

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 19 December 2018 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Cllr Williams - unwell.

Present: Ms Newland, Mr Sole, Mr Barnes, Mr Wenman, Mrs Slator, the Clerk and 4 members of the public.

Minutes: of the November meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received

Members' Interests Forms: Copies distributed to those Councillors who were present.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Implementation Group:

1) **The Village Clear-Up Day**, which was held on Saturday 8th December, was not well attended. However, a considerable amount of work was completed, so thank you to those who did turn out. Mr Ralph felt that with the use of mechanical equipment, it would be possible to clear paths and gutters a lot quicker. Training has been available from SCDC but need to access it.

2) **Hillsons:** The developers want to talk to the IG in January 2019, although there are no plans or suggested layouts available, as far as it is known. Recently, 2 Parish Councillors and 3 members from the IG met with Uzma Ali and Cllr Williams to discuss the proposal. All felt it was a good meeting and a lot of information was collected. All these developments are driven by the affordable housing needs, and it is likely that ACRE will be asked to undertake a housing needs survey. This is a formal study carried out by an external source - market houses can be built on an exception site, but only enough to make the affordable housing viable. This survey is then sent to an assessor (Carter Jonas) to verify that the number that the developer is proposing is correct. There must be support for the development in the village, or the scheme would not be able to go ahead. People on the housing list are banded in relation to their needs:- from A - crisis needs to D - has housing but would like their own. Any Ds with a local connection would take priority over the As.

3) **Parish Website.** The website is now editable, thanks to the work that George Ralph has been doing for the village. Mr Ralph reported that George has paid out £41-90 in costs associated with the website, and thought Council might be able to reimburse him for this. Council were all in favour of this and Clerk will get the cheque signed over the Christmas break. Clerk will e-mail the minutes from May to date to George for inclusion on the website. There is a website design company, Granite 5, on Mr Brown's business park and it might be possible to use them. Mrs Slator suggested that the cost for maintaining and hosting the village website should be considered when setting the precept, as opposed to the Community Benefit Fund, which could be considered for development costs. There will be a discussion on this in January, with a decision on how to proceed.

4) **Footpath:** The possibility of moving the footpath officially could be very costly to the landowner. Mr Ralph is pursuing the idea of a permitted path around the edge of the field.

Council Vacancy: Still no interest.

First Aid Course: The Tuesday Group First Aid training on 4th December was very well attended. Mr Everett is a good trainer and made the event both interesting and memorable. The Parish Council will be paying for both the cost of the training and the hire of the Reading Room from the Community Benefit Fund.

Emergency Plan Template: Council wondered if Top Farm already has an Emergency Plan as they have an airfield. The suggested phone tree for the Emergency Plan does not have to be made public. It is hoped that Council will be able to complete the Plan in January.

High Street subsidence: Clerk has reported this and received an acknowledgement - nothing further appears to have happened. Clerk to make enquiries regarding this.

Drain in the lay-by: This has been reported to Council as blocked - Clerk will report it for cleaning via the Highways Hotline.

on to the village at the start of one of the Council meetings. The original decision on the route was going to be made in December, but has been pushed back to Easter.

Speed Sign: Does the Parish Council wish to pursue the purchase of a moveable speed sign, costing in the region of £3,500 - £4,000 plus maintenance, or consider joining a Speedwatch Group? If Council joined a group, volunteers would be required. Clerk to look into this, with a view to collecting further information.

Cambridge and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership: Mrs Slator attended the conference and gave the following report:-

Scams are becoming part of everyday life and it is important that people are aware of how to combat them. Many posters were collected and some have been put up in the notice board - if more information is needed, please contact the Clerk.

Mayor James Palmer believes that everyone should use public transport, therefore he is suggesting that the Park and Ride sites should be abolished because eventually, there will be a network of buses designed to get everyone everywhere!

Trading Standards attended the conference - there is a website called "Friends against scams" where you can go on-line and complete a quick seminar about how to avoid scams.

<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/> Most people who are targeted by scammers are over the age of 75 - scammers take £3-4 billion per annum from them.

Community Engagement: We need to encourage more young people to get involved - CC wants larger parishes to take responsibility for services that traditionally they have provided - street lighting etc. Parish Councils need to be reminded of how many legal responsibilities they do have, although no-one had any ideas on how youngsters could be persuaded to become involved.

Cambridge Insight: Cambridgeshire Insight website is a shared research knowledge base for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. It allows users an easy way to access and share information and research for deeper insights about their local area. If you would like to use this, go to the website, look at South Cambs, the Ward and Croydon. The demographics are good to see (Croydon current population is 226).

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

Happy Christmas!

May we wish you and yours an extremely Happy Christmas and a prosperous and fulfilled New Year 2019.

Cambridgeshire County Council - is the Grinch... Cambridgeshire County Council is meeting this week (December 11th). It is notable for a motion from the Council's Leader about the decision to require council employees to take 3 days' unpaid leave between Xmas and New Year. The only reason why CCC needs to consider making Officers take unpaid leave is because the Administration refused to raise the basic rate of council tax over the last 5 years despite funding from other sources going down and demands for council services going up. This has deprived this council of over £25 million this year and is gross financial irresponsibility.

Of course – like many others – the Council is 'facing a difficult financial situation' but whose fault is that? It's certainly not the fault of the Officers who have been under tremendous pressure to deliver cost savings and themselves work in difficult circumstances. The Leadership says it will show solidarity if Councillor allowances are also stopped for three days. Most Councillors show solidarity with officers by treating them with respect, by championing their rights to a decent working environment and by challenging a system which is unable to properly fund the jobs which we ask them to do.

This is, of course, the Leadership that yanked Councillors allowances up well in excess of the level recommended by the Independent Review such that now NINE County Councillors earn more than £25,000 a year. Have we forgotten that our people are our most valuable asset? It seems some of us have.

The Mayor & Combined Authority: It's hard to know where to begin. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met. It discussed its draft budget for 2019/20 and it's a long cry from the minimal spend on overheads promised by the Mayor during his election campaign. And in breaking news during the month the Combined Authority's Finance Director's been shown the door after he presented a warts and all review of the CA's finances to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which the Mayor claimed misrepresented the true situation. When the Director refused to

read a prepared statement putting the Mayor's views his services were judged to be no longer required. There have been immediate calls from the leaders of South Cambs and the City that an urgent external review be undertaken of all the finances in order to restore public confidence that money is being spent wisely. The cost of running the Mayoral office had been promised (by the Mayor) to be less than £1m but is now substantially over £7 million.

To the profound concern of local residents the Mayor has changed his mind about allowing an off-road busway to be built to link Cambourne with Cambridge. Until a few weeks ago he had been vehemently promising that no busway would go through or near to the village of Coton. This position is now reversed. And it's not just local people who are concerned....

In the Autumn the Universities of Cambridge, Anglia Ruskin and senior business groups in Cambridge advised they were "deeply concerned" about the breakdown in relationship between the Mayor and the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (formerly City Deal). They say he is "damaging the strong relationships between the academic and business community and local government." And have written to the Minister for Local Communities for "urgent government intervention"; saying he is not building trust but reducing it.

At almost the same time County, City and District Council bosses, the NHS, the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer complained to Government in a joint letter that the Combined Authority was only giving limited or incomplete information on a number of major projects in which they would be involved.

It's hard to escape the conclusion that there's something rotten in the state of Denmark.

Cambridge Ice Rink: Councillors have approved additional loan funding of up to £550,000 to enable the completion of a permanent ice rink in South Cambridgeshire.

The District Council had already agreed in September 2016 to provide a £1.85 million loan to Cambridge Leisure and Ice Centre (CLIC) for the new venue, which is being built off Newmarket Road on the edge of Cambridge. The opening date has not been confirmed but they are hoping for it to be open as early as possible next year. Councillors have said that the decision to support the additional loan was driven by the objective of delivering a high-quality community sporting venue that will benefit the health and wellbeing of residents rather than the pure finances of the plan (which evidently are rather – ahem – thin).

Up to 25 new jobs are expected to be created by the rink. The 56 metre by 26 metre ice pad will meet the requirements of the International Ice Hockey Federation, allowing visiting teams from around the world to play ice hockey.

Mobile Warden Grants: Community groups in South Cambridgeshire can now bid for a share of £20,000 as part of a scheme that helps keep older residents in their own homes, and tackles loneliness. The funding is available from the District Council's Mobile Wardens grants scheme. Local groups that run these initiatives can bid for the money to help pay for them.

Mobile Wardens regularly visit elderly people, helping to keep them living in the community they know, and which knows them. They receive training to understand the needs of the people they visit and can help point out what other services they may be eligible for that could help keep them living at home. The Wardens may also help with practical tasks like light shopping, booking appointments, form-filling and the collection of prescriptions.

South Cambs Business Plan: The council has released its draft business plan for next year and are inviting the public to have a say here: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/businessplansocialmedia
The new administration at South Cambs District Council has finalised the Forward Plan and it is now on the Council's website ready for you to have your say. This plan sets out what the main priorities are for the Council and asks you to comment on whether you agree with them. The questionnaire takes about 5 minutes to complete and we are very keen that people do participate. In the past the response to such consultations has been very poor possible because people thought it was all a 'done deal'. However, this is not a done deal and resident views and opinions really will be taken into consideration. Additionally, if you have any bright ideas about how the council can either save money or make money please do share those too. Go to: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk>

Repair Cafes: The District Council helps volunteers to set up new Repair Cafes. If you are interested in setting up a Repair Cafe and would like support, or if you would like to volunteer as a repairer, please email spep@scambs.gov.uk or call 01954 713070.

Church Street Gamlingay: The newly laid pavements in Church Street have been welcomed by most and people are reporting a decrease in congestion at peak times. The delivery bay for the Coop appears to be very effective. It is disappointing however, to still see so many cars parked on the new

pavements, across people's driveways and illegally close to junctions - in particular the Stocks Lane/Church St Junction and the exit from The Maltings onto Church Street.

Rule 243 of the Highway Code is quite clear about what is legally permitted and what is illegal and includes not parking opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space and prohibits parking where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles, in front of an entrance to a property or on a bend.

Gamlingay Christmas Lights: It is lovely as always to see the Christmas lights and trees illuminated in the village and we are grateful to the businesses and individuals who have helped to make it look so festive yet again. Well done to the Parish Council, the Baptist Church and Community and Church Choirs for a lovely 'turning on the lights' event. The snow machines (thank you Mr Twydell) made it a very special evening.

Solution Gamlingay: The launch of the Solution Gamlingay business support website and App has attracted a lot of attention to the village. This is a truly innovative project which was supported in its early stage by South Cambs District Council and it is hoped will soon be replicated in many other villages. Its aim is to encourage local businesses to be part of each other's supply chains, to encourage residents to use local businesses as their first choice and to make help and advice easier to access for businesses. It also allows businesses to advertise free any jobs to local people and for local people to register to receive an email every time a new job is advertised. Local Businesses have told us that they really value their local work force but it is not always easy to find local people to fill vacancies.

As well as having information for businesses Solution Gamlingay also has a Visit Gamlingay section with loads of information about places to visit, walk and cycle. If you know of any particular gems which are not included do let the parish clerks know so that they can include it.

South Cambs Magazine: We were delighted to see a lovely, local family on the front cover of the South Cambs Magazine especially as it was to highlight the new homes built for local people at Robinson Court. If you have not seen this new development please do go and have a look. The houses are very smart and have greatly improved an area that was looking a bit sad and run down.

The Council is also very keen to advertise local village events in the What's On section of the magazine. You do need to give quite early warning but knowing how organised most of our volunteer run community groups are that should not be too much of a problem. You can even advertise regular events such as the extremely popular Connect Cafe which seems to go from strength to strength and which runs every Friday morning at the Eco Hub.

Housing: Now that the Government has lifted the borrowing cap on councils wanting to build more council and affordable homes we are delighted that South Cambs will be looking at every opportunity to increase its supply of properties throughout the district. The Council has seen a worrying increase in the numbers of people on its housing list and a recent increase in debt from its housing residents. If you are a tenant of the council and are finding it difficult to make ends meet do talk to your housing officer and to the Citizens Advice Bureau at the earliest opportunity. There is lots of help to be had but the earlier you access it the easier it will be to put a plan in place to help you.

The new Lib Dem administration at South Cambs District Council has finalised their Forward Plan and it is now on the Council's website ready for you to have your say. This plan sets out what the main priorities are for the Council and asks you to comment on whether you agree with them. The questionnaire takes about 5 minutes to complete and we are very keen that people do participate. In the past the response to such consultations has been very poor possible because people thought it was all a 'done deal'. However, this is not a done deal and residents views and opinions really will be taken into consideration. Additionally if you have any bright ideas about how the council can either save money or make money please do care those with us too. Visit: <https://www.scams.gov.uk>

Staying in your own home: Most people want to stay in their own homes even when they are struggling to cope physically. The District Council is working with the Cambridgeshire Home Improvements Agency to provide Disability Facilities Grants of up to £30,000 to help with home adaptations. This can include such things as adapted showers, stair lifts, widened doorways and easier to access switches and plugs. To be eligible you must either own your own home, live in private rented accommodation or in a housing association house. To find out more either ring 03450 455202 or go to www.scams.gov.uk/housing/home-improvement-grants

GPs and NHS Staff: The recent international recruitment drive had a target of 30 new GPs for Cambs but has seen a total of only three. Addenbrookes has reported on workforce issues (given that half of all nursing recruits come from overseas) highlighting a costly bureaucracy is evolving to deal

with immigration issues. That can only get worse given that currently the target area is the EU (because licensing regimes are the same here as there).

Cambridgeshire Archives: Cambridgeshire Archives will reopen in a new venue in Ely next Autumn. Up to now the unique and irreplaceable historical records have been held in the Shire Hall basement but will now be kept in purpose built and environmentally-controlled archives accommodation.

The archives service holds 855 tons of historical documents dating from the 13th century onwards. They include Oliver Cromwell's baptism record, the original 17th century maps proposing the draining of the Fens, and Huntingdon's borough charter of 1205, older than Magna Carta. Many of the oldest documents are written in Latin, meaning archives staff are probably the only members of staff at the County Council who still find a knowledge of Latin useful in their everyday work. A blessed relief, I should think.

Cambridgeshire County Council relocation: Well, that didn't take long. Even before a brick is laid the costs of the relocation of CCC HQ to Alconbury Weald has risen. New design elements and a four acre site purchase are set to increase the overall cost by £1.7m. The costs of the new administrative hub are now set to cost around £18.3m. The original spec required 2 acres of land but it turns out we'll need four. That's quite an 'oversight'

Correspondence:

Local Development Plan: Any information received has been circulated.

Electoral register: The complete list has been received and circulated at the meeting for Councillors' information.

Wood Grill complaint: Through the Whatsapp group in the village a report of noise from the Wood Grill has been received. Mr Wenman has spoken to the management and asked them to take steps to moderate the noise, which is reportedly from customers and staff leaving the establishment. A sign has been erected asking people to be considerate when leaving. The complainant does have a letter from the previous owner of the house informing them of the pitfalls of living next to a pub. It was suggested that a reminder to keep noise down could be put on the bill for the meal when presented to the customer. The windows are also being kept closed to keep the noise down.

Church: Mr Ralph reported that the church had been broken into at the end of November. The intruders were disturbed and a partial registration number was obtained (AY04 ---). There was a good police response to the incident.

Electronic correspondence : All circulated

Any subsequent receipts: It was suggested that Croydon might like to become a Dementia friendly community, and consider opening a monthly coffee stop in the Reading Room for anyone who is at home during the day to attend.

Finance:

NSI: Clerk has received confirmation of the signatories for the account have been noted - Clerk also pointed out that for some reason she has been included on the list, but will not on any account be signing.

Items for next agenda:

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16 January 2019 in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed

Date