

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 18 December 2019 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Mr Sole - unwell

**Present:** Mr Barnes, Mrs Slator, Ms Newland, Mr Wheeler, Mr Brown, the Clerk and four members of public.

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

**Declarations of Interest:** None received.

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

#### **Implementation Group report:**

**Village Clear-up Day:** The 12 litter pick kits requested from SCDC, have arrived and been passed to the Implementation Group. Three of these will be clipped to the outside of the Reading Room storage shed, for easy access by the public. Would like to check with SCDC whether a 1m wide path clearing machine is available, as it would be extremely helpful to those involved in the Clear-up Day.

**Housing Needs Survey:** The IG is ready to help with this in any way that it can. It is hoped that if an affordable housing development materialises, there will be community facilities provided with it.

**Good Neighbour Scheme:** Will be investigated to see if there is any interest in starting this.

**E-News:** This appears to be working well. The WhatsApp group is also working well, but there have been some personal disagreements aired on it, and this is not the place.

**Website:** Following the meeting on 10 December, the preferred supplier has been sent some queries, and a response regarding these is awaited.

**Speedwatch:** As Cllr Williams did not attend, no date has been made known for the "patch" meeting.

**Privacy Notice:** Councillors made a decision on the preferred wording as the attachment for e-mails, and this will be added to all Council electronic correspondence.

**Clopton Village Site:** Mr Brown has been unable to ascertain who the owner of the land adjacent to the Clopton Village site is, but will continue with his enquiries.

**Meeting Calendar:** Council had previously suggested that as Easter is a movable feast, the April Council meeting may have to be moved to avoid holding the meeting during a possible Easter holiday week. Easter Monday 2020 is 13 April and the regular meeting should be on the third Wednesday, 15 April. To avoid this holiday week, Councillors resolved to move the April 2020 meeting one week later to 22 April 2020. This will be clearly advertised in the Notice board.

**Tuesday Group:** The next Tuesday Group meeting will be on 7th January 2020 and the subject will be how to make the Car Show more eco-friendly. The 4th February meeting will be about biodiversity in Croydon Churchyard. There is an award available (bronze, silver and gold) which is given to communities who are involved in this. Making the churchyard more nature-friendly will create a link to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**Tree Pollarding:** The churchyard is used by many people, and they are not all local. The Parochial Church Council is keen to maintain the churchyard by working with the Parish Council. If the main churchyard were to be declared closed, as it is already full, then the full upkeep would fall upon the PC. The large trees along the border of the road side of the churchyard are in need of pollarding. This needs to be undertaken every three to four years and costs in the region of £600-00. Would Council consider precepting for an increased amount for the churchyard? This could be an annual payment, and not necessarily a lump sum. Mr Wheeler suggested that the PCC produced a breakdown of the costs for churchyard maintenance to show where the PC grant is spent.

**CLAF re: Wimpole Park access:** Clerk had prepared and circulated a draft response to the letter from Cambs Local Access Forum regarding the proposed plans for access to Wimpole Park. The CLAF letter suggested that, if the National Trust's plans go ahead, it may create parking problems in local villages. Clerk had copied some of Council's earlier letters to the Wimpole Park General Manager and other evidence, showing that the parking problems in Church Lane, Arrington have been in existence for over 9 years at least! Councillors were satisfied with this response, which was signed by the Chair and will be sent off to CLAF.

## **County Councillor's written Report - Cllr Kindersley**

**Green Belt:** It is disappointing that some negative campaigning during the election included a number of lies stating the District Council is promoting greenbelt sites to developers. This is obviously untrue. South Cambs has just been independently assessed as being the most successful council in the region for promoting the environment in all our activities and operations; and Bridget is in the hugely privileged position of being the political lead for the environment for the Oxford Cambridge Arc. This shows people well outside of our district have confidence in us to deliver a zero-carbon region in which we do everything we can to protect and enhance the countryside. It is not the business of the Council to 'promote' any sites. What has happened is that in preparation for the next Local Plan landowners have been invited to submit sites for development to the Council for consideration. Less than 10% of those sites will make it into any Local Plan; and this is a process that happens for every Plan period.

**Greening the Council:** South Cambs is doing a huge amount to decarbonise the Council. For example, in the Environmental Waste service South Cambs and Cambridge City have installed a 30kW (kilo-watt) solar PV array on the roof at the Waterbeach Waste Depot. These panels are generating around 25% of our current need for electricity - they are the maximum size for the roof space can accommodate as well as the maximum to secure Feed-in Tariff payments. Additionally, these panels are reducing our costs on-site by 50% - utilising the electricity generated by panels saves us purchasing from grid and the Feed-in Tariff payments offset further electricity costs. We will be working with their Energy Performance Contractor to look for further opportunities to reduce heat and power demand on the Waterbeach site.

The Shared Waste service is also exploring options to move away from a fossil-fuelled vehicle fleet to renewable energy options. Two smaller electric vehicles will be trialled in December and the aim is to trial a larger electric Refuse Collection Vehicle in Spring 2020

**Cambridge Zero:** It was an honour to be invited to the launch of the University's Cambridge Zero initiative where the message from Sir David Attenborough and his eminent colleagues was stark. Individuals have to make significant changes to our behaviour immediately and if we do not then our legacy for our children will be mass extinction. The mission of Cambridge Zero is to 'innovate, cooperate and regenerate'.

At South Cambridgeshire District Council we are leading the way nationally to decarbonise our district and to set the highest standards for others to follow; and our ambition is to be a zero carbon district well in advance of 2050. A district where all houses are built to the highest energy efficiency standards and developers cannot argue their way out of this on grounds of protecting their profits. Where all existing houses are made much more energy efficient, where the air is clean, where we can travel by sustainable means to where we need to go and where high-quality green spaces are well linked and everybody has easy access to them.

**Empty Houses:** There are currently 648 unoccupied houses in South Cambridgeshire - that's quite a large village-worth! The Council gives advice and assistance to get property back into use - get in touch if you'd like to know more.

**Gamlingay First School :** Sebastian met with the County Council's Chief Executive, Finance Director, Education Director and Property & Assets Director to set out his (and the community's) deep frustration about the way the County Council is behaving in relation to the First School site. A full response has been promised by December 6<sup>th</sup> – too late for the Gazette deadline – so this will be in the next edition.

It's worth rehearsing the comments made to the Cambridge News: "Cllr Kindersley said his understanding was that the buildings could be used to house preschools, a plan he said: "was promoted by myself and the county council. The brilliant plan that would have satisfied absolutely everybody in all directions has been ditched without any kind of local consultation or even consultation with the local councillor, and we are now back to the situation where the village is starting to get really tetchy about the future of the First School site," Cllr Kindersley said. Adding "it is extraordinary that a great plan that had widespread community buy-in has been reneged on effectively by the county to see if they can realise hard cash".

A further piece of the jigsaw: the County Council commissioned a report from Atkins which set out very clearly the various options for reconfiguring the building for preschools and/or a SEN unit at a cost of £5,000 (yes, five thousand) so clearly CCC was serious about the plan as well.

**Cambs Police News:** Demand is at an all-time high for Cambridgeshire Police, with the force receiving a 999 call every four minutes and reports of a non-emergency every 90 seconds. As a result, police are asking the public to think carefully about whether the situation they face is a policing matter, encouraging people to make use of online reporting and highlighting the negative impact of hoax calls. They have

also launched a “what happens next” campaign to explain to victims the process following a crime or intelligence report and the likely timescales involved.

The Police rely heavily on information from the public in order to do their job and would like to know your concerns. If you see something that you think they should know about please report it. You never know... it could be the missing piece of the jigsaw that they need in order to take action.

Telephone call 101 or online at [www.cambs.police.uk/report](http://www.cambs.police.uk/report) or Textphone 18001 101

### **Are you looking for an opportunity to work with children and young people with disabilities?**

The Community Support Service and CamPlay provide short breaks to children and young people with additional needs, aged 0-18 years, as part of the Cambridgeshire Local Offer for children and young people with disabilities. We offer support in the home and community, Saturday clubs, community clubs and holiday clubs throughout the county of Cambridgeshire. We are always looking for enthusiastic staff to join our team!

We are currently recruiting for both services on a relief contract basis. The flexible nature of the job provides a way of ‘topping up’ hours in holidays, after school, weekends and evenings. We also provide a comprehensive training programme and support in working with children and young people with a wide range of learning and physical disabilities, which are skills that can be brought back to your existing job. We are based in Huntingdon but have work available across Cambridgeshire.

If you would be interested in applying or have any questions, please get in touch on [Community.SupportServices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Community.SupportServices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or 01480 379 800. We have ongoing recruitment with regular interviews, and you can visit [www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk](http://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk) to apply.

**New Archives Centre, Ely:** The archives currently held in Shire Hall basement are now being moved across into the repository of the new building, where they will be stored in environmentally controlled storage for the first time.

Currently over 10,000 archive boxes have already been safely moved across, of which precisely 5,244 have been so far scanned by the archive team’s barcode scanning unit. The barcode system matches a historical document’s entry on the online database to that specific document’s location, thereby enabling staff to locate a document within seconds no matter where it may be stored in the new centre’s amazing seven miles of shelving! Currently we anticipate that the new centre will open to the public towards the end of the year.

**Helping the Forces:** A new mobile app has been launched to signpost members of the armed forces community in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support and advice in their area. The free ‘Forces Connect’ app is aimed at serving personnel, veterans, and their families who can now find local services and organisations offering support in just four clicks. To download the app, search “Forces Connect” in Apple’s App Store or the Google Play Store.

**Climate Emergency – please help!** Cambridgeshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in May 2019, and in response to this, the Council is developing a Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy outlines how we will reduce the carbon footprint of the council and the county; help our communities adapt to the change already happening; and enhance nature and the benefits it provides. The consultation on the strategy will end on 31 January 2020. The strategy and questionnaire is available online.

**General Election:** By the time you read this we will be on the other side of the General Election and there will be a new MP for South Cambridgeshire. We would publicly like to say thank you to Heidi Allen for all her hard work over the past years as our MP. Irrespective of her political affiliation, she has been a good, hard working and compassionate MP who has always responded to the needs of our residents whenever we have called upon her for help. We were appalled to learn of the abuse that she had been subjected to, though it did not come as much of a surprise as, even at our lowly level of politics, we are far from immune. We wish her well in the future.

**Land South of West Road:** It has been a bit of a mystery why the building of 29 houses on the site known as ‘Land South of West Rd, has not progressed. We now know that the final planning application is available on the South Cambs Planning Portal for all to see and for you all to comment on. Consultation letters should have been received by residents living near to the site or who have commented on it before. Please do look at the latest plan and submit your views. The planning reference number is S/4085/19/RM.

**Lamp Posts in Swannell Way and Poppyfields:** There appear to be a couple of missing lamp posts on Swannell Way and Poppyfields. The Parish Clerks have, as always been very helpful, and have

ascertained that Kier believe they were transferred to the County Council in 2018, but the County (surprise, surprise) say they have not yet been adopted. No doubt this is another saga that will run and run. In the meantime we have asked the Parish Council to consider the installation of solar powered floorlights along the Station Road footway as it is unacceptably dark especially around the Bridge.

**Green End Housing:** The reserved matters Planning Application has now been lodged at South Cambs. S/4085/19/RM Reserved matters application for layout, scale, appearance and landscaping following outline permission S/2068/15/OL for the demolition of industrial and office units and 5 dwellings for the erection of up to 90 dwellings, and associated works at Green End Industrial Estate, Green End, Gamlingay SG19 3LF. Gamlingay Parish Council will be discussing it on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7pm at the Kier Suite, rear of the Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay. As this is a Large Scale Planning Application the Council requires a Public Meeting /display of the plans available to residents in good time before this date – to be advised around the village.

**Highway Repairs in Odsey:** The Highway Supervisor has confirmed he has cut vegetation back around road signs at Odsey a while ago and repaired a piece of the low dovetail fencing; there are a couple of bits still broken but these are only noticeable if you look hard for them! He has also placed an order to have the lining refreshed (including double yellows opposite the Jester) but weather is causing havoc with the contractors schedules so as far as I'm aware this is still outstanding (as is the lining on the Litlington one-way system). The only other outstanding report at Odsey is the missing bollard on one of the build outs which currently still has a cone on it and which will likely have to wait until the new financial year. He ends by adding "FYI our budgets are all but exhausted for anything but potholes and emergency/urgent issues...."

**Barrington Quarry:** Very last minute - we've just heard the Appeal Inspector has granted the reserved matters application for the Redrow application so we can assume things will start moving quickly now.

**Grays Road Parking:** Finally the Council has admitted that the delay to this project is unacceptable and are going to sub-contract out the work to get the planning application sorted. Further progress (hopefully) to be reported on soon.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Electoral register:** Full register received, which Councillors examined.

**Greater Cambridge Partnership Planning Policy update:** Circulated to Councillors.

**Highways England A14 update:** The new 12 mile by-pass from Ellington to Swavesey is now open. There have already been complaints about the poor/confusing signage.

**CCC Climate Change Strategy:** Cambs County Council is holding a consultation on its Climate Change Strategy. The consultation is being hosted on ConsultCambs website:

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/climate-strategy> CCC is keen to hear the views of Parish Councils on the Strategy, and to understand where they may be able to support them in their vision for a Net Zero Cambridgeshire. The consultation runs until 31 January 2020. Details of the consultation will be circulated to the village via Mailchimp.

**Cyber Scams:** There are no new scams currently circulating, but keep vigilant.

**Cambs Insight:** A very useful site a great deal of information on the villages in Cambridgeshire.

**CCC Highways Events:** There is not a lot happening in January, but advance notification of a half marathon in Cambridge in March was given. All information is available on-line.

**Photo Competition:** An ACRE supported Photo competition is currently open, asking not for photos of the village halls, but events that the village holds/attends. Information on this has already been circulated via Mailchimp.

**ACRE Village Halls Conference:** This information has already been passed to the Chair of the Reading Room trustees, to see if there is a representative who would like to attend.

**SCDC E-bulletin:** There is an offer of three free trees for each Parish Council. Clerk will make enquiries regarding this.

**Local Electricity Bill:** Council's support has been requested for the Local Electricity Bill. The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. Council did not feel it could support this request.

**75th Anniversary of VE Day:** A company selling fireworks was asking if Council intended to celebrate this with a firework display? Councillors did not want to.

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

**Subsequent receipts:**

**Cambs Fire and Rescue:** Every three to four years they are required to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) where the risks faced are identified and how these risks will be mitigated. The plan can be found at:-

[https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/media/2581/cfrs-548583-v2-draft\\_irmp\\_2020-2024.pdf](https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/media/2581/cfrs-548583-v2-draft_irmp_2020-2024.pdf).

Please respond via email, or if easier, there is a short online feedback form available at:-

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NNXC3L7> The consultation closes on Friday, 24 January 2020.

**Tree Preservation Order:** Application to remove and replace trees at South House. Council had no objections.

**Finance:**

**Bank Statement:** Not received

**SLCC Subs:** Clerk asked Council if they would consider funding her membership of the SLCC for 2020. Council were happy to do this, and a cheque for £65-00 was signed - Clerk thanked Councillors and will send this off to the Society, along with a copy invoice..

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

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.23pm

Signed .....

Date .....

Draft Copy