

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 17 January 2018 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: None

Present: Mr Wheeler, Mr Wenman, Mrs Slator, Mr Sole, Mr Barnes, Ms Newland, Mr Brown, Cllr Smith and later Cllr Kindersley, the Clerk and two members of public.

Minutes: of the December meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received.

Verbal Report from Cllr Smith:-

Local Plan: This is out for consultation and there are 300 modifications on which residents may comment. There is concern about the proposed development at Bourn airfield and the boundary between Caldecote and Highfields. At the rate this Plan is going the next Plan, which is due in 2019, will have been started before this one has been approved!

There is to be major development of the Oxford-Cambridge arc including an east-west rail link, which will not be electrified. It may possibly go through Sandy-Bassingbourn-Foxton and on to Addenbrookes. The proposed upgrading of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet is the final section of upgrading the route to dual carriageway standard between the M1 and the M11. In the longer term, it will form part of the wider Oxford to Cambridge Expressway..

There are major new settlements proposed, which could include Bassingbourn airfield. If this happens, the facilities to service the site will need to be included, and thought given to the road network for the extra traffic produced. The Infrastructure Committee is asking for ideas for designs for all sizes of the new settlements. They are looking for 21st Century ideas and alternative transport ideas. The Bedford Local Plan is also out for consultation. Tempsford airfield was originally identified for housing but rejected, as the housing is to be nearer Biggleswade.

Greater Cambridge Partnership: There is talk of getting rid of the level crossing at Foxton and creating a bypass with a bridge. The Ely-Cambridge corridor could be dualled.

SCDC Planning: Is above the threshold of designation by the Government. This means that 1) they have not dealt with planning applications quickly enough and 2) their performance on appeal is not good. They are likely to lose their planning ability, and the income that comes from it. Cllr Smith will check on their status.

Refuse: That will not fit into a blue bin may be put in a clear plastic sack for collection. Cllr Smith was asked if recycling was for environmental benefit or a moneymaking exercise?. She said it is cost effectiveness, and she will make enquiries regarding the use of a plastic bag for the recycling rubbish.

Park and Ride: The charge for Park and Ride parking is being dropped as the use of the car parks has declined sharply because of it. The loss is blamed mainly on the difficult to use parking ticket machines.

Flooding in Arrington: This is being blamed on the Solar Farm and Cllr Smith has data for any interested persons. Mr Brown said the flooding is historical and there was reportedly a drowning in the flood by Wimpole Gates.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Implementation Group: Clerk contacted Cllr Kindersley regarding maintenance of fire hydrants and he cited an incident at Hatley with a hydrant, which needed attention - South Staffs Water repaired it, so it was suggested that the website response was misleading. Cllr Kindersley will try and obtain a copy of the "Position of Fire Hydrants" map, which apparently is on the database in every fire engine.

Update from the Group:-

SCDC Local Plan - This has now again gone out for consultation and I see it is on the agenda for this meeting. At this stage comments can only be made on the areas of the plan that have been modified since the last version. The only item I spotted which the meeting may wish to comment on is the new development at Bourn, which will put more traffic down the A1198 where in the mornings there is already a crawl almost all the way to Royston. I have spoken with Bridget at some length about the Plan and asked to what extent it will dictate what might be possible in Croydon, and Councillor Sue

Slator and I have been in communication about this. The Plan envisages essentially no new building in Croydon as the current framework area is full so it will offer considerable protection against unwanted development. I also asked about whether it ruled out community led development where the wishes of villagers were being pursued for the benefit of the community and Bridget's clear advice (unchanged from previously) was that it did not rule this out as community led schemes could still be approved. Indeed in the latest version of the Plan there is provision for PC led community schemes. In respect of timing, Bridget's view was that the new Plan might be approved June/July time, however, a totally new Plan is likely within two to three years as SCDC and Cambs City Council have been instructed to work up a new joint plan so any further delay and it will start to look obvious that the two exercises should be merged.

The Whatsapp based alerting system is up and working and has been in use recently. Anyone can join the group and will then receive alerts as well as being able to transmit their own alerts to the group. To join the group please contact Keith Buchanan, Judith Pillinger or myself as new names can only be added via these administrators. Once on the group anyone can remove themselves from the group at any time if they wish to.

Tuesday Group - As a spin off from contacts made in the IG a "Tuesday Group" is in the process of being launched. It will run independent of the IG but will receive support if needed. Current thinking is for it to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month and to have a varied programme of topics and speakers. Watch out for launch advertising and Sue can provide further details. Topics being considered include a games evening and local history.

Reporting - Final item, it would be helpful to agree an outline timetable for IG reports to the PC. The IG is proposing that it reports to the PC every two months with the added provision to bring particular issues to any meeting if time is of the essence and advising the Clerk in advance when at all possible.

Malcolm Ralph and Jonny Firth
Co-Chairs

Council has agreed to include "Implementation Group - report" as an agenda item at every meeting and will note "nothing to report" if no report has been received.

SCDC Cleaner Communities Scheme: This is an initiative offered by SCDC and of interest to IG, although they may require some funding for it.

Speed Signs: Cllrs Kindersley reported the lack of progress dealing with a CCC gentleman, and has been unable to get an answer. Cllr Smith kindly gave Council a copy of the Hatley speed sign readout from June last year, as an indication of the speeds through Hatley - much too fast! Cllr Smith advised the Clerk to contact Hatley's Clerk for some more up-to-date results and these could be sent to the CCC gentleman as proof for the need for signs in Larkins Road. As there are no turnings between Croydon Hill and Hatley, it is very likely that the same vehicles are doing similar speeds down Croydon Hill and into Larkins Road, unless they are turning into Croydon High Street.

Lower Road: The work has been carried out and the dangerous hump removed. The Council has marked white lines where patching has taken place, but Mr Brown felt that whole of Lower Road would benefit from repainted lines - this will be investigated by Cllrs Smith and Kindersley.

Parking Issues: SCDC has removed the illegal parking sign from Clopton Close and so far, nothing further has been reported.

Reading Room Trustees: Awaiting a volunteer to replace Mr Barnes. It was suggested that the Reading Room Trustees were offered the chance to be an affiliate member of the Parish Council, with no voting rights. Mrs Horsford is currently searching inherited paperwork that might contain the constitution for the Reading Room to clarify the situation.

Community Awards: The suggested nominee was not put forward.

Footpath Problem: It has been reported to Council that a local footpath is being littered with unpleasant and hazardous waste. Clerk to contact SCDC Environmental Department to see if they would be able to clean up the site, and the Police to ask if the area could be included in their patrols.

E-mailed Report from Cllrs Kindersley and Smith:-

or <http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk> and visit the 'home safety' pages.

Happy New Year! We would like to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year 2018 and hope it will be an excellent year for you.

The CAMKOX Arc: Well, well, well. You will be aware that there are major governmental ambitions to create an arc of development reaching from Oxford through Milton Keynes to Cambridge. A great

deal of time and public money is being set aside to deliver the infrastructure that goes with this national project to – for example – dual the A428 and open the missing rail link from Cambridge to Sandy.

This is already having a major impact on this area. We predicted – some time ago now – that Bassingbourn Barracks would be highlighted as a development area for a New Town, a prediction that came with a certain amount of mockery eg on Twitter. But lo! The National Infrastructure Commission has released a wide-ranging report exploring how best to take this national step-change forward. And here, on page 75, is what it says: *The case study location continues the emerging pattern of new settlements at a distance of 10-15 miles from Cambridge along key radial routes. It does so by assuming that East West Rail - which will provide an additional spoke in the pattern of radial public transport connections into Cambridge - will be routed via the current MOD site at Bassingbourn. Any MOD operations would need to be incorporated or re-provisioned on another site with less development potential/value (e.g. Mildenhall) as part of an ongoing process of consolidation of military sites (despite recent moves to return the site to active use following a period of closure).*”

And so on...well worth a read at <https://www.nic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/171122-NIC-Final-Report-5th-Studio-optimised.pdf>. You will no doubt have been following the catastrophe of South Camb's Local Plan but what you will not know is that the Inspector will be seeking a commitment from SCDC that the NEXT Local Plan will start work in 2019. Very convenient....

Gamlingay and the villages of the Gamlingay Division are in a very key position in all these plans. Aside from the above the same report promotes a new String City (nope, no idea) at Biggleswade and Sandy/Tempsford – and this proposal is in fact already being consulted on by Central Beds as part of its next Local Plan. We shall keep you updated!

Anglia TV in Gamlingay – The Star of the Show! An enormous thank you to all those Gamlingay residents who welcomed the ITV Anglia crew to the village just before Christmas. This was the first time that the news team had done an outside broadcast like this over the whole program and ITV had been looking for an opportunity to come back to Gamlingay after covering the opening of the Eco Hub extension.

Everybody should be so proud of living in a community that is really showing the way forward across the Eastern Region. There were so many people involved it would fill the Gazette to say individual thanks but we must highlight some - LJs – who gave the crew one of the best lunches they had had – “enormous” was the quote – and the combined choirs who put on such a great (outdoor) show despite being at the edge of hypothermia. Pulling it all together was a big job and one which a large number of people helped with - Shelley, Sarah and Kate from the Eco Hub, Chris Martin, Kate Mingay, Adrian Semerene, Sue Philips, the staff of the First School, The Wheatsheaf, Emma Surrey, the Crafty Ladies and many more.

Obviously not every part of the village was covered so we invited them back to do the bits they had to miss out!

Business Fraud: Individuals and businesses are being warned to watch out for cold calls and online contact from fraudsters who are offering victims the opportunity to apply for Government grants for an advance fee. To make the grants look legitimate fraudsters have set up bogus companies and convincing looking websites that claim to be operating on behalf of the UK Government.

Fraudsters cold call businesses and individuals offering the grant and if they're interested direct them to fill out an online application form with their personal information. Once the fraudsters have that information they'll contact back victims and congratulate them on being accepted onto the grant programme.

Applicants are then asked to provide identification and are instructed to get a pre-paid credit card to deposit their own contribution to the fake Government grant scheme. Fraudsters will then contact victims on the phone or are emailed and asked for the details of their pre-paid credit card and copies of statements to in order for them to add the grant funds.

Of course the grant funds are never given by the fraudsters and the money that's been loaded by the victim onto the card is stolen. If you receive one of these calls, hang up immediately and report it to us and the police.

Rubbish: You probably know by now that you no longer need to use your plastic caddies to recycle paper. Instead, waste paper should be placed directly into the blue bin. Residents are free to keep their caddies and use them however they wish (growing carrots is the best so far). You can find further details about this change here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/paper-recycling-changes>

We are aware that, before Christmas, when some people had too much recycling for their blue bins and put it in extra boxes that those boxes were not collected. South Cambs told us this: *“If the blue bin is full, excess recyclable material will be collected if placed in one transparent sack next to the blue bin. Please put any glass in your blue bin, not in the sack for safety reasons. One bundle of cardboard may be left next to your bin if it is of a size which would fit inside the bin if there were space. Please tape or tie into a bundle to assist collection. Please do not use other colour wheeled bins for your excess recycling.”*

So the important aspect here is that it is put out in a transparent sack but since we have never seen transparent sacks for sale we have gone back and asked where we are meant to get them from. **PINPOINT Conference:** Pinpoint is the charity that helps parents with children with additional and special needs. They are planning a conference on February 1 with workshops, inspiring speakers and the chance to grab a one-to-one session on benefits, mental capacity, the law, SENDIASS, education psychology, school transport and more. The information marketplace will have nearly 40 stands with information galore for families. What's more, **it's all for free** for Cambridgeshire parent carers ... and even lunch is included!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pinpoint-conference-2018-a-force-for-families-parentpower18-tickets-38491345651?aff=es2>

Parking: We can now confirm that the contract to put in some new parking bays at the entrance to Avenells Way has been awarded to Mead Construction Ltd, though we still do not know when the work will be underway. Unfortunately, we are still waiting to find out when the additional Gray's Road parking bays will be approved and installed. The Council is also looking to create extra parking on Murfitt Way - however we are unable to progress this further until next financial year due to budget constraints.

Grays Rd Grass Cutting: Residents of Grays Rd will be aware that the grass cutting has been pretty random in 2017 and we must thank those people who have done their best to keep it all tidy themselves. We are assured that things will be better in 2018. It may be that the grass will not be cut as often as we would ideally like but it will be cut regularly. We have no doubt that you will let us know if problems arise.

County Council Funding: We know it's boring BUT it has a profound impact on services you use every day like roads. The government settlement announced before Christmas made some changes – firstly by increasing the core referendum principle to 3%. This means Council tax could increase by 3% rather than 1.99% without a referendum, in addition to Adult Social Care precept. Taking that on further, there's an overall increase in the 2018-19 core spending power of 2.1% compared to 2017-18. However, this assumes a 6% council tax rise (3% increase of both the Adult Social Care precept and base council tax increase). Unfortunately, the County Council's administration has so far refused to increase Council Tax by the levels permitted by Government and the current assumption of 2% Adult social care precept and 0% base increase means our projected core spending power actually reduces by 0.8% in cash terms.

Overall the announcement looks set to keep Cambridgeshire – the fastest growing county in the UK – around the 3rd worst funded county council in the UK. Just so you know....

Remember the Street Lighting PFI?: Due to deductions for unsatisfactory performance by Balfour Beatty under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract for street lighting there is a forecast underspend of £384,000 in the budget for 2017/18. This is due to the number of lights lit being fewer than the contractual requirement as well as lack of repairs and inspection. We were amazed that it was so little. In any case the argument made that it should be spent in Parishes that had suffered so badly at Balfour Beatty's hands was dismissed – sorry!

Park and Ride Parking Charge to be dropped: The Greater Cambridge Partnership has agreed to subsidise the removal of the charge to park at the Cambridge Park and Rides in April. Since the £1 charge was introduced use of the Park and Rides has significantly fallen. Councillors have asked that the Board also review the opening times of the Park and Rides and the Park and Ride bus services which are provided commercially by Stagecoach; in particular to meet the demand for those with early starts and those wanting to spend a night out in Cambridge.

Supported Lodgings: The County Council has relaunched the Supported Lodgings scheme and is looking for people with a spare room or annex who can support a young person leaving care, aged 16-21. Carers can be from a wide range of backgrounds and walks of life and an allowance of £250 per week is paid to them while they have a young person placed with them. Although the Supported

Lodgings scheme requires less intensive support than other types of foster care, carers do need to be able to make time for the young people in their care and show the ability to listen and understand their needs. Carers are also required to offer advice on all aspects of independent living, such as cooking, washing and budgeting.

For more information, please contact Cambridgeshire County Council's Fostering Service on 0800 052 0078 or visit our Supported Lodgings webpage. It is a paid caring role with a fixed tax-free allowance of £10,000 per year plus an extra £250 for each person supported each week or part of a week.

Policing Changes in Cambridgeshire: The Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have written jointly to advise of changes proposed to policing as the current policing model is no longer sustainable and is hampering the Constabulary's ability to manage demand. Like forces across the country, Cambridgeshire faces an unprecedented workload and, as a result, officers and staff are working long hours and juggling heavy workloads. It remains committed to working with you to protect the most vulnerable people and targeting the most serious offenders. But this means the Police must be realistic about what they can and cannot attend, and make some difficult decisions. This boils down to 50 more warranted officers but a big reduction in the number of PCSOs effective April 2018.

Local Roads & Flooding: Fishers Lane Orwell - Cambridge Water confirm that this is not a water leak and it is believed to be a natural occurrence. County have asked a contractor to provide a quote to run a pipe along the verge from the water source to connect into the gully which will remove the water from the road and path and hope to fund the works this financial year.

Main Street, Hatley outside Holbein's Farm - Officer has contacted the landowner and tenant farmer asking them to take measures to stop their water from draining onto and across the carriageway.

Heath Road, Gamlingay - Cambridge Water undertook repairs which resolved this as the flow is now much reduced. There are still two other areas where springs are causing water to flow across and along the edge of the road and the situation is not helped by the fact that the road gullies at this location are currently blocked (although these would still not capture all the water flowing across the road). A jetting contractor is to clean the gullies and jet the pipework and quotes sought to dig out a ditch at this location to connect with an existing pipe further down the road which connects into the watercourse at the bottom of the slope.

A1198 Arrington - water was streaming down the road here and Flood signs erected - still to be followed up but it seems as though the Solar Farm may not have resolved the issues after all.

Correspondence

Parish Council Elections: These take place across the county in May, and the election timetable has been distributed to Councillors. The public notices will be put up as soon as they are received.

Growing a Rural Community: This is a survey received from Nicola Busuttill of the Sparsity Partnership for Local Authorities delivering Rural Services asking for information about the parish, individual's e-mail addresses etc which, following discussion on data protection, Council felt unable to complete.

SCDC New Year Information: Circulated

SCDC Local Plan: This is out for consultation again on the 300 or so modifications. Cllr Smith advised that there is a section in Chapter 4 on development in smaller villages that she felt Council might like to comment on. She suggested it was done as a Parish Council and also as individuals. Clerk will do this on behalf of the Council and it was agreed that any comments would be sent through to the Clerk for inclusion in the parish Council's response. The survey closes on 15th February.

Music to my Ears! A student at Cambridge University studying for a PhD, is undertaking a study on the relationship between music and language acquisition. He is looking for volunteers for this - the study requires participants (parents of 18-14 month-old toddlers) to answer an online survey and answer phone calls during one week. Details will be on the website.

Cambridgeshire Matters: The January e-bulletin from CCC has been circulated to Councillors.

JobCentre Plus: Council received an e-mail asking for the link to this website to be included on the village website. Whilst it might appear genuine, Mrs Slator investigated and discovered that it is not the Government operated organisation that the name suggests, but a company looking for business. Council declined adding the link to the website.

CAPALC: Criteria for an invitation to the Royal Garden Party on 15 May 2018 received from CAPALC. As Croydon has not been a member of CAPALC for over two years, this was disregarded. **Cllr Kindersley** arrived from another meeting and gave a brief verbal report, as most other things are covered in the main report:-

County Council Budget: The County Council can increase Council Tax by 3% for Adult Social Care, but could also raise its element by 6%! It is assumed that CCC will take 6%.

White Lines: Bourn is also bad having no white lines on the road.

Police and Crime Commissioner wants 50 more warranted officers for Cambridgeshire - however, this will mean far less PCSOs around to deal with the niggly neighbourhood things.

Planning: None received

Finance:

Deposit Account: Awaiting confirmation that the £10,000 deposit into the National Savings bank had been received.

Internal Auditor: Clerk has approached Mr Daniel Locke and he is prepared to undertake the internal audit for 2017-18.

Precept: Clerk had already sent the nominals to date to Councillors for their consideration. After discussion the following figures were agreed:-

Insurance	£400
Rent	£130
Clerk	£1350
Audit	£ 35
Subs	£ 60
Election	£400
Village/Cemetery	£500
Website	£ 40
Reading Room	£350

Total precept for 2018-19 £3265 All in favour.

VAT: Clerk has received a communication for HMRC regarding the reclaiming of Parish Council VAT. The claims may no longer be made on paper and have to be made through the website. Clerk is not sure if her computer will handle the new system, but will keep Council informed.

Report from the floor: Croydon House Farm workshop on Lower Road experienced an attempted break-in. The thieves cut through chains to open the gates and attempted to get into the buildings, in the process disturbing an owl that roosts in the barn, which caused them to flee empty handed.

Items for next agenda: None put forward.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21 February 2018 in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Date