

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 19 October 2016 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Mr Sole - resting following surgery, Mrs Slater - relative unwell, Ms Newland - school event

**Present:** Mr Wheeler, Mr Brown, Mr Barnes, the Clerk, one member of public, Cllrs Smith and Kindersley.

**Minutes:** Of the September meeting were agreed and signed.

**Declarations of Interest:** None

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

**Queen Adelaide:** Following the future installation of the drains for the new houses, Mr Wenman is still optimistic that he will be able to open the pub next spring. The price for fitting out the pub kitchen has risen to almost twice the original estimate.

**Community Payback Scheme:** The Community Payback Scheme is unable to tackle the verges in the village, as they do not have the correct equipment. They are willing to look at other projects Council might be considering.

**Church Grasscutting:** The PCC might be interested in contacting the CPS about cutting the churchyards, and Mr Barnes will pass this information on to the PCC Secretary.

**Implementation Group:** Mr Brown will produce a Risk Assessment for the litter pick on 22 October, for Council's insurers' purposes. .

**Local Highways Improvements:** Karen Lunn from CCC has driven on Larkins Road, and feels that a 40mph limit is not unreasonable. Clerk will need to contact Cambs Police for their input.

**Croydon Phone Box:** SCDC feels confident that Croydon has a good case to keep its phone box.

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

At this point the Chairman suspended to agenda to allow Cllrs Kindersley and Smith to give reports.

### **County Cllrs Smith and Kindersley gave verbal updates:-**

#### **SCDC**

**Boundary Review:** Gamlingay will become a one-member ward, with the population represented rising from 2800 to 3200; Croydon will be moved into a grouping with the Mordens, Tadlow, Hatleys, Arrington, Shingay and Abington Piggotts. This is a massive area to cover and is not popular with the District and County Councillors. The boundaries in the review will be the same for County Councillors.

**City Deal:** The proposed busway for the A428 has been dubbed a "vanity project." and has been condemned by Heidi Allen. CCC plans to go ahead with it! The Local Liaison Forum is putting together their own ideas for a different route for the busway, which seem to be a good idea but might be a little tricky where it joins the outskirts of Cambridge. The Green Belt is likely to be in danger, which is why the Lib-Dems favour the Scotland Farm option. This would turn Madingley Road Park and Ride into a Transport Hub.

**Police:** Croydon no longer has an identifiable Police Officer - all policing is now reactive and not proactive, as there are not enough officers.

#### **CCC**

**Devolution:** It is likely that this will go ahead for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough together, so there will be an election for a Mayor in May 2017. Cllr Kindersley feels that this is just another layer of bureaucracy. The procedure is all very hazy at the moment.

**Meeting:** Cllr Kindersley he has been at a 4 hour Council meeting and nothing was achieved!

**Larkins Road:** Cllr Kindersley suggested that Clerk contacts Derek Crosby at Cambs Police regarding a speed check for Larkins Road. He may be able to arrange this for Council.

**Wheatsheaf Speed Camera:** To replace the camera would cost £50k with a further £50k to insure it. There are very few working cameras in the area, due to the expense. The cameras in Wimpole are among those that do work. Average speed cameras are much more effective in cutting speed down.

## October report to the Parishes from Cllrs Kindersley and Smith (received after the meeting)

**Devolution:** Following the summer consultation on Devolution it looks increasingly likely that in May next year you will be asked to elect a Mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Out of 240+ local government bodies such as Parish Councils only 7 responded and the feedback from residents was as poor. Not entirely unexpected and you might think a poor basis on which to introduce a whole new level of bureaucracy. Nonetheless, with the Leaders of the County and District Council both putting their support behind it is likely to happen as the politicians fall in line with their leaders.

So in return Government will devolve a certain amount of power to the Mayor. This includes control of a new additional £20million a year funding allocation over 30 years to boost growth, control of a new £100million ring-fenced fund to deliver an ambitious target of new homes over a five-year period for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as well as £70 million for Cambridge which would be spent on new council rented homes.

In addition, the Mayor will chair an area-based review of 16+ skills provision, co-design (!) with Government a new National Work and Health programme aimed at those with a health condition or disability and the very long-term unemployed and rather ominously “Further powers may be agreed over time and included in future legislation”.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mayor would act as chair to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and will also take responsibility for a multi-year devolved transport budget, an identified key route network of local authority roads and powers over strategic planning, the responsibility to create a non-statutory spatial framework for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and to develop with Government a Land Commission. Exciting stuff – but no mention of the actual people in this – you & I.

**Budgets:** Seem like only yesterday that the Councils agreed their Budgets but that time is here again. Cambridgeshire County Council is currently doing general consultation with the public – please have your say at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budget2017> It includes a short animation outlining the Budget Challenges and people are being urged to give their views by filling in the survey at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CambsBusinessplan2016> .

**Policing in South Cambridgeshire:** South Cambs Policing Team are introducing an Evidence Based Policing Model in order to ensure that they are appropriately targeting those areas that are most affected by crime. The Evidence Based Policing Model is based on research, enabling officers to make rational, evidence-based decisions while patrolling and carrying out investigations. The result is that the policing provided in one part of South Cambridgeshire will look very different to the policing in another area. The reason for this is that the types of offences vary within different locations along with the number of offences that are committed.

Local Policing is provided by a team of officers that are known to most of you as the “Problem Solving Team”, consisting of a team of Sergeants, Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers. The same team and officers remain in place but will now be known as the “Prevention and Partnership Team”. Some of you will now have a different member of the team as your primary point of contact. Over the next couple of weeks, all officers will be making contact with the schools, parish councils, Neighbourhood Watch Groups and other organisations within their area to reintroduce the team and can answer any questions that you have about the model.

Gamlingay will still have a Special tasked with the Parish only, but there will be much less visible policing eg at the Youth Club and so on. It does make it even more important that all crime is reported as if it's not a statistic then it won't count and we won't get a true picture of crime profiles.

**Drop-In Advice Surgery:** We are at the Eco-Hub every first Monday of the month between 9:30-10:30. No need to book – just come along. We can always arrange to meet you at a time that is more convenient for you, or closer to home. Our contact details are above. Our PCSO and a Housing Officer from South Cambs also attends so if you have any problems, issues or just want to pop in for a chat please do - come along and say hello!

**Fly Tipping:** Fly tipping on New Road Gamlingay is a continual problem. The latest involves oil drums with toxic symbols on them. If you see anyone dumping rubbish, PLEASE take their number plate details and if possible a photograph. You can report fly tipping easily on the South Cambs website. South Cambs always prosecutes fly-tippers (as you can often read in the Cambridge News) and go to great lengths to identify culprits including fingerprinting and DNA profiling.

**Robinson Court:** The redevelopment of Robinson Court is finally moving quite fast. The call for expressions of interest closed on September 30<sup>th</sup> (and we made sure it was on the Gamlingay

Facebook pages) and the tender documents are being prepared. The Council has incorporated a number of issues as a result of resident feedback. The Planning application will come to Committee in November and works are scheduled to start on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. As soon as a tender is awarded there will be monthly meetings between residents, South Cambs and the developer to inform, advise and feed back - it's important residents are engaged right from the start.

**Land South of West Rd:** The appeal by Endurance Estates against the refusal to build 29 houses on this site will be heard in early March. However, they have now submitted a further application for a very slightly amended plan. The parish council will be holding a public meeting to decide what their response will be in the next few weeks. If you would like to go on WRAGs mailing list please e mail Bridget on [bridget@glockling.com](mailto:bridget@glockling.com).

**Northstowe:** Affordable housing quotas continue to be a big issue at Northstowe where the first 90 houses are being built with no affordable homes included. Government had previously announced that Northstowe would have 40% starter homes (which is a home to buy - not to rent). However, the final housing mix is still under discussion so we hope to bring you better news before too long.

**The Latest on The City Deal 1000 Houses:** You may recall from previous postings that Bridget has been campaigning extremely hard to ensure that the original intention of the GC City Deal to deliver 1000 extra houses on rural exception sites was not fudged. Building 1000 homes, in addition to the many thousand allocated in the Local Plans, on rural exception sites, meant that there would be 1000 extra AFFORDABLE homes for people living locally to where they were built. The Assembly meeting before last received a disgraceful paper which proposed that all housing on the speculative and unwanted sites foisted upon us as a result of the suspension of the local plan, would count towards the 1000.

Bridget made representation to the Board and the Assembly where there was support for her objections. A further report was called for and we are extremely pleased to be able to report that the Board members listened to the arguments and proposed a compromise that only the affordable housing on the non-Local Plan sites be counted towards the 1000 and that these be for local people. Subsequent to this, South Cambs Cabinet agreed that the first 8 houses on these sites be exclusively for local people and that the rest be split 50/50 between local people and those on our general housing list. We believe that this is an acceptable solution.

**City Deal – Cambourne to Cambridge:** The A428 'preferred corridor' has been announced and will soon be out for consultation. In a nutshell this plan puts a new park and ride by the Madingley Mulch roundabout and runs a busway into central Cambridge from Cambourne. This is very damaging to the Green Belt and to the villages lying in the busway's path including Coton, Caldecote and Hardwick. Once we have more detail we will be encouraging you to participate in the consultation. In the meantime, you can attend the A428 Local Liaison Forum meetings to participate in the residents' debate with details on the City Deal website.

**Cambridge Ice Rink:** South Cambs District Council has agreed to lend £1.83 million through prudential borrowing to build an Ice Rink on at the end of the Cambridge Airport runway - believe it or not, the roof has to be lower at one end to avoid it being hit by aircraft!. The 56 metre by 26 metre permanent rink, with room for up to 1,000 spectators, will be built to international standards on land leased from Marshall next to the Newmarket Road Park & Ride site. We were very concerned about this initially but have been reassured that there will be no cost to residents and no risk to the Council.

**20mph Speed Limit:** The new 20mph speed limit in front of GVC is the next stage of addressing speeding within the village. Some residents have already been in touch to ask why it cannot be extended throughout the village. Please let us know what you think about this. The PCSO has also flagged up that the Cross is at capacity and he is very concerned about how more housing will impact on it. This is something we are talking to the council about in relation to developments at Green End and West Road. The 50mph limit on Drove Road has hopefully been implemented (the posts were in as I drive past yesterday) and site is to be surveyed this week by Highways, with design drawings likely to be completed just before Christmas for any changes/modifications to the road layout.

**Apprenticeships:** In response to government pressure South Cambs will be taking on up to 30 apprentices BUT they will be used to fill vacancies. Even existing staff can apply for them. Councillors were shocked to learn that the company which won the contract for our housing repairs were paying their apprentices a measly £3.30 ph. This has been dealt with, thank goodness, and the Council will be paying closer attention to what our sub-contractors are paying. This does raise a wider question however – are you an apprentice or is someone in your family an apprentice? What are your

experiences? Are you being paid decently? We would be anxious to know if this was a widespread problem.

**Gamlingay & Hatley Oil Club:** If you are new to the area or didn't know about the Gamlingay & Hatley Oil Club, this may be of interest for anyone looking to reduce their household heating oil costs: A few years ago a bulk-buying club for household heating oil was set up for the Gamlingay area villages. There is no joining fee and no requirement relating to frequency or volume of purchases. Anyone can sign up, and when you want to place an order you simply contact our bulk-buyer. Our bulk buyer Jeremy Cole can be reached at [Jeremy@agricole.co.uk](mailto:Jeremy@agricole.co.uk), tel 01954 719 452 / 07860 904 045.

**Highway Issues:** 1) The blocked gulleys on Station Rd have (I hope) now been cleared, and the subsiding bridge base repaired. 2) The rogue 20mph repeater sign in Croydon has been removed. 3) South Cambs is inspecting the lay-bys along the A1198 to see if they need bins in Arrington and Loongstowe 4) The District Council has added the parking area at Church End Arrington to the spraying rota which is all they can afford to do at the moment. 5) Cambridgeshire County Council's new Permit Scheme for Roadworks and Streetworks goes live on 3 October. This means the County Council has more control over utility Companies and other activities on the road network and will be able to impose conditions on their permit. This should ensure that congestion caused by temporary works and associated traffic management is minimised and will reduce the overall number of days of occupation of road space. Breaches of the conditions will result in more punitive fines on the utility companies to encourage compliance, especially on the most traffic sensitive and congested streets across the county's network.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Overhanging trees and hedges:** Mr Brown has approached the owner of the foliage and made an offer to cut it back for them. He is awaiting a response.

**Larkins Road:** Clerk contacted the PCSO that used to be Croydon's officer regarding a speed check on Larkins Road, but has received no response. This is understandable now as Cllr Smith reported that villages no longer have an officer assigned to them. Cllr Kindersley gave Council a name for Clerk to contact re: a speed check.

**Partnership Boards:** Council does not wish to take up the offer to work with the Older People's Partnership Board. As there is no Council magazine, there is nowhere to print an article. Posters could be put into the notice board. Clerk will reply to them.

**Camquit:** Poster on help to stop smoking is in the notice board.

**Advocacy Service:** CCC has new arrangements for advocacy.

**Reading Room:** Mr Sole was asked to present a project for the Reading Room - he was unable to attend but sent a covering letter with the Trustees' proposal and request for a contribution towards works at the rear of the Reading Room, which the Trustees feel would make the area safer and more useable for the Public.

Stage 1 of the proposal is for a low-cost landscaping project to extend the patio area with paving (an area of 40 sq m) and a smaller area in front of the shed, to be covered with membrane, boarding and pea shingle, along with a new wooden fence to the back and side. This would cost £1222-00.

Stage 2 is to improve the pond. Working with Mr Farrer and the Wildlife Habitats Trust and using the Trust's volunteers and local groups, the Trustees would like to restore the pond to its former glory so it will become an asset to the village. The survey could cost several hundred pounds, but the Trustees would like to know if the Council is able to express an interest at this stage.

After discussion, Clerk was instructed to contact the Trustees and discover how the proposal would increase revenue for the Reading Room, what events would use it, how many would use it, who would look after it, how many quotes have been obtained, what do the neighbours think of the proposal, how many people in the village would actually benefit from it. Has Mr Farrer been contacted regarding the Stage 2 proposal?

#### **Finance:**

**Churchyard Maintenance Grant:** If the Community Payback Scheme is used to cut the churchyard grass, then Council may not need to increase its grant for this.

**Bank Signatories and Statements:** The paperwork for the signatories has been sent off - awaiting developments. The bank statement stands at £13,386 - 62.

**NSI Signatories:** NSI has confirmed that any two from three may sign for funds. The signatories are Mr Brown, Mrs Slator and Mr Wheeler.

**Appointment of Internal Auditor:** Dan Locke has agreed to auditor the Council's accounts and was appointed unanimously.

**Back-up:** Council suggested it would be a good idea to back-up the Council documentation and Clerk will look into the purchase of an external hard drive for this purpose.

**Items for next agenda:** .

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 16 November in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

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