

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 17 May 2017 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Cllr Kindersley - late arrival as at another meeting

**Present:** Mr Wheeler, Mrs Slator, Mr Barnes, Mr Brown, Mr Sole, Ms Newland, the Clerk, Cllr Smith and six members of public.

**Minutes:** of the April 2016 AGM, March 2017 and May 17 Planning meetings were agreed and signed.

**Declarations of Interest:** Mr Brown for planning on Valley Court.

### **Election of Officers:**

**Chairman:** Mr Wheeler was proposed as Chairman by Mr Sole and seconded by Mr Barnes. Mr Wheeler indicated that he was willing to stand, and as there were no other proposals, Mr Wheeler was unanimously voted to that office.

**Vice Chairman:** Mrs Slator was proposed as Vice Chairman by Mr Brown and seconded by Mr Barnes. She indicated that she was willing to stand, and as there were no other proposals, Mrs Slator was unanimously voted to that office. Both Chairman and Vice Chairman signed Declarations of Acceptance of 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 for checking, and one amendment was made by Mrs Slator, which will be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer.

**Co-option:** There has been a vacancy on the Parish Council for some time and Mr Wenman volunteered to stand for co-option to Council. He gave a brief presentation about his reasons for wanting to be a Councillor, after which a ballot was held. Mr Wenman was co-opted to the Parish Council and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Mrs Slator's amended Register of Members' Interest form and Mr Wenman's completed Register of Members' Interest forms will be sent to the Monitoring Officer at South Cambs District Council.

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

**Queen Adelaide:** Mr Wenman was pleased to report that a 20 year lease to manage the Queen Adelaide has been signed with the owner of the Wood Grill at Stansted Mountfitchet. The kitchen equipment is already arriving and a pizza oven will be installed. Mr Wenman has tried to get all the suggestions made to him regarding the pub incorporated, but the final decision will be down to the new management. The services for the new houses still have to be installed across the car park, but this is imminent and once completed, the car park can be finished and a date publicised for the opening of "The Wood Grill at the Queen Adelaide".

**Implementation Group:** Mr Ralph reported that there is no progress on the housing development. The agents have been written to again, but as yet no response has been received. The IG is going to engage with Cllrs Smith, Kindersley and Mrs Wood as the three dwellings suggested is not feasible on the site being offered. Cllr Smith suggested that self-build could be an option, and it is one that SCDC is keen to pursue. The litter pick on 6 May resulted in another 16 bags of rubbish, making a total of 32 bags from the two litter picks. Mr Brown keeps a section of Lower Road litter free and he collects approximately 3-4 bags of rubbish every 2 months. From doing this he has noticed that there is less litter on the well-kept grass than in the long grass - too visible on short grass! The path has been cleaned up and opened up, and the grass at Clopton Close has been cut. The Communications Group is preparing the e-communication with the help of Mr Wheeler, to whom they are very grateful.

**Old wooden notice board:** In order to waterproof the notice board, a new top is required. Clerk has obtained a quote for an aluminium or stainless repair, which will cost no more than £30-00. Council approved the expenditure.

**Reading Room Trustees:** Mr Sole reported that he has seen the quotes for the new lighting system in the Reading Room, but they are very wide-ranging. There did not seem to be a specification against which these quotes were given. After discussion, Clerk was asked to write to the Trustees and let them know that if they require financial backing from Council, Council would like to have sight of any of the specifications for work before it was sent out for tender, and the quotes received against the

specification. Council would also like to see the current expenditure on electricity for the Reading Room and the projected savings the proposed new installation would generate. Clerk will gather together all the relevant information for discussion at the next meeting.

**Cllr Smith** gave a verbal report to the meeting:-

**Election:** Cllr Kindersley was returned with a majority of only 57 votes - much reduced from last time. Cllr Smith felt this was because he had acquired the Mordens and Tadlow in his remit.

**Mayor:** The new Mayor of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire is James Palmer. He has £800 million in the budget to use for housing, infrastructure, schools etc. He is looking at a university for Peterborough and a Cambridge Metro, which could ease congestion.

**District Council Election:** is in May 2018, when we will lose the option to vote for Cllr Smith as Croydon will be taken out of Gamlingay Ward.

**City Deal:** The name is to be changed but what they are doing also needs to be changed, otherwise it is a waste of time. Apparently, according to their website "the Greater Cambridge City Deal is a unique opportunity to secure the future of Greater Cambridge as a leading UK and global hub for research and technology, support economic growth and improve quality of life for residents of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire". We will see!

**Local Plan:** There is still no 5-year plan at SCDC. The Planning Department is not coping and the assumption is that all planning will be approved unless there is a serious reason for it not to be. This means that villages like Gamlingay will get lots of houses, and small villages like Croydon will not. SCDC is charging more for pre-application advice. Cllr Smith is addressing a meeting next week and intends to be candid.

**Bin Collections:** The new rounds have been operating for about 2 months now, and not everything has gone smoothly. Bins are being missed and rubbish is being spilled during the collection and left on the street. Please report this if you see it happening.

**Crime:** in Gamlingay is down by 7%, but everywhere else it has risen. Cllr Smith said that cameras placed on all entrance/exits to a village could help with detection of crimes. Mr Wenman said he had already suggested that cameras be placed on the Queen Adelaide sign, one pointing up and one down the High Street, This suggestion was passed to the Implementation Group as it was felt some villagers might feel this was an invasion of privacy.

**Funding for Rural Economy:** Cllr Smith reported that Bedfordshire Rural Community Council has funding available to help with businesses in rural areas. Cllr Smith has the contact details.

**Cllr Kindersley** gave a verbal report to the meeting:-

**Election:** Cllr Kindersley is very pleased to have been re-elected and the County Council is now under Conservative control.

**MHI Panel:** Cllr Kindersley suggested that Council should approach the Minor Highways Improvements Panel with a view to obtaining a speed reduction in Larkins Road. Some members of the public present at the meeting felt that extending the speed limit beyond Onslow Avenue around the bends towards Hatley would be beneficial, but Cllr Kindersley stated that it was unlikely that this would be approved. After discussion by Council it was resolved that the Clerk should approach the MHI Panel and write to Derek Crosby (Police) regarding a reduction from Onslow Avenue (at the top of Croydon Hill) to the junction with Larkins Road.

**Wimpole Trail:** Arrington PC has objected to the planning application for a multi-use trail in wWImpole Park. The National Trust is not consistent in its reports to organisations. The idea is for children, dogs and the elderly to be able to walk/cycle/mobility scooter around the grounds on the track.

**Security in the village:** The Camera Partnership will install cameras in a village, (at a cost) with all the approach roads covered. In the case of a crime, Police are able to review the footage and try to find a common vehicle. Mr Wenman suggested that two cameras be placed on the QA sign, one pointing each way, to monitor the High Street, in the hopes that this might act as a deterrent. The suggestion has been handed over to the Implementation Group to determine public opinion.

**Correspondence:**

**Electoral Register:** Alterations to the electoral register were received and circulated to Councillors.

**Planning:**

S/1526/17/PA Clopton Farm - Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to

business use (Class B1). Council viewed the plans at length - it appears that all possible precautions have been taken to minimise any noise and dust. It was proposed by Mr Brown and seconded by Mr Barnes that no objections be raised. All in favour.

**S/1393/17/DC Valley Farm** - Discharge of conditions 3 and 4 of planning permission S/1064/16/FL  
Mr Brown explained the application to Council and having already declared an interest, took no further part in the discussion. It was proposed by Mr Wheeler that no objections be made to this. All in favour.

**Finance:**

**Audit Regulations**

Council discussed the effectiveness of the system of internal control and considered the findings. The current information provided and the production of the bank statements as they are received at the meetings was considered an adequate control - Clerk does not handle cash and has no power to sign on either of the accounts.

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

The above actions were carried out as per the Audit Regulations. The internal auditor has suggested that, following the receipt of this year's Solar Farm payment, consideration should be given to moving some funds into the deposit account.

**Bank Statement:** At the end of April, the current account stands at £12,093.46.

**Precept:** The first instalment of £1680-00 for the precept has been received from SCDC.

**Invoices:** The following invoices were presented for payment:-

Reading Room - Council - not received	
Reading Room - IG - not received	
AON Insurance	£412-92
Website host (paid by Mr Wheeler)	£39-99
Internal Auditor - Mr Locke	£35-00
IG stamps (Mrs Hughes)	£20-80
Clerk's salary and out of pocket expenses	£1211-73

It was resolved that cheques for the above should be signed - all in favour.

**Items for next agenda:** Flashing speed limit signs (smiley faces)

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 21 June 2017 in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Signed .....

Date .....