

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 16 December 2015 in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

Apologies: Cllr Kindersley - official duties.

Present: Mr Martin, Mr Wheeler, Mrs Slator, Mr Brown, Mr Sole, 2 members of public and the Clerk.

Minutes: of the November meeting previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Queen Adelaide: There is an unconfirmed rumour that the village pub will be opening at Easter.

CLP: Report from Mr Ralph:- "We have 11 signed up for the main Implementation Group & another 6 people not on the IG who have signed up to be involved in topics that interest them. So this is an excellent result. All those who have signed up have been asked to identify their main areas of interest and with so large a group it looks like we ought to be able to spread the load across all of the topics in the plan so that will be one advantage of having a group larger than was perhaps first expected. The first meeting of the IG is scheduled for 6th January, and at this meeting Chairperson along with other roles will need to be filled and methods of working agreed. Together with regular formal reporting to the PC, having Sue and James on the IG should guarantee close working relations between the IG & PC. I believe it is important that the IG has quite formal terms of reference so that its role is clear for the medium term. The PC Chairman and I have discussed agreeing these ahead of the first meeting along the lines (just a draft at this stage) "In cooperation with the Parish Council, the role of the Implementation Group is to implement the expressed wishes of Croydon people as presented in the Community Led Report & Action Plan, and consulting further where necessary". Any comments from this evening's meeting on this draft would be gratefully received. Following the presentation to the SCDC Leaders meeting we have received offers of help and information from District Councillors and officials. These can be picked up after the first meeting of IG in January."

Dog Bin: Comment from Mr and Mrs Ralph:- "As the CLP report shows - Section 5.3 - dog fouling was among the highest of reported concerns, possibly the highest of all, yet we have only one dog bin at the east end of the High Street. New Wimpole, for example, has four bins along the short stretch of the main road - 3 Red, 1 Green. While it is true there has been a significant problem of dog fouling along the public footpath next to Bedlam, the dog fouling problem is not exclusively related to this path alone as fouling occurs along the pavement as well. Another bin at the west end of the village can only help - and note there are of course 5 other public footpaths leading from the High Street at the west end. An important additional point is that some non-resident dog walkers arrive in cars to use the local footpaths and having a bin would certainly provide them with an alternative to either putting a bag in their car or, perhaps more likely, not picking up at all. We know the PC has received several communications about where a second bin might be located; we believe the most sensible location is on the public land in the area of the post box where it will not be directly overlooked. If all else fails we have also offered to locate it tight up against our front hedge between our steps and the public footpath. Thank you for your considerable efforts already expended in this regard and hopefully with the wisdom of Solomon you will be able to separate the specious arguments from the wider public good."

The site for the second dog bin has caused a great deal of discussion and disagreement and Council has been unable to reach a decision without offending the residents on either side of the High Street. Mrs Slator has suggested that a dog waste bag dispenser, sited at the start of the footpath, but beyond the entrance to North and South House would be a reasonable compromise. The occupants of South House were present at the meeting and had no objection to the suggestion, as long as the dispenser is not visible from their property. This was agreed and Clerk will contact Heidi Duffet regarding this, although there is still the problem of the waste disposal. It was suggested that signage to direct dog owners to the dog bin adjacent to the Reading Room could be provided.

Transparency Code and Costs: The Chairman is optimistic that he can download the application form for funding, but has not had time to do so yet.

Community Benefit Fund: Mr Wheeler is to start the process of opening an Everyday Saver account for the Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund. Clerk had produced a list of suggested criteria for the fund payments and will circulate to councillors so that they can accept/reject/add to the list. This will be finalised at the January meeting.

Solar Farm Planting: Clerk wrote to Push Energy as instructed and received the following response, dated 30 November 2015:-

We can confirm that the planting is scheduled to begin next week as planned. If you require more information regarding the planting please do not hesitate to contact Gavin Bays at the following e-mail address - gavin@pushenergy.co.uk, who will be able to provide more specific details.

Regarding the junction of the access road and Church Lane, we are currently waiting for the Highways Agency to confirm approval of our submitted works (this will include a gate hedging and kerbs). Once approval has been received we will commence with the works.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Samantha Mee

It was reported at the meeting that to date, no planting had taken place, in spite of the letter stating that the planting would begin "next week" (w/c 7 December). Council will monitor the situation. Concerns have also been raised regarding the drainage at the Solar Farm. There is still a large "puddle" on the footpath and run-off down Church Lane has increased. Problems with excess water in Church End, Arrington have also been reported.

Reading Room Wall: A surveyor has inspected the site and reported that the wall will dry out eventually and there should be no further problems. As the Reading Room Trustees had approached Council for funding for this, Mr Brown had also inspected the area where the problem occurs. He reported that the guttering is too short and so the rainwater is not being fed into the downpipe, but runs down the wall. Mr Sole has offered to replace the offending guttering with a piece long enough to direct the water into the downpipe. The wall is likely to take up to 12 months to dry out completely.

Loose Livestock: Mrs Slator recently had trouble with pigs in her garden, and this is not the first time that she has had animals in her property. The pigs have also been as far as Sapseds' farm and Valley Farm on Lower Road. Mrs Slator has also experienced bullocks in the garden. When the pigs were in her garden she contacted the Police, who were dismissive of the incident as Croydon High Street is a "country road" and traffic would not be moving very fast along it so the pigs would not be a hazard! It was suggested that perhaps the fencing on the farm from which the livestock has been escaping is inadequate. Cllr Smith will make enquiries.

Council Meetings 2016: Clerk presented the meetings calendar for 2016 and asked that the February meeting could be moved by one week in order to accommodate her holiday, which has to be taken out of school term time and the scheduled third Wednesday in February is half term week. Council were happy to move the meeting to Wednesday 24 February. It was also suggested that meetings could start at 7.30pm instead of 8.00pm, and this was resolved to commence in January 2016.

Verbal report - Cllr Smith

Local Plan: More work has been done on this and the proposed revisions have gone out for consultation. An extra 500 houses have been added. The "Nine Wells" site, currently a nature reserve has been proposed for "employment means" - this is Green Belt land and should not be used at all. Please make objections to this on-line.

City Deal: A consultation for a proposed busway from Madingly Mulch to the centre of Grange Road is underway. A contraflow bus lane on existing roads would be a much better idea.

Milton Road: A proposal to cut down all the trees on Milton Road and therefore make the road wider for buses. The main problem is that the number of cars in Cambridge needs to be reduced - this could be achieved by more Park and Ride and more Park and Cycle. Possible option of a Congestion Charge. This would be very expensive to install and who would receive the revenue?. Another option is gating - this would count the number of cars entering the city centre and when full the gates would close and no-one could get in unless someone comes out.

Planning:

There are usually about 300 active cases at any one time, however this is currently 600! Pre-applications (where the planning officer gives advice and information) are taking too long and payments are having to be refunded. Thoughts are that maybe merging 2 or 3 authorities would save money. Trade waste is a shared service with the City Council. Exception sites may be discontinued as 100% affordable housing sites are no longer viable and a mix of housing types is necessary.

Boundary Commission: During the review the Commission will listen to the views of Parish Councils so please make a submission.

Elections: In order to save money there will be all out elections in 2018.

Health Visitors: Used to be arranged by the Clinical Commissioning Group, but now a shard responsibility with CCC. Health Visitors for this area will come from the Children's Centre in Cambourne.

Correspondence:

Boundary Review: Reported elsewhere and the time to comment on this is extended to February next year.

Electoral Register: New register received and perused by Council.

Broadband: There is a fibre feed to the green box on Croydon Hill. Feeds from there to properties would still be copper, but this has improved the speeds locally. Sebastian has approached Cambs County Council regarding the provision of better Broadband speeds locally and copied the e-mail below, which was sent to Hatley but he felt Croydon and Gamlingay would also be interested:-

Hi Sebastian

I think the best approach is a meeting with Parish Council members so we can answer any questions. I'm happy to do that – any evening apart from Tuesday is normally OK for me. I will try and bring someone from BT along too.

Regards

Sarah

Mrs Slator stated that at her property in Wales Broadband speeds of 73 mbps were normal.

Electronic Correspondence: All circulated - nothing raised.

Planning:

Tree Works: South House, High Street - following advice given by Tree Officer from SCDC, the proposed works were deemed to be necessary. It was proposed by Mrs Slator and seconded by Mr Sole that no objections be raised. All in favour.

Pantiles: An application for a garage at Pantiles in the High Street was received. After perusal of the plans it was proposed by the Chairman that no objections be made - all in favour.

Finance:

Bank Statement: Current total - £7878 - 08

Items for the next agenda: Hedgecutting

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20 January 2015 in the Reading Room, starting at **7.30pm**.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

Date

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