

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 18 May 2016 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Brown - working away.

Present: Mr Wheeler, Mrs Slator, Mr Sole, Ms Newland, Cllr Kindersley, Cllr Smith, the Clerk and one member of public.

Minutes: of the March meeting and April planning meeting previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Mr Wheeler was proposed as Chairman - as there were no other proposals, Mr Wheeler was unanimously voted to that office.

Vice Chairman: Mrs Slator was proposed as Vice Chairman - as there were no other proposals, Mrs Slator was unanimously voted to that office.

Members' Interests Forms: It has been suggested that the meeting in May is a good time to revisit the Members' Interests Forms. These were distributed to the Councillors who were present at the meeting, except for MS Newland who has only recently completed hers, and when returned, will be copied and sent in to SCDC.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Queen Adelaide: Following the Implementation Group meeting on 23rd April, Mr Wenman invited interested persons to visit the QA to look at the refurbishment that has taken place so far. A lot of people from the meeting went down to the QA and it is looking really good. Mr Wenman reported that Highways have a concern regarding visibility splays at the entrance to the pub car park and there will be a site meeting with them, Mr Wenman and Cllr Kindersley very shortly to see what can be agreed. Council suggested that when the refurbishment of the QA is at a suitable stage, a Cheese and Wine Evening could be held there for the village to see what has been done. Mr Wenman is in favour of this and Council is prepared to fund it, although Mr Wenman wanted to discuss this. He will let us know a suitable time to arrange this.

Dog Waste Bag Dispenser: This has arrived and Mr Sole has offered to put it up on site, in discussion with Mr Ralph. Currently waiting for a decision on a site.

Reading Room Wall: Mr Sole reported that he has not forgotten that he said he will mend the guttering, but he has been too busy to get to it yet.

Stock Certificates: Clerk has discovered a three aperture frame, which Councillors agreed would be more suitable for the Reading Room wall, which already has a lot of village memorabilia hanging on it. Clerk asked that she be reimbursed for the purchase before the year end as the frame would cost a little more than the three separate frames already approved. All were agreed that this could be done.

Community Benefit Fund: The Clerk has applied for the second annual instalment as promised by Push Energy, but to date, nothing has been received.

Solar Farm: The splays on the solar farm roadway have been completed and the drains to prevent run-off onto Church Lane are in place. No gate at present, but the hedges are all set.

Transparency Code: Mr Wheeler has been unable to access funding from this yet, but will try again. It seems that if you do not want to purchase a computer, no funding is released.

Litter Pick: This will be undertaken under the Parish Council's Insurance. It will require a proper Risk Assessment and correct clothing, tools and disposal of rubbish. Mr Brown has volunteered to carry out the Risk Assessment for the Implementation Group; a date will be arranged and Council will be informed. Mr Ralph's e-mail copied below:-

We agreed we would like to get going with the first of three litter picks firstly along the High Street, followed by Larkins Road and finally top of the hill along to the parish boundary towards East Hatley. We agreed that because of insurance and public liability issues it is not possible for the IG to be seen to be kicking this off and we would need to sail under the PC banner and complete a risk assessment. Further reports will be received as this progresses.

Implementation Group: Report from Mr Ralph and Mr Firth:-

The IG is continuing to pursue aspects of the Parish Plan.

- The public Drop-In morning went well enough and the refreshments in support of Cystic Fibrosis raised £162, which Elaine was very pleased with.
- The response on the Communications Survey has been disappointing so far (about 40%) but steps are in hand to give the non-responders a second nudge.
- Latest on the possible housing development is that Hill is keeping us informed but there is still no agreement with the landowner so things are still on hold.

Toilets: The Car Show committee has applied to the Parish Council to see if they would consider funding the toilets again this year. Clerk pointed out that whilst the invoice is made out to an individual, Council is unable to claim the VAT aspect back. It was proposed by Mr Wheeler that if Mrs Walters can have the details on the pro-forma invoice changed to Council's then Council would pay the invoice. All in favour.

Larkins Road: Questions have been raised regarding the reduced speed limit on Lower Road, but no reduction has been made to the 60 limit on Larkins Road. Last time this was raised, the criteria for a speed limit reduction was dependent on the amount of housing and/or deaths on the stretch of the road. Residents have suggested it would be a good idea if slabs were laid in the verge for the children to stand on (instead of the grass) when waiting for the bus. Cllr Smith felt that this might be considered a safety hazard and therefore not practicable. Clerk will make enquiries regarding the current criteria for speed limits.

School Bus: Mr Wenman reported that the school bus has been driving unsafely through the village and he has had words with the driver regarding this when he encountered him in the High Street. Mrs Slator said she would let the school know about it.

Loose Livestock: There have been several problems recently regarding loose pigs, but the fencing has been replaced and the resident whose garden was occupied has received an apology. They now have a contact number if the animals escape again. Church Farm has received a letter purporting to come from SCDC regarding an alleged offence of odour nuisance and flies from the livestock, and the penalty if the "offence" continues. Council was astonished at the tone of the letter and wondered if it was falsified, as it would not be the first fake SCDC letter that Council has seen. Cllrs Smith and Kindersley will make enquiries regarding the officer who appeared to be responsible for the letter. Councillors who live nearest to the pigs stated that there is no odour or flies and the pigs are real characters and very friendly. Council agreed that this is a rural area with several farms and so livestock is nothing out of the ordinary.

Police: PCSO John Coppard was on duty and came into the meeting - he recommended that we all undertake the Big Bad Wolf test on the Police website, and register for e-cops which gives a daily bulletin on what is happening in the locality. He left posters which Clerk will put in the notice boards, and also reduce one for the Parish Magazine.

Trees: These have now all been trimmed back and look very much better...

Report to the Parishes from Cllrs Kindersley and Smith (previously circulated)

In or Out? We will shortly all be voting in the Referendum on Europe. For every certain fact there's a rebuttal, for every opinion there's a contrary one and for every point in favour or against there's another against or in favour. We will be voting to remain - for three reasons. Firstly, we are concerned about the impact on the UK's economy in the event of leaving. Neither you nor I know what might happen – but writing entirely from a selfish perspective we are worried about our household incomes, our business success and the impact Brexit may have. Why risk it? Secondly even 'tho WW2 finished 20 or so years before we were born we are children of that War - our parents and grandparents' lives were irreparably changed by those events. The EU has maintained peace in our time – and the horrific events of the Balkan war in the 90's should remind us that even in 'civilised' states in Europe genocide can happen. Lastly - better the devil you know. Nobody says the EU is perfect - but then nobody says Parliament is either. Better, surely, to effect change from within than standing outside refusing to play. It's a global world now and we need global muscle. Much as we might wish to return to 'splendid isolation' it is not a realistic option in today's world.

Green End Development: The planning application for Green End came to Planning Committee on April 6th with an officer recommendation of approval. The Planning Committee viewed the site the previous day and there was a long debate about the application. It is an outline application with only

details of the access into the site fixed – all the other matters like housing mix, design, landscaping will be the subject of a further planning application. So ultimately, the Committee was agreeing the principle of the redevelopment rather than the detail. Members of the Committee listened to representations from the Parish and local Councillors, asking questions both of the PC and the Planning Officer about a wide range of matters. Concerns were expressed (quite forcefully!) about the loss of employment (although 25% of the entire site was excluded from the application and will remain used employment), the impact on the Methodist Chapel, parking, play areas, housing, the impact on schools and the Doctor's Surgery etc. The bottom line was that this was a site allocated in the draft Local Plan and – given that it was policy compliant in every other respect – it would have been reckless to refuse it. It was agreed by the Committee unanimously. However, all is not yet over. There remains a great deal of work to do on the detail of the next application and residents will get an opportunity for feedback when that application is lodged.

Mental Health: As you may recall mental health was 'promoted' by the last Government so that it receives parity of treatment and one of the ways of delivering this is by the local Vanguard programme. This is consulting on urgent and emergency mental health care - looking at how the NHS can provide a universal, 24/7, mental health crisis care pathway, which can be accessed directly by patients and carers, alongside local NHS, social care and third sector colleagues.

The aim is to improve patient and carer experience and reduce the number of people going into A&E in a mental health crisis, by increasing the support available in the community. Delivered in stages phase one will aim to provide a crisis response service for urgent mental health referrals. This will be done by co-ordinating the out-of-hours emergency responses to mental health across the CCG with telephone support out-of-hours for all emergency referrals and a full mental health response service. To get involved or for more information please contact Iaine Young, Programme Lead @

Elaine.Young@cpft.nhs.uk

Flies in Gamlingay: We have had several complaints about an increase in flies in Gamlingay with some parts of the village clearly badly affected. We have asked Environmental Services to investigate the origin of these flies and to take whatever action is required. When we had this problem previously it took some time to establish where the flies weren't coming from – it involved DNA-type testing believe it or not – and we will advise when we have more info.

Stress-Less, Take 5: MIND in Cambs has some very good, practical advice geared to students aged 12-18, about how to manage the exam period with less stress. Indeed, these are useful common sense tips for anyone trying to cope in a pressured environment!

www.mindincambs.org.uk/Services/StressLESS

Mind continues to run a free wellbeing service at the Melbourn Hub – please ring Mind on 01223 311320 to make an appointment. There are lots of ways you can support Mind, all listed on their website. These services are funded by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Welcome to Gamlingay's Special...& Anti-social Behaviour: The Annual Parish Council meeting was delighted to hear from the Police that Gamlingay is to have its own Special Constable - Tim Everitt - who will work exclusively for Gamlingay as part of a pilot scheme to get more visible Police presence in rural areas. Tim is trained to use the speed gun to trap speeding motorists and can issue tickets for parking offences, some anti-social behaviour etc. He will be issued with a bike, so you may see him around and about very soon! Gamlingay is the only village in South Cambridgeshire to get this new service.

So perhaps the first job on Tim's list will be the issue of anti-social behaviour in the West Road/Wootton Field area of the village. There have been complaints about ASB and the firing of guns. This needs to be reported to the Police on 101 who will keep a log and investigate – one hopes.

Business Enterprise Zone: Bridget, Sebastian and the Parish Council met with representatives of the Local Enterprise Partnership recently with two major items for discussion. Firstly, we were looking for funding assistance to develop an app and business database for companies based in and around the village to help provide an information resource for those businesses. Secondly we are anxious to do what we can to keep (and hopefully grow) the levels of employment actually in the Parish – to keep a service base, to keep jobs and reduce commuting. A lot of feedback had already been provided by Gamlingay Businesses to show how better connectivity, better facilities and better communication will all assist people trying to grow their local business.

Our LEP visitors were very supportive and full of ideas of where we could access funding, information and support – so please keep an eye out for further developments here. If you want your business (from sole traders to multi-nationals!) to be included just drop us a message with your contact details.

School Parking: There is not a single school in South Cambs (possibly the entire UK) that doesn't have an issue with parking in the morning. People are stressed, in a rush to get to work, at the end of a morning panic - all sorts of things combined with little roadspace and lots of rush-hour traffic trying to get on...and Green End is no different.

Please can you consider other road users, pedestrians crossing and those who move a bit slower or have different needs to you? After all they are your neighbours, friends and fellow parents. A little consideration will go a HUGE way to making the morning a bit more bearable.

Superfast Broadband: It will surprise absolutely nobody to read about the high take-up of fibre broadband under the Connecting Cambridgeshire superfast broadband programme. What this means is that extra funding is available to extend the rollout to more homes and businesses across the county. Take-up of fibre broadband is among the highest in the country - averaging 30% with some rural villages exceeding 70% - which has brought a £5.3million contractual gainshare offer from BT to invest in extending the fibre network even further.

Connecting Cambridgeshire is continuing to work with BT on a second phase to take superfast coverage to 95% of premises, when combined with the commercial sector's network rollout, over the next two years. The third phase of the roll-out will focus on making fibre-based broadband available to as many premises as possible within the 'final 5%' by 2020. Other technologies such as wireless and satellite may also be used to reach the remainder of premises in harder to reach areas. For more information, visit www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk

Older people and alcohol: Now the chances are that this doesn't apply to anyone but JUST IN CASE we include it for your information. Older people are living longer, and, as well as pressure on health and social care services, the number of older people needing support with alcohol issues is expected to increase and this is already happening in Cambridgeshire – obviously not in Gamlingay or thereabouts however read on! This can be due to physical health problems and illness being affected or exacerbated by excessive alcohol consumption as well as life changes that result in older people using alcohol as a coping mechanism.

A Drink Wise, Age Well survey discovered that there is a lot of stigma and shame associated with alcohol use in the over 50s population. Drink Wise, Age Well is a new website offering advice and information around alcohol choices to older people and professionals working in health and social care. The site has a number of tools and resources that can be used by both the public and professionals, see <http://drinkwiseagewell.org.uk/drink-wisely/>

Northstowe: It's amazing to think that South Cambs is building (or rather, not building) a new Town (not village) really not far away. You may have read that the promoters of Northstowe have now actually sold a building site so there's going to be at least some houses – and a school which will be finished shortly. So no doubt everyone will be thrilled to read that Northstowe is one of only 10 winners announced by the Chief Executive of the NHS of an innovation programme putting health at the heart of new neighbourhoods and towns across the country. (I'm not making this up).

“Northstowe will receive national support to provide additional focus on health and well-being, which will mean doctors surgeries, sports facilities, parks and play areas are integrated into the community. It will also be designed to encourage people to walk or bike to school, work and around the town. Northstowe will serve as an exemplar of what is possible, and learning and best practice could be applied nationally to future strategic growth locations.”

Wow. Given that the green space planned for the new town is about the size of a stamp it won't take long to walk across it. And forgive us for cynicism but aren't these all the sort of things that should have been planned into a new Town anyway? As a matter of course?

Free home fire safety checks: Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service offer free home fire safety checks to anyone who might be at risk. The checks include smoke alarms provided and fitted for free if necessary; and advice on fire safety. The Fire and Rescue Service will visit older people and people with disabilities in their own homes to discuss the risks of fire and to look for any visible warning signs. They can also provide advice in relation to promoting the health and safety of individuals with hoarding considerations.

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/site/custom_scripts/ffd/ffd_details.aspx?ID=159411.

If you are unable to apply online, advice on fire safety checks is available by telephone on 0800 917 9994.

Available NOW for a limited time – free

Action on Energy Cambridgeshire has a number of offers available to South Cambs residents living in their own home or privately renting who are on certain benefits and/or a low income (less than

£20,000 in savings and household income less than £13,000 (single person) or £26,000 (couple) per year). Offers include free gas boilers (to replace inefficient boiler or electric heating (in properties where gas is available)), free loft insulation, free cavity wall insulation or free solid wall insulation.

If you think you are eligible and may require some or all of the above energy saving measures. Project Officers call Siobhan Mellon on 01954 713395 or Liz Davy on 01954 713111 or email Siobhan.mellon@scams.gov.uk or Elizabeth.davy@scams.gov.uk

Roads in Gamlingay: The Highways Supervisor has inspected Everton Road and marked up all the potholes that are within intervention levels. There has also been some pre-surface dressing patching works, and contractors will be back (weather permitting) to continue with the patching works which should be completed in advance of the surface dressing programme, starting at the end of May. The cracking on the surface of the carriageway along Heath Road has been reported and she is in discussion with the contractor as to what methods could be used to repair it. Potton Road The Heath and Waresley Rd have also been inspected and potholes marked up for repair.

County Cllr Kindersley gave a verbal update:-

Cllr Kindersley is very pleased to have been returned in the recent Local Elections and thanked Council for their support. Council gave him their congratulations. CCC has had their Annual Meeting and Cllr Kindersley is the Chairman for 12 months. Because of the recent elections there has not been much action elsewhere. Main issues are the funding crisis and devolution. Latest idea is to sell of Shire Hall for a hotel and have a peripatetic Council. There is a Group investigating the proposal, who will report back with their findings. The Local Government Boundary Commission has published their idea for the Boundary review. Croydon has been put with the Mordens, and have only the Village College in common. Extract from the review:- *That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.* Cllr Kindersley request that we respond robustly to the proposed change. Clerk will re-circulate the website information for Councillors' information.

District Cllr Smith gave a verbal update:-

The Local Plan is still suspended and may never be adopted. Any appeals are taking 60 weeks to review. The Local Boundary Commission review is designed to distribute population more fairly amongst the Councillors. The suggestion is that the Gamlingay Ward loses Longstowe and Little Gransden, who have been joined with Cambourne, and gains the Mordens. Council has been requested to respond with their opinions to prevent this suggested rearrangement. The A428 is being surveyed with a view to improving it. Residents nearby are a little concerned as surveyors have been asking for access to their gardens. Ray Manning, long-time leader of the District Council has stood down, and the new leader is Peter Topping from Whittlesford.. Starter homes are deemed to be "affordable" homes, but they are not affordable unless you are rich. Devolution is not popular with most counties - there has been no consultation. Council is looking at shared planning services - Peter Kelly has been employed to sort out the state the Planning Service is in. Applications are taking far too long - there were 900 live applications, but this has reduced to 820. City Deal - the access study is about to be published, and the congestion charge for Cambridge will be in it. However, people already living in the city will not pay it. The increase in the Park and Ride charge has caused 7,000 more cars than 2 years ago to be on the roads in Cambridge. The daily total is now in the region of 87,000. The use of technology to limit access to the city must be looked at if total gridlock is not to occur.

Correspondence:

East Anglian Children's Hospice: Letter asking for funding receive. Clerk to respond with the standard response - "Croydon Parish is small with a population of 200. Accordingly, our funds are very limited and we do not have money specifically set aside for charitable donations. For this reason we are unable to offer donations to the many charities that approach us for support. We will, of course,

publicise any requests at the council meeting and on the notice board if appropriate, so that residents of the Parish may contribute personally if they wish. Exceptional, small donations may be made to Charities that are seen to be directly of benefit to the residents or the environment of Croydon.”

MAGPAS: Letter asking for funding - respond as EACH.

Cambs Lowland Rescue Services: Letter asking for funding - respond as above.

Electronic Correspondence: All circulated - no questions raised. Clerk asked to re-send the information from the Boundary Commission to Councillors.

Planning:

Top Farm: Information of a rainwater harvesting proposal received for the proposed grain store on Lower Road. No Council response required - for information only.

Finance:

Precept: The first instalment of the precept - £1790-00 - has been received.

Audit: This had to be done slightly differently this year due to a change in the Audit regulations. Council discussed the effectiveness of the system of internal control and considered the findings. Clerk was requested to produce an additional budget report during the year.

Council went on to deliberate on the following:-

- i) the Annual Governance Statement, which was considered and approved by resolution
- ii) the accounting statements, which were considered
- iii) the accounting statements, which were approved by resolution
- iv) the accounting statements were signed and dated by the Chairman of the meeting

Bank Statement and Signatories: Mrs Slator completed the required paperwork, which has been sent to Barclays, and when Council receives confirmation, she will be approved to sign cheques along with Mr Sole and Mr Wheeler.

Bank Statement: At present, the current account is £9281-13. The second instalment of the agreed five year donation to the Community Benefit Fund has not been received from Push Energy yet.

National Savings: Forms for the change of signatories have been completed. Mr Martin is to be removed as a signatory and Mrs Slator added, so Mr Wheeler, Mr Sole and Mrs Slator will be the signatories for NSI. All present signed the forms, Mr Brown to sign at the June meeting.

Invoices: The following invoices were presented for payment:-

Reading Room - Parish Council	£133.25
Reading Room - Steering Group	£94.25
AON Insurance	£403-71
Internal Auditor (P Chilvers)	£20-00
Mr Wheeler - website hosting	£39-99
Clerk's salary and Out of Pocket expenses	£1170-18

The Chairman proposed that these were approved for payment. All in favour. It was decided not to rejoin CAPALC, as the annual subscription is now over £130. Discussion on the grant for churchyard upkeep will take place at the next meeting.

Items for the next agenda: Community payback scheme.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15 June in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

Date

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