

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21 December 2016 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Brown gave retrospective apologies for the November meeting. It was reported that Ms Newland was unwell so may not attend.

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

Minutes: Of the November meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Queen Adelaide: Following the Carol Singing on 22nd December, there will be a gathering in the pub for the village, to see the improvements made to the building. Drinks and refreshments will be available, and hopefully there will be a good turnout.

Community Payback Scheme: The PCC is in discussion with the scheme to see what can be offered.

Implementation Group: The IG would like to use some funding to purchase high quality litter grabbers for use in the village. Council is happy to purchase these, but needs to have the supplier details so that the invoice can be sent to Council and the VAT reclaimed..

Display boards: Further information at the January meeting.

Communications Survey: The report has been finalised and will be with the Parish Council for the next meeting (January 2017). Clerk passed information from the Orwell Bulletin to the IG, which might be useful in setting up an e-mail Distribution Group in Croydon.

Land on Croydon Hill: The IG was outbid in their attempt to purchase the land for the village.

Local Highways Improvements: Derek Crosbie from Cambs Police is happy to support CCC in the proposal for a 40mph speed limit on Larkins Road. Council will apply through the Minor Improvements Scheme in 2017.

Members' Interest Forms: were returned to those who were present at the meeting.

Reading Room Improvements: A keycase has been fitted to the wall of the Reading Room, the code for which will be passed to people hiring the premises. The ground underneath is very muddy, so Mr Brown will put a paving slab there to prevent the transfer of mud into the Reading Room.

Clopton Close Parking: Cllr Smith is making enquiries into what should be done about this and will report to the meeting as soon as she can. Residents of neighbouring properties are concerned as there have been instances of criminal damage, intimidation and abuse. The rules concerning who can and cannot park there need to be established.

Council Meetings 2017: Clerk asked Council if they would object to moving the February meeting by one week to accommodate her holiday which, due to her day job, has to be taken during the school holidays. Council had no objections to this and the calendar has been finalised and will be circulated and also put into the notice board.

Report from Cllrs Kindersley and Smith (circulated to Councillors and added after the meeting)

Devolution: Well, the battle is over. All the Cambridgeshire authorities have now met and agreed to accept the Government's Devolution proposal. We were solidly against this as it is not devolving power from Government to you but from Government and the County Council to a single person – an elected Mayor who will take their place in a new layer of expensive bureaucracy in May 2017. However, it's done and we must make the best of it – and we will fight to ensure that we get value for money and keep any idiotic decisions to a minimum.

What will we get? At face value there's a lot of good stuff so we must be positive! We will have a new £20m annual fund for the next 30 years (£600million) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs. There's £170 million for affordable housing, including £100 million for affordable, rent and shared ownership – particularly in response to housing issues in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. There is a proposed specific £70 million fund to meet housing

needs in Cambridge which Cambridge City Council have indicated would be spent on new Council housing (and without which the City Council would have not supported the Mayor). Other things to look forward to include the delivery of the Wisbech Garden Town and the Wisbech-Cambridge rail connection, transport infrastructure improvements such as A14/A142 junction and upgrades to the A10 and the A47 as well as Ely North Junction, Rail improvements including a new station at Soham and investment in a Peterborough University with degree-awarding powers.

Budget Consultation: South Cambridgeshire District Council is asking residents and businesses how their money should be spent in delivering services to them over the next five years, with a draft plan setting out four priority areas from 2017 to 2022. This does build on work already being carried out to reduce costs and increase Council income to deliver value for money services to help communities and businesses thrive.

So - you are being asked your views on four priority areas. Living Well where the Council wants to support communities to make sure the district is a healthy place for everyone to live in; providing facilities for both new and established communities at the appropriate time (so not like what happened at Cambourne).

Secondly - Homes for our Future – There is a pressing demand for housing and “the Council wants to keep working with developers to ensure early delivery of high quality new homes, good transport links and facilities”. They are also focussing on preventing people becoming homeless through giving early support (V good). It’s a shame that most of the new communities being developed are not delivering 40% affordable housing, and it’s a shame that the failure of the Council’s Local Plan means that villages across South Cambs are being swamped by speculative, unplanned development by the very developers the Council is supposedly ‘working with’.

The we move onto Connected Communities – Transport links and better digital infrastructure, such as broadband, are important to connect people and businesses. One focus is the Greater Cambridge City Deal – which covers Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and which is seemingly intent on spending cash on a series of unpopular projects which have no evidential backing to them and appear to be more ‘vanity’ projects promoted by individual empire-builders – none of whom has tried to get to work, college or an appointment from Gamlingay on a bus!

Lastly we are asked our views on “An Innovative and Dynamic Organisation”. Huge cuts to the money the Council receives from government to provide services has meant there is even more need to generate its own income. The Council’s housing company - Ermine Street Housing - is one of the ways money is being generated to offset cuts. Let’s hope it works!

The consultation on the Council’s corporate plan will close on Friday 20 January 2017 - please visit www.scambs.gov.uk/council-aims-and-objectives to view the full plans and have your say.

Wild Flowers at Manor & Murfitt Way & Avenalls Way: These should be finally clipped down by the time you read this (scheduled for December 19th). Loads of comment about this on Facebook. Would anyone like to volunteer to help next year as the general feeling was they were great when in flower - not so much when not? Please get in touch if you want to help keep your part of the village in tip-top condition!

Residents have done this at Avenall’s Way – a super impressive floral display outside the Day Centre all planned, planted and maintained by residents. Bridget has submitted a grant application to the Wind Turbine Tithe for £150 to assist the residents to do it all again in the spring. We are delighted that this money has been promptly awarded and thank the Wind Turbine Directors who we hope will enjoy the display as much as the residents do.

Crime: Grim reading from the weekly crime reports that many of us get by e-mail each week - a worrying increase in burglary and car related crime in South Cambridgeshire - some of it in our villages and just before Christmas. This is worrying - we all need to be extra vigilant about our own home security. If you see something suspicious, please ring 101 and report it (unless an emergency - 999 for that!). If you’ve had difficulties getting through, please try again as the Police & Crime Commissioner has assured Sebastian that the contact centre has recruited and trained many more call handlers which should reduce the current long delays.

Planning Something Fabulous? South Cambs Magazine is planning to introduce an Events section to help promote things taking place in local communities. The spring edition of the magazine will be delivered between 28 February and 19 March so we are looking for things taking place between then and mid-June. To apply to have your event included please contact Gareth on 01954 713289.

Do some draught busting! Thermal imaging cameras are once again available to borrow free of charge for locating where heat is leaking out of your home, spurring action on insulation and draught

proofing (possibly). The cameras come with an operating manual, but a brief training session is advised. Book a place by emailing sped@scambs.gov.uk with your name, address and a phone number in case we need to contact you. A camera loan can be booked by calling 03450 450 063 or emailing reception@scambs.gov.uk.

Your Help Please! The County Council has set up a £1m Innovation Fund which YOU can apply to if you have a cunning plan! The aim of the Fund is to support people to do things in their own communities or to develop a good idea, building on strengths, talents and expertise. It is for community groups and organisations with ideas about how to improve the lives of local people, particularly those who are most vulnerable. For example, this could be a small scale local project that builds support for vulnerable people within the community, or a larger scale innovative project using new technology to transform the way vulnerable people can be supported.

Grants start at £2,000 and we are looking for proposals which aim to achieve increased capacity within communities to help others, so that people and communities become more resilient and the need for people to use Council services subsequently falls.

Particular emphasis is on promoting independence for older people or adults with disabilities so for example reducing or delaying the need for home care or residential care; reducing social isolation amongst older people; increasing the capacity of communities to support their more vulnerable residents and ensuring young people with learning disabilities or autism are well prepared for adulthood.

The Fund encourages new and innovative thinking, and any proposals which have a positive impact will be encouraged. Applications may propose the delivery of a product, for example, a website, or a piece of equipment, or the delivery of an activity, for example, a time bank, or a lunch club for older people.

It is expected that most applications will focus on delivering a product or a service which prevents or reduces the need for local people to access more costly interventions. However, some applications may propose the delivery of a service which replaces at a lower cost something that the County Council currently does itself – for example, delivering a local library service. So please get your thinking hats on! Lots more info on the CCC website.

New Integrated Urgent Care Service & A&E: Last month we wrote about the New Integrated Urgent Care Service. Turns out that if you live in Gamlingay it's not integrated at all - with no access by Gamlingay residents to the mental health element available to all other Cambridgeshire residents it seems. Grrrr. We have taken this up with the CCG and it is being investigated.

On another health related issue Addenbrookes Hospital has been receiving over 1000 people through A&E each weekend. This means that people are having to wait ages to be seen and it is stretching the system to breaking point. Part of the problem is that 15% of these people should actually be going elsewhere for help. If you are in doubt about what to do about non-life threatening issues first check out cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk

South Cambs Magazine: There are still some households not getting the South Cambs magazine. The problem seems to be when deliverers assume that a locked/shut gate indicates that a ferocious dog is on the other side - even when there is not one there. Do keep telling us if you have not received your copy. There will be some available in the Eco Hub too.

Land South of West Rd: By the time you read this the latest application from Endurance Estates will have been approved or rejected by the Planning Committee meeting at South Cambs on December 7th. If it is approved then the site will be marketed to potential developers. If it is rejected, then we march on to the Appeal in February and go through the whole process again. Bridget and a couple of residents will be speaking against the application and doing their best to persuade the Planning committee to uphold their unanimous rejection last time this was considered.

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: The new Register has been received and was perused by Councillors. The Chairman reminded the meeting that written extracts from the Register may be made, but the Register cannot be copied.

Aon: Council received notification from Aon of new rules in the Insurance Act 2015, regarding the way information is collected for insurance purposes.

Precept Notice: A new aid to planning for the precept has been received. Clerk asked to circulate it to Councillors so they can be ready to discuss and set the precept at the January meeting.

Grass Cutting: There was concern over the cutbacks in grass cutting by District and County Councils, and when the Parish Council might have to take responsibility for some of this. CCC will come out and cut visibility splays that are dangerously overgrown within 24 hours of this being reported. SCDC will only cut Clopton Close twice a year - perhaps residents would consider cutting this regularly to prevent the grass getting too long.

Planning:

Clopton Farm: The Police have informed the complainant that nothing criminal has taken place and the matter cannot be pursued.

Clopton Farm S/2581/11: Variation of Condition 2 has been approved.

Finance:

Bank Signatories: Clerk wrote to Barclays Bank as instructed, and they have agreed to add Mrs Slator to the signatories without further proof of identity from her.

SLCC: Clerk asked Council if they would fund her membership of £55-00 for the Society of Local Council Clerks for 2017. Clerk has found them to be a lot more "user friendly" than CAPALC. All in favour and a cheque for £55-00 was raised and signed. Clerk thanked the Councillors for their support.

Bank Statement: At 29 November, the balance in the Council's account was £12,164-62, which included the Solar Farm monies.

The issue of an overhanging hedge was raised from the floor, and Council agreed that a polite note should be put through the door of the offending property. Clerk to action.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 January 2017 in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed

Date

Draft