

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 15 January 2020 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Ms Newland - recuperating, Mr Brown - not available.

Present: Mr Barnes, Mrs Slator, Mr Wheeler, Mr Wenman, Mr Sole, Cllrs Kindersley and Williams, the Clerk and one member of public.

Minutes: of the December meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Implementation Group report:

Cllr Williams has been approached regarding the provision of a 1m wide path clearing machine, which would enable those involved in the Village Clean-up to achieve more tidying with less time and effort. She has also been asked about the availability of large stiff bristle brooms for the same venture. She will liaise with the Co-Chair regarding these matters.

Speedwatch: Cllr Williams is hoping to arrange this "patch" meeting in early February.

Housing Needs Survey: It is hoped that an initial response will be available in the next 2-3 weeks.

Website: The gentleman currently maintaining the "old" website will be in touch with the proposed new website supplier regarding technicalities. Following this discussion, Council will make a final decision.

Clopton Village Site: As Mr Brown was not able to attend the meeting, this matter will be deferred until February.

Telephone Kiosk/Defibrillator: Clerk had obtained provisional costs from the BT defibrillator preferred supplier. The approximate costs that the representative gave verbally included all fixtures, fittings and installation. When Council has decided how to proceed a formal quotation will be supplied.

Parking in Church Lane: During the Christmas school holidays, there was a mindboggling display of incompetent and dangerous parking in Church Lane, which appeared to be from people using Wimpole Park for walking. A van with a trailer was unable to negotiate the parked cars, and the service bus and a lorry following, and several other vehicles were also unable to get through. The lorry, trying to get through to Croydon village, did not want to reverse onto the A1198 for safety reasons and in the end the Police were called to try and sort it out. The whole fiasco lasted for around 2 hours. Cllr Kindersley reported that discussions were taking place in Arrington Parish Council to see what could be done to alleviate this.

Cllr Williams stated that one of the conditions of the planning permission the National Trust received was that parking should be free. The wording of the permission may indicate what this applies to.

Poppy Appeal: Clerk has tried to ascertain the amount of the collection in Croydon, but at present has been unable to do so.

Free Trees: SCDC has been advertising three free trees for Parish Councils. Further information received has indicated that the trees must be planted on Parish Council land. As Council does not own any land, this offer cannot be taken up.

Cambridgeshire Against Scams Partnership: Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme asked that the following information was circulated to Councils. A disabled lady has twice been the victim of oil theft and the Bobby Scheme is asking for personal contributions to help this lady replace her oil. CASP also welcomed several new PCs into the scheme and encourages existing members to complete the Friends against Scams training. If you would like to become a Dementia Friend, there is a training session on Monday 27th January at 10.00am in Huntingdon.

Correspondence:

Electoral register: None received.

Public Access Demonstration: The Planning Department is migrating their ICT solutions. The public facing website that enables the application search will be changing. Hopefully, this training will be informative regarding the changes, and the Clerk will be attending this on behalf of Council.

Greater Cambridge Partnership Planning Policy update: This was discussed at the meeting - there are so many Public Consultations taking place at the moment, the Clerk was asked to amalgamate the information into one and "Mailchimp" it to the village.

Hunts and Cambs Archives: The new Cambridgeshire Archives building in Ely is now open. There is likely to be a great demand at the beginning, so if it is not vitally important to archive paperwork, please wait for a little while.

NALC/CAPALC Spring Conference: Apparently - "the NALC Spring Conference 2020 is an essential event for the local government sector, bringing local (parish and town) councils together with others sectors to share, celebrate and advance the crucial work local councils do to build stronger communities. The conference will focus on one of NALC's key campaigns for 2020, health and wellbeing, and how local councils can create healthier communities. The conference is now an established part of NALC's event calendar and one of the most significant events in the sector for local councils." Tickets cost from £268-97 rising to £332-87, and is from 9.00am to 5.00pm in London.

Cambs ACRE Peer Learning event: The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) is designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. Take-up of the Scheme has been relatively low in Cambridgeshire and when local councillors and clerks were surveyed, many said that their awareness of the Scheme, what's involved and what the benefits might be, was limited. Having looked at the information likely to be delivered, the Chair decided it was not an appropriate event for the Clerk to attend.

Electronic Correspondence: Nothing arising from the circulated information.

Subsequent receipts:

SLCC Conference: Programme of events appeared to be more interesting than NALC Conference, however, not necessary for Croydon PC. Cost is £229 + VAT for 2 days.

SCDC Proposed Planning Decision Changes: Council received a letter which, if the contents were true, is a cause for concern. It suggests that the District Council is considering the adoption of the scheme of delegation currently in place at Cambridge City Council, as they now share planning. Under the terms of the proposal, the final authority to decide whether or not applications are determined by the Planning Committee would shift from the Chairman of the Planning Committee, who is democratically elected and publicly accountable, to a single officer. This officer is the Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development, who the public have no way of holding to account for the decisions taken and the impacts those decisions have made on local villages.

Following receipt of this letter, one was received from Cllr Bridget Smith, Leader of SCDC which states "I am going to recommend that, in the unlikely event there is a disagreement between the Chairman of Planning and the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development on any application, it is automatically referred to the Planning Committee for it to be considered and determined."

This situation will continue to be monitored.

Cambridgeshire Road Safety Survey: This survey is only open until 6 February. Please complete it if you can.

SCD Cllr Williams gave her verbal report:-

She first apologised for not attending the December meeting, but she was extremely unwell. Because of the year (2020) she is encouraging people to write this in full on any paperwork, correspondence, cheques etc to prevent unauthorised modification of the date.

Planning: Commenting on the Proposed Planning Decision changes, the communications within SCDC are not very good. No one person should have the power to decide what goes through to the Planning Committee.

Consultations: Please complete as many as you can - details in the written report

Written report from Cllr Williams

A personal campaign of mine has been to encourage people to use the full year '2020' when signing and dating official documents. This is because the abbreviation e.g. 01/04/20 could easily be modified to e.g. 01/04/2008. I hope you will join me in promoting this to residents.

Planning

There has recently been further concerns raised against the processes of the planning department's scheme of delegation at SCDC. Currently the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the planning committee meet with officers and decide what applications to be escalated to committee and which can be dealt with under officer delegated powers. This practise has been challenged as the Chairman of the planning committee is not an executive member (i.e. a member of the cabinet). The proposed change is for the Joint Director of Planning & Economic Development to make the decision in consultation with the chairman of planning. I understand that Parish Councils have been contacted by the Leader of the Council which describes the current process and makes recommendations that if the Chairman and the Director disagree then it would automatically be referred to committee. However, there is nothing in the proposed text so far shown to councillors that supports this. I and others are deeply concerned of these proposed changes, and that good will is relied on, if this automatic process is to happen, it should be embedded in the constitution to give true reassurance. However, I believe that it ought to be an elected member who has the final decision, we are democratically elected and can be held to account by the public. I am pursuing the possibility of requesting one of the cabinet members being given this role and will be taking legal advice as to if this is possible or not shortly.

Consultations

Currently the consultation for the next local plan issues and options stage is now live, the link below will take you to the dedicated local plan website. I would like to encourage as many people as possible to take part in this consultation, the outcomes of this will form part of the building blocks for the next local plan which will affect every resident in South Cambridgeshire. The consultation closes on 26th February 2020.

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan/>

Another consultation that I believe is of interest to residents is the National Rail consultation on a railway station at Addenbrookes, Cambridge South.

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/cambridge-south-station/>

The County Council are currently running a consultation on their Climate Change and Environment Strategy Consultation.

<https://consultcamb.s.uk.engagementhq.com/climate-strategy>

Three Free Trees

SCDC are offering parish councils/meetings who own land a £60 voucher to plant 3 small trees or 1 large tree. As a council we have unanimously committed to encouraging tree planting and I do hope that those who are in a position to accept this offer will do so.

CC Cllr Kindersley gave a brief verbal report:

East-West Rail: No decision has been made yet; expected in March 2020. Meanwhile, CamBed Rail Road has sufficient funding to finance a judicial review, as their suggested route will maximise sustainability whilst minimising environmental damage, which East-West Rail's proposed route does not do. Cllr Kindersley said that a meeting with our new MP, Anthony Brown has been requested.

Church Lane: Arrington Parish Council is aware of the parking difficulties.

Planning:

S/3770/19/FL :Unit 3 Clopton Farm - Alterations and extension to existing Commercial Unit (Use Class B1), 1 including conversion of existing parking carport to additional multi-use Meeting Room/Passivhaus demonstration & training space plus alterations to external parking layout and associated soft and hard landscaping. Planning permission for this has been granted, with conditions.

S/3622/19/FL: 8 Clopton Close - first floor side and rear extensions (above existing) and two storey side extension. Planning permission for this has been granted, with conditions.

SCDC Planning Changes: Discussed at length elsewhere.

Finance:

Bank Statement: Current balance £7354-25, after payment for the telephone kiosk.

VAT: Clerk has claimed VAT back up to the end of December 2019.

Charles-Arnold Baker: The current edition is available from SLCC at a cost of £103-99 for members (£129-99 for non-members). Council approved this expenditure and the Clerk will order the book.

Precept: Councillors had received the nominal balances up to the end of December prior to this meeting, to assist them with their deliberations. The PCC applied to Council for an increased Churchyard Maintenance grant, as the lime trees along the edge of the old churchyard require pollarding. After discussions and suggested alterations, the following precept was decided:-

Insurance	£400
Rent	£200
Clerk	£1400
Audit	£40
Subs	£60
Election	£200
Cemetery/Village	£600
Books and Training	£150
Website	£200
Reading Room	£150

Total to be precepted for: £3400

This was proposed by Mr Wheeler, seconded by Mr Barnes, all were in favour. Clerk will inform SCDC of this decision. Councillors had also decided to increase the Clerk's salary next year by £100, for which they were thanked. Councillors decided that the monies in the Interest nominal should be moved to the Community Benefit Fund, as it is the Fund that has earned the interest. Clerk will action this.

Items for the next agenda: Shooting on Manor Farm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.53pm

Signed

Date