

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20 January 2016 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Cllr Smith - official duties.

**Present:** Mr Martin, Mr Wheeler, Mrs Slator, Mr Brown, Mr Sole, Cllr Kindersley and the Clerk.

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

**Declarations of Interest:** Mr Brown - Valley Farm.

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

**Queen Adelaide:** Nothing further has been heard regarding an opening date

**Transparency Code and Costs:** The Chairman has this in hand.

**Community Benefit Fund:** Mr Wheeler has a meeting with the bank to establish a deposit account for the Solar Farm payments.

Cllr Kindersley gave a verbal report:-

**Solar Farm Planting:** Cllr Kindersley reported that Victoria Keppey from CCC is taking enforcement action over the use of the access road. There is still a huge puddle adjacent to the solar farm and this causes problems for walkers, and Church End in Arrington is also flooding due to the lack of drainage at the site.

**Hedges:** Despite much consultation with, and an attempt at cutting back the foliage, by the owners of the offending hedge, it is still creating a hazard on the highway; George Hay from CCC has served an enforcement notice on the trees around bend.

**Puddle:** There is a large puddle outside Casa Mia - Mr Sole said he will cut a gap in the verge to allow the water to drain into the ditch.

**Superfast Broadband:** Apparently, properties between the Reading Room back to Larkins Road are unable to obtain superfast broadband. Mr Martin reported that he is paying BT for it, and the speed he currently receives is 23 mbps. There will be a meeting at Hatley regarding superfast broadband and Croydon will be invited to attend.

**Budget:** SCDC has to save £1.4m plus a further £400,00. They are being allowed to increase Band D Council Tax by £5 and they are receiving a better settlement for new homes than was first thought. CCC's 41m cuts has risen to £46m - a much worse scenario than imagined. They may increase Council Tax by 4% to cover the cost of this. The extra money generated will only be for Social Care. Some members of CCC (UKIP and Conservatives) do not want to accept this offer and this may have a substantial knock-on effect for the NHS and bed-blocking. Cllr Kindersley urged Council to write to our MP and the Leader of CCC about the effects of not accepting the 4% available to them.

**Housing:** There are currently 1700 families waiting for Council accommodation. There is not much chance that they will be housed by the Council, so they are turning to private landlords. The rules have changed recently and Buy to Let owners can no longer claim mortgage payments as a business expense, so many are evicting their tenants in order to sell the properties and more people are added to the housing waiting list. The money that SCDC raises from the sale of council houses is being given to the Government, who pass it on Housing Associations. At present, the Council can only house Band A people (homeless). When the Council tenants were asked recently whether they wanted to stay with Council as a landlord, or move to a Housing Association, the tenants voted 75% in favour of staying with the Council, but this is being ignored. Basically, if you are poor in the UK it will only get worse.

**Queen Adelaide:** It should be possible to put the pub back onto the Assets of Community Value register. Cllr Kindersley advised that the Clerk should contact Clare Gibbons for advice.

**Highways, signs and weeds:** Mr Brown highlighted problems with weeds growing the mud at the kerb/road edge. Apparently there are insufficient funds to cover cleaning this up or cleaning road signs. It is possible to be trained to operate the left hand drive roadsweeper - a gentleman in Gamlingay has undertaken the training and uses the sweeper to clean the streets of Gamlingay on a voluntary basis. Cllr Kindersley said he might be interested in cleaning Croydon's streets for a small fee. Highways are paying out on insurance claims for damage caused to vehicles by badly maintained roads as it is cheaper to do than mending the roads.

**Footpath Sign:** The footpath sign on Lower Road has not been erected after it was knocked down. Cllr Kindersley had copied Clerk into an e-mail from Peter Gaskin, reproduced below:-

Mon, 7 Sep 2015 09:02:55 +0000

Dear Cllr Kindersley

Thank you for reporting the damaged sign on Lower Road, Croydon (Croydon Footpath 18). We have recorded this sign and post for replacement, i.e. it is already on the next signposting schedule due to take place during the winter. Thus, I will close this particular report.

Cllr Kindersley will speak to CCC about this.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for his report and advice and he left the meeting.

**Matters Arising and Village Issues** continued with:-

**Verges:** Council has been approached re: privatising the village verge and grass cutting. At present, SCDC cuts the Close and CCC cuts visibility splays. Clerk will try and ascertain the extent and frequency of cuts, before anything further is decided.

**Reading Room Wall:** Mr Sole has offered to replace the offending guttering with a piece long enough to direct the water into the downpipe, as soon as the weather permits.

**Loose Livestock:** Further to Cllr Smith's enquiries, the enforcement officer is now involved, and it is believed he may have been out to speak with the landowners.

**Community Benefit Fund:** Mr Wheeler has made an appointment to set up the deposit account for this fund. Mrs Slator has produced a draft criteria as below, to be considered/amended by Council at the next meeting.

#### **Croydon Parish (Cambridgeshire) Community Fund- Grant making Criteria**

As administrators of the Fund, grants will be determined by the Parish Council and can only be given to benefit the Parish of Croydon.

We award grants to charities, voluntary or community groups and organisations which are charitable in purpose. We seek to support genuinely good ideas that will make a real difference to the lives and environment of local people.

Grants will be awarded from £100 to a maximum of £2500 ?( *add match funding?*)

The following criteria are guidelines only and we reserve the right not to progress any initial enquiry to a full application.

#### **Judging Criteria**

The main criteria used when assessing applications received will be:

- The social, economic and environmental benefits which will result from the project.
- The level of community support for and involvement in the project.
- The number of people within the Parish that will benefit from the project.
- The ability of the applicant to deliver the project.
- How the work will be continued after the project has been completed, i.e. its sustainability and legacy.
- Value for money.

Other factors appropriate to each application will also be considered.

The Fund supports core costs, new or continuing projects, one-off initiatives, and capital costs. We seek to achieve an equitable distribution of resources across the Parish.

#### **Eligibility**

You must have a recognised governing document e.g. Constitution, Memorandum

If you are working with children and/or vulnerable people, you must have a Safeguarding Policy in place

You must be able to provide annual accounts for your organisation

You must have a bank account in the organisation's name which requires two signatories for all withdrawals.

You must have a management committee with at least three members

**Grants will not be given to:**

- Projects not benefiting people living in Croydon Parish
- Grants to individuals or families for personal needs
- Start-up funding for a project that is unable to start within nine months
- Sponsored or fundraising events or groups raising funds to redistribute to other causes
- Promotion of faith, religious or political causes.
- Improvements to land that is not open to the Parish
- Direct replacement of statutory obligation and public funding, including educational institutions.
- Groups with significant financial funds
- Retrospective grants
- Contribution to endowment fund, payment of deficit funding or repayment of loans
- National charities that are not providing clear local benefits
- Overseas travel or expeditions
- Medical research and equipment.
- Commercial ventures, unless the group is a registered not for profit organisation
- General appeals
- Animal welfare
- Fees for professional fundraisers

Applications should be made in writing/using application form?

**Hedgecutting:** Enforcement action has now been taken on the overhanging hedgerows, and the work will now be undertaken by CCC and the cost reclaimed from the landowner.

**Correspondence:**

**Croydon War Memorial:** Is being considered for listing by Historic England for addition to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest ('The List'). They want to know of any architectural or historic interest the memorial may have, and it was suggested that the best person to ask would be David Chamberlain - Clerk will contact him regarding this.

**Environment Agency:** Apparently, fly-tipping is at an all time high, and the poster from the Environment Agency about this has been put into the notice board.

**Food Fair:** CCC is running a workshop in Cambridge on how not to be wasteful with food. It is called Love Food, Hate Waste and the poster with the details is in the notice board.

**Superfast Broadband:** Heidi Allan is meeting with Connecting Cambridgeshire on 22 January.

**Electronic Correspondence:** All circulated - nothing raised.

**Planning:**

**28a High Street:** Permission for additional rooms in the roof received.

**Top Farm:** Permission for a single storey annexe received

**Penny Farthing House:** Application for an extension to the side of the house received; After perusal of the plans it was proposed by the Chairman that a response of no objections be sent. All in favour.

**Valley Farm:** Application for change of use to a barn received - no objections.

**Queen Adelaide:** Application for a second house in the curtilage of the pub received, along with amendments to the location of the house that already has permission. After perusal and discussion there was a majority of 3 to 2 in favour, with concerns about additional noise and access/parking.

**Finance:**

**Bank Statement:** Has not been received at the time of the meeting.

**Precept:** Clerk had prepared and circulated prior to the meeting, an "expenditure to date" spreadsheet for Council's consideration and guidance when setting the precept. After much discussion it was decided to precept for the following amounts:-

Insurance	£450
Rent	£130
Clerk's Salary	£1300
Subs	£50
Cemetery and Village	£600
Street Furniture	£400
Website	£50
Community Led Plan	£600

Total Precept - £3580

It was decided to put the money obtained from the surrender of the Stock Certificates into the Cemetery and Village nominal, as the money would have come from the village in the first place.

**Frames:** Clerk will look into the cost of frames for the old certificates.

**Items for the next agenda:**

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 24 February 2015 in the Reading Room, starting at **7.30pm**, for which Mr Wheeler gave his apologies..

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.42pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

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