 at Sawston) for £24m, which is great news. The money comes from the reward government gives us for building new market homes - New Homes Bonus as well as the receipts we get

from people acquiring their council houses under the Right to Buy Scheme. We are aiming to build or acquire over 70 council houses each year and so far have exceeded our targets.

**Local Authority Funding:** The keenly awaited Spending Review has now been postponed by Government and so local authorities have to battle on for a further year with the inadequate amounts of money they have been struggling with since the advent of austerity. The expectation was that there would be a reallocation of business rates between Government, district and county councils with the aim of addressing the crisis in health and social care. What moving money from district to county councils fails to address is the need for more money for district councils to develop the work they do in preventing people becoming ill and a burden on social care through any number of ways including public health, high quality building standards, council housing, homelessness prevention - to name but a few. For those of you who would like a bit more detail about local authority funding:

The recent announcement means that the three-year Comprehensive Spending Review - which was due to be delivered in the autumn - will now be held in 2020. The Spending Review, which ordinarily sets Whitehall budgets for a three year period, was due to cover the period 2020-2023, but will now not begin until April 2021.

In overall terms, between 2010 and 2020, Councils will have lost almost 60p in every £1 of central government funding; which has had a significant impact on the services which local authorities deliver in their communities. S Cambs, for example, budgeted for £7.823 million Government Grant (Formula Grant) in 2010/2011 and, by comparison, identified £3.439 million in the Medium Term Financial Plan for "Retained Business Rates" in 2020/2021 (equivalent to 44%) and £1.798 million for New Homes Bonus (the money we get from government for building new houses).

There is currently no certainty of funding for local government beyond this financial year, though there are indications that Government will increase public spending and investment, with an expected review of funding for adult social care. Questions do, however, remain over the following areas which are potentially crucial for District Councils:

- The continuation of funding streams such as the New Homes Bonus;
- The impact of the Fair Funding Review on distribution of funding - with District Council's expected to be losers;
- The impact of the new business rates retention system and associated changes;
- The overall level of funding for the sector.

It is vital that the Government uses the Spending Review to deliver truly sustainable funding for local government as the investment in local services is good for prosperity, economic growth and overall health and wellbeing.

**Papworth Hospital :** You will likely be aware that Papworth Hospital has moved to a new site near Addenbrookes Hospital. We have recently learnt that Global Healthcare Real Estate Ltd has won the bid to acquire the site of the former hospital site in Papworth Everard. They plan to open a five-star health and wellness village comprising a country club and spa, convalescence and rehabilitation units, villas, and apartments. This will of course require planning permission from the Council.

**Road Closure:** The road that joins Long Lane to Hatley Road, Gamlingay will be closed for the removal of the old railway bridge from 11/11/2019-22/11/2019.

**Manufacturing:** Gamlingay is unusual in that it retains a lot of manufacturing industry. Bridget recently visited the Institute for Manufacturing at Cambridge University. This amazing organisation will partner with businesses of all sorts to help them solve their manufacturing and production problems. They will place extremely competent students in your business to help you to solve your problems. This is a core part of the students' learning and so there is no charge to the business. If this is of interest to you either contact the Institute direct, or give Bridget a ring.

**WiFi at Hatley Village Hall:** Thanks to the eagle-eyed Clerk to the PC Hatley Village Hall had been selected as a suitable candidate for free public access Wifi via the existing CambWifi network, subject to a feasibility study. Annoyingly the supplier has not been able to identify a viable option, so cannot proceed with the installation at present. However, CCC are continuing to investigate alternative funding sources and solutions, which may be available so that we can connect more village/community halls, and will have more details in the next two months. Arrington Reading Rooms however look likely to be enabled shortly.

**Brexit and Business:** It is very worrying how few businesses have made any preparations at all for Brexit. Without wishing to go into any detail about the problems they might well be facing by the time you read this we are encouraged that a number of local business support bodies are mobilising their own resources to provide help and advice.

The Chamber of Commerce has a Brexit Hub on its website which is updated daily.

The Combined Authority has been very slow off the mark but now has its own Business Support arm Signpost2grow (created under the previous Local Enterprise Partnership) which is about to start to run series of meetings titled Brexit Basics. We pointed out that these sessions were not advertised on the Combined Authority's website - an error which we hope has now been resolved. If you still cannot find them try the website of Signpost2grow or the excellent business support pages on South Cambs's own website.

If you are a local business experiencing particular problems as a result of Brexit please do let your councillors know.

**Brexit and Travel:** We never thought of South Cambs as having any 'ports' mainly because we are so far from the sea. However, Duxford and Cambridge airports are considered to be 'ports' and this means that the Council will have to start to man them with officers such as environmental health officers once Brexit has happened. The reason for this will be to ensure that no food stuff enters the country which is not permitted by our own laws. What the cost of this will be to the taxpayer we have yet to discover.

**Brexit and People:** At the time writing only about a 1/3rd of eligible EU citizens in the UK had applied for settled status. In South Cambs this amounts to only 2360 people having applied. A Government sponsored advert has been removed from the air waves for being misleading in saying that the process was very straight forward. It is actually rather complex - South Cambs and Cambridge City are planning a joint approach to helping people complete their applications. Please keep an eye on our websites and on .Gov website for updates. If you are struggling, then make contact urgently with your councillors.

**The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service:** CCVS are working with the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire to see if we can get more local organisations nominated and winning this prestigious award. Are you aware of a voluntary group that is doing great work? If so, you can nominate them for this award. Unlike the honours system nominees are encouraged to work with the group to complete the application, and it does not have to be a secret. If you have any thoughts or questions do get in touch with us and we will endeavour to answer any questions. [mark@cambridgecv.org.uk](mailto:mark@cambridgecv.org.uk)

**Bridges in Orwell:** County officers have advised of a forthcoming scheme to repair the small brick/steel arch bridge on Town Green Road, Orwell. The work will involve constructing a concrete backing to the steel arch, brick/mortar repairs and desilting. To enable the works to be carried out with safety zones there will need to be a temporary closure for all road vehicles while this work is being carried out. Pedestrian access will always be maintained. The work is scheduled to coincide with the school Autumn half term break (21st to 25th Oct) so to cause minimal disruption. The whole scheme is programmed for 2 weeks from 14th October 2019.

**Guilden Morden Pavements:** Although the damaged pavements on Church Street have been repaired there is concern about new damage caused by large vehicles passing up and down what is a narrow village street. Restrictions on traffic are generally resisted by Highways (on the grounds that the Queen's Highway is open to all) and because they do not stop traffic they simply divert it elsewhere. However, we are monitoring the situation.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Electoral register:** Councillors updated with the alterations for August and September.

**Village Car Show and Fete:** A letter thanking Council for its contribution was received.

**Keeping Cambridge Special:** A meeting is to be held in Cambridge on Saturday 28th September from 9.00am until 1.00pm. No one was available to attend.

**ACRE:** Advance notification of the Local Councils' meeting on 8th November in Huntingdon. No agenda received as yet - both Clerk and Chair are available to attend if required.

**Table Tennis Tables:** Information received regarding cost and availability. Council did not feel the usefulness would compensate for the cost.

**Innovate and Cultivate/Good Neighbour Scheme:** In principal this sounds a good idea, but needs people to run it. A Coffee Morning has been suggested, but no one has come forward. The Tuesday Group is already operating, but at present does not publish advance notice of topics of the meetings, which might increase attendance.

**Greater Cambridge Trajectory:** This is another consultation, based on making sure there is always a five-year land supply available, otherwise there will be the planning free-for-all that happened recently when the Local Plan was not adopted. Councillors have been sent the link to the consultation and Clerk was asked to re-send it. If you wish to comment and would like the link, please contact the Clerk.

**Electronic Correspondence:** Nothing arising from the circulated information.

**Planning:**

**Old Farm: resubmission of S/4223/18/FL.**

Conversion of detached outbuildings/stables to domestic annexe was approved.

**Low Farm: S/2452/19/FL**

Erection of a storage building for agricultural and domestic storage use was approved.

The element for the residential application was wrongly advertised, so has had to be re-issued. As Council had no objections previously then it was resolved to support the application again. Clerk will reply directly after the meeting, as there were only 14 days in which to respond, and this expired very shortly.

**Solar Farm: S/2248/19/FL**

Installation of a secure storage container was approved.

**Finance:**

**Bank Statement:** July and August bank statements received. Council's current account at the end of August is £15,705-25. Clerk suggested a transfer to the deposit account, and was asked to bring the cheque book to the next meeting.

**Solar Farm:** The fifth instalment from the Solar Farm has been received, but as yet there has been no reply to the letter which was sent in May 2019. Receipt of the letter has been acknowledged.

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

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 16th October at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed .....

Date .....