

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was due to be held on Wednesday 15th July 2020 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Due to Government advice on social contact and distancing, it was decided to postpone open Council meetings until further notice, and the required meetings will be held remotely.

Apologies: Mr Brown - unable to link to Zoom.

Attending: Mrs Slator, Mr Barnes, Ms Newland, Mr Sole, Mr Wheeler, Cllr Kindersley and the Clerk.

Minutes, Notes and Reports to be confirmed at a non-virtual Council meeting.

Declarations of Interest: None received

Matters Arising:

Implementation Group report: Mrs Slator gave a brief report on behalf of the IG. The inception of the website is welcomed by the IG. The WhatsApp group is working well. Please remember to follow the protocol and good behaviour required. It has been noticed that, when a connection is made through WhatsApp, further discussions/exchanges have been carried out privately, which is the preferred outcome.

Regarding the Housing Needs Survey, it is unfortunate that Mark Deas has left ACRE, so until a replacement for him is appointed there is no-one actively moving this forward. ACRE has tried to obtain comments on the potential sites from SCDC, but nothing is forthcoming at the moment.

The IG is interested in the Zero Carbon Strategy, but at the moment does not want more trees in the churchyard as the Diocese stated that too many trees may cause a problem with their roots.

Website: Mrs Slator is currently liaising with the developer regarding the requirements for the new website.

Speedwatch Meeting: As Cllr Williams was not at the meeting, no further news on an area meeting could be ascertained.

Lower Road: The debris left after crashes has been reported and will be cleared by the Highways Team. The response to Council's concerns regarding speeding were as usual, no budget and apply via the Local Highways Improvements Programme. CCC suggestions to reduce speed were vertical humps, cushions and horizontal narrowing. They also stated that speeding is primarily an issue that should be dealt with by the constabulary, who would then issue fines. Cllr Kindersley stated that Tadlow has had numerous speed signs and road markings at the junction with Lower Road, but all this has made no difference at all to speeding. It all comes down to driver behaviour.

Churchyard Bronze Award: The churchyard extension is being assessed for a bronze award. It seems likely that it will achieve this, and the judges are due to confirm this shortly.

Mailchimp: The Clerk has been sending out numerous E-News circulars during lockdown and has just sent out number 90. She asked Councillors if they thought the number of E-News was too much, but Councillors felt that all the information was both relevant and useful. As the last Covid-19 Communities update was on Monday 13 July, the number of circulars should reduce somewhat.

Defibrillator: Clerk had emailed the Arrington Clerk several months ago regarding the maintenance of the defibrillator in their phone box, and has never received a response to this enquiry. BT recommends the Community Heartbeat Trust for the supply and installation of the defibrillator, as BT has given them permission to connect it to the electricity supply in the old kiosk. There appears to be a myriad of options/agreements and ongoing costs to consider from Community Heartbeat Trust and Council would like to hear from other parishes with defibrillators and learn how they have overcome these. Cllr Kindersley suggested the Clerk contacts Hatley and Gamlingay Clerks for advice.

War Memorial Insurance: BHIB has a specialist team that can value a war memorial. The Clerk has contacted BHIB and is waiting for their recommendation of a valuer.

Arrington Parking: Croydon Parish Council whole-heartedly supports Arrington Parish Council in their efforts with this difficult problem. One comment was received from a family in Croydon, who drive to the playground so that their children can use it. They are unable to walk to the playground as there is no footway between Croydon and Arrington, and would like to ensure they can still park near the playground.

Area 3 Planning Team: Mrs Slator "attended" this meeting and found it useful. The Area 3 Team members were introduced, and it is helpful to have a face to put to a name. It was suggested that applicants for planning permission should talk to Parish Councils before putting their applications in. There was concern from several Clerks over the lack of paper plans. Not everyone has access to the internet and so can neither see nor comment on forthcoming applications. A compromise has been reached whereby applications for large developments will have paper plans. Cllr Kindersley stated that the developers used to supply a paper copy of their plans for Parish Councils.

Insurance renewal: Has been received.

Old Paperwork: The Clerk has been rationalising the paperwork she has been storing for many years and has some she would like to discuss with the Chair before deciding to either keep or dispose of. It may have some historical value to the village. Other statutory paperwork can be taken to the Archives in Ely, which have reopened.

Cllr Kindersley gave highlights from his written report:

Shielding: Anyone who is shielding needs to apply for a priority supermarket shopping slot by 17th July. This is necessary in case of a second wave of Covid.

Finance: The County Council is in some financial difficulty following the extra expenses of the pandemic. It has approximately a £13m shortfall.

Bedford: Is currently the region's hotspot for Covid.

Return to school: This is causing a lot of difficulty - how can it be done safely? Parents must be confident that the children are safe. School transport is causing problems - several buses instead of one would be needed in order to maintain social distancing. There has been a 75% use of online education during the lockdown.

Civic HQ at Alconbury: It is disappointing that the proposed new building will only generate 40% of its projected energy use. Cllr Kindersley stated that the SCDC building, although much older, has a better energy efficiency than this.

University in Peterborough: The proposed university will cost £30m and will be a partner vocational university with Anglia Ruskin. There has been a substantial loss of student income because of the pandemic - is another vocational university needed?

Gamlingay Fire: Two teenagers have been arrested - a great deal of damage has resulted from the fire.

Car Parking In Arrington: Cllr Kindersley attempted to explain some of the problems associated with the Church Lane parking. There are several public footpaths in the grounds of Wimpole Hall, one of which is accessible from the Arrington Gate into the grounds. Although the car park is free to use now, the footpath at the other end does not reach the car park. There is a 30 yard strip of land that is private (National Trust) which prevents people reaching the public footpath unless the entrance charge is paid. Mrs Slator stated that the idea of the free parking is to encourage people from the city to access the countryside, but the new charges to enter the grounds have made this impossible. Sports England funded the Multi-use trail for the use of everyone, and unless visitors park in Arrington and go into the grounds through the "back gate", then the entrance fee to Wimpole Hall grounds would need to be paid. Cllr Kindersley reported that the National Trust is funding £5K for research and various parking and footpath options.

Cllr Kindersley's written report:

Gamlingay Division Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council - July August 2020

The Gamlingay Division comprises the Parishes of Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Litlington, Hatley, Orwell, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow & Wimpole. This report is /for all Division Parish Councils but please be aware that it will include items that may have little or no relevance to your particular Parish. Apologies in advance!

Coronavirus: Are you shielding or do you know someone who is? :People who have been encouraged to register as shielding are being urged to do so before the 17 July deadline, whether they need help at the moment or not. Although the shielding programme will be paused on July 31st, people on the

shielded list who register for support with essential supplies before July 17th will still be able to access priority supermarket delivery slots from this date.

If you've been previously contacted by the NHS and advised that you need to shield and have not yet registered, please think about doing so, whether you need help at the moment or not.

Why? Firstly, registering will allow the County Council to keep in contact with you and provide support if there is a further lockdown. Secondly registering will allow you to access priority supermarket delivery slots, which may be useful to you in the coming weeks and months. To access these slots, please make sure you tick the box which asks for help with accessing essential supplies when you register. To register on the shielded list, or to amend your preferences, visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable or call 0800 028 8327.

Coronavirus: Financial Implications: The County Council is going to suffer badly from the financial implications of Coronavirus. The latest estimate of the deficit due to the pandemic is £12.7m. This does not include the latest funding announced (£500m nationally + some support for lost Sales, Fees and Charges). Many of the cost consequences still lie ahead and remain uncertain, especially those in relation to Adults and Children's Services where developments to date may be leading to significantly increased costs in future.

Coronavirus: Libraries & Archives: Nine libraries began to re-open on July 4th by offering a new 'Select and Collect' service where books can be chosen in advance and collected at pre-booked times. To combat digital exclusion, libraries will also begin offer public access IT services based on 45-minute pre-booked appointments, with machines being cleaned between each user.

Mobile libraries won't be able restart immediately because of problems in maintaining social distancing in such small spaces. Archives will also begin to reopen from July on an appointments only basis to begin with, and all documents must be pre-booked to ensure safety and to minimise risk.

Coronavirus: Local Impact: of the Cambridgeshire districts, the cumulative rate of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population in Fenland (462.1) is statistically similar to the national average, whilst in Huntingdonshire (491.7) rates are statistically significantly higher. Bedford is one of the national centres for Coronavirus currently, so residents are asked not to visit unless absolutely necessary.

Coronavirus: COVID-19 used as click bait: There has been an increase in attempted phishing attacks using Covid19 information as click bait. They are in line with the usual email scams, encouraging settlement of bogus invoices, suggesting payment for actions, prompting the reader to click on links and requests for a transfer of funds.

What should you do if you have received a scam email?

- Exercise caution when dealing with any unsolicited emails.
- Check the sender's email domain by hovering your mouse over the sender's name.
- Do not click on any links in the scam email.
- Do not reply to the email or contact the senders in any way.
- Do not open any attachments or download content or images if you are prompted to do so.
- Permanently delete the email.

Coronavirus: Return to School: Education Leads at Cambridgeshire County Council have been reviewing government guidance around the re-opening of schools for all year groups in September, and are confident the necessary measures will be in place to welcome back all pupils. The guidance sets out the steps primary, secondary (including sixth forms), infant, junior, middle, upper, school-based nurseries and boarding schools need to take to ensure all pupils can return to formal education after the summer.

Schools will be asked to implement a new Public Health England-endorsed 'System of Controls', which build upon the protective measures that have been in place throughout the pandemic, helping to reduce the risk of transmission. Other updates include guidance on how schools manage their social 'bubbles' to minimise contact between pupils and staffing groups. The size of these bubbles may now increase to incorporate whole classes or even year groups, provided there is clear separation between these groups and others. The increase will allow teachers to work with more children, meaning no child should miss out on lessons.

Staggered start and ending times will help ensure bubbles are not mixing, with each school able to apply flexibility in a way that works for staff, parents and children. They will also be given freedom to adapt the curriculum, to ensure they can address any gaps in skills and knowledge of those pupils who have not been able to attend through the lockdown period.

Schools will be asked to revisit their risk assessments, giving careful consideration to what adaptations they may need to make to their buildings or teaching practices to safely accommodate their returning pupils.

Keyworker parents and those of vulnerable children who kept their children out of school through the lockdown have not been fined, but under the new guidance powers will be reinstated from September, giving schools the option to fine parents if they think a child's absence is not justified.

Most schools have remained open throughout the pandemic, so are experienced at this by now and are on track; and the NHS Test and Trace process is embedded in all schools.

While the County Council wants to make sure children get an education and for parents to feel confident about the return to school in September there are some very considerable hurdles yet to overcome - not least that of school transport; how children are kept in bubbles and so on. More advice will emerge, we assume.

Fostering: We do write about this often - because it is so important. Cambridgeshire County Council wants to hear from anyone who is considering fostering in order to provide support, love and stability to children and young people. Every day over 300 foster carers from across Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council give over 1,000 fostered children and young people a safe and loving home.

During Covid-19 both authorities have been progressing enquiries over the telephone and by video call, but many more foster carers are needed to help support children over 10, teenagers and sibling groups.

If you are over 21 and have a spare bedroom in your home then you should not rule yourself out based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender identification, religion or sexual orientation. Carers can be single or in a relationship, own or rent their own home, have their own children or be child-free.

Carers receive payments and allowances to help cover their time and expenses, as well as advice and guidance so they are supported every step of the way. Email fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call 0800 052 0078.

New County Council HQ at Alconbury: The building of the new HQ for Cambridgeshire County Council continues apace, and is over budget already, albeit due to Covid-19 related delays. However, despite the County's agreed position that we will have net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050 there is provision for only 20 electric charging points installed in the car park. While the design does maximise the number of Solar PVs on the roof of the building, the installation of a Solar Array in the car park and an Air Source heat pump the on-site renewable energy generation is only expected to meet up to 40% of the building's expected energy use. This is really poor; and compares very unfavourably with other civic buildings such as South Cambs Hall - built nearly 20 years ago. Very poor leadership.

Peterborough University: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has announced that Anglia Ruskin University is the official higher education partner for Peterborough's new employment-focused university. The new £30 million university - which will be known as ARU Peterborough - is set to open its doors to 2,000 students in 2020. The curriculum will be designed to meet local economic needs, providing both opportunities for local residents to receive a top-class vocational education and a well skilled local workforce for businesses to employ.

Odsey Scrapyrd: Following concerns from local residents about the erection of a giant tent at the Station Scrapyrd at Odsey, County Council officers made enquiries of Vaux Spares who have provided further information and photographs confirming that they erected the temporary structure to create a covered area to prevent the mixing of oils and water which has been caused by water coming onto the site. An application for planning permission for a permanent shed at the site is likely to be submitted in due course. In the meantime the company have offered to add wood cladding to the temporary structure to improve its appearance, should this be considered preferable and provide better visual amenity in the short term.

Schools invited to join safety improvement scheme: Schools in Cambridgeshire are being invited to join a new initiative aimed at creating a safe space outside their gates which encourages pupils to use active transport and maintain social distancing.

By creating a "school street", schools can temporarily close a road outside their entrance, enabling it to become a pedestrian and cycle/scoot zone during the school's opening and closing times. This will also help to implement social distancing and encourage active travel, with the added benefit of reducing congestion and pollution at the school gates and improving safety for children on their way to and from school.

Schools will need to put forward volunteers to help run the scheme and the council will provide full training and resources free of charge. The scheme will then be owned and operated by the school community, with support from the council.

Green End Fire Gamlingay: Residents cannot have missed that on July 5th a substantial office block at Green End Industrial Estate Gamlingay was deliberately set alight. Firefighters from Gamlingay, Cambridge, St Neots, Kimbolton, Papworth and Huntingdon, along with crews from Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire attended. The water carrier from Ramsey, aerial appliances from Cambridge and Bedfordshire and the incident command unit from Huntingdon were also called. Apart from the destruction of property the knock-on impacts were substantial.

The County Council organised an assessment by an asbestos contractor to review the Montessori building, the school sports field and the Rainbow Pre-school. As a result of this assessment a deep clean of the above areas was undertaken at a cost of over £2,000. Many residents were concerned about the impact on their health and property from smoke, dust and possible asbestos contamination. Businesses on the site were forced to close. And all this during a pandemic where emergency services are already over-stretched; and those affected businesses already financially vulnerable. We understand two local teenagers have been arrested.

Wildlife Trust & Gamlingay Wood: The Wildlife Trust own Gamlingay Wood and have a right of access to it along the track from Waresley Road but don't own the access track. Many years ago the owner of the track and adjacent arable land agreed to allow visitors to the wood to park their cars on the side of the track. Over the years the wood has got busier and some people have encroached further on the farmer's field. The farmer has now taken steps to restrict use of the track and prevent encroachment. The track will soon be gated. There are no other public rights of way or access routes which reach the boundary of the wood over which the Wildlife Trust has control. Residents are asked to not park on the main road when visiting as this is incredibly dangerous; and to walk or cycle. The Parish Council is due to discuss this very shortly.

Lockdown loo: Lockdown loo is a free website that encourages organisations and members of the public to provide information on which public loos are open. Do have a check of your local area and update or add information to help people find local facilities.

Road Closures: Royston Rd Litlington between 08/09/20 and 10/09/20 for new electricity connection works.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or skindersley@hotmail.com or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA District Councillor Bridget Smith (Gamlingay Ward, SCDC) is on 01767 650510 or bridget@glockling.com You can also follow your councillors on Twitter: @Cllrbridget, @SebKindersley

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: More alterations have been received and these will be circulated at a "normal" meeting.

SLCC - Model Code of Conduct survey: Information of this has been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk urged Councillors to complete the survey as the new Code will become mandatory when updated.

Local Surface Dressing/Gripfibre programme: The proposed works have been changed several times because of the pandemic and weather. Each alteration has been circulated and signs have been seen around the area, giving advance warnings and diversions when works are in progress.

Greater Cambridge Partnership: The monthly bulletin has been circulated to Councillors. The Local Plan survey is asking for information and comments on the Green Infrastructure around Cambridge. The survey is open until 27th July, and can be found in the email with the subject heading "Green Infrastructure in Greater Cambridge - tell us what you think." The link to the survey is in this email.

Extinction Rebellion: A letter was received regarding the use of road verges to reverse biodiversity loss. There are only 60 protected verges across the County and so many more could be used.

Finance:

Bank statement: Current account balance is £7601-56 at the end of June. The Clerk reported that the cheque to Croydon PCC and the cheque to the website developer, which together total £940-00, are still to be presented for payment.

Audit: The Clerk was pleased to announce that PKF Littlejohn has received and logged Council's notice of exempt status. Hopefully, there will be no further contact until next year.

Zoom: The Clerk purchased one month of Zoom at a perceived cost of £11-99. However, when Federal Taxes in the States were added, the total cost was £14-39. It was agreed that the Clerk will cancel the one month use at the end of July. If any planning applications are received in August, the free version will be sufficient for a meeting. If remote meetings have to continue, then the Zoom Pro version will be reinstated in September.

Planning:

Application 20/02047/HFUL - Valley Farm - Garage extension together with accommodation over. (Re-submission of S/0612/12/FL)

This application was approved.

Application 20/01892/HFUL - 8 Clopton Close - Single storey rear extension, first floor rear extension & associated works

1) Change to roof design.

Councillors were shown the amended roof plans. It was a minor amendment and after discussion it was proposed by the Chair that Council has no concerns with the amendment. All in favour. Clerk will add the comment to the GCPlanning website.

Application 20/02656/FUL - land to the north of Manor Farm, Croydon - Push Energy (Croydon) Limited.

Installation of secure storage container (Re-submission of S/2248/19/FL)

This is a similar application to one previously submitted. Apparently, the container was placed on a drain which now needs attention, so has to be moved slightly to allow access to the drain.

Councillors did not wish to comment on this application. All in favour. Clerk will add this to the GCPlanning website.

Application 20/02614/FUL - Land At Brickyard Farm Lower Road Croydon SG8 0HA
Erection of a dwelling and associated development - roof modification.

The Chair reported that an analysis of the buildings had been completed. and they are not listed and have no architectural value. The modification applied for is to raise the roof height sufficiently to accommodate rooms in the roof space of the building. After viewing the plans and a short discussion the Chair proposed that Council supports the amendment. All in favour. Clerk will add the comment to the GCPlanning website.

South Cambs District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward

Cllr Williams sent the following:-

Green Bins: Collections are returning to normal, with thanks being expressed to residents for their cooperation around the disruption to service. In relation to Food waste bags I am in the process of ordering a bulk load from SCDC and will be able to resume delivering these to residents shortly. Please do let me know if yourselves or others need the food waste bags, they are £3.00 for 50 bags.

Planning: Many residents, both applicants and affected neighbours have had issues with being able to receive updates on planning applications. Some Parish Councils have also been experiencing difficulties. As we are working in difficult times at present, I have asked for a regular meeting with the team leader for The Mordens ward, in order to raise any issues. I would ask that if the parish council, or residents of whom you are aware of, are experiencing difficulties then please do raise them with me and I will speak with officers on your behalf. Planning Committee continues to meet more frequently to help progress with a backlog of planning applications.

2018 Accounts: At the last Audit and Corporate Governance Committee we were able to finally sign off the March 2018 year end accounts (that were due in July 2018). The reason for the delay of nearly 2 years has been associated as a resource issues both internal at SCDC and with the external auditors. I have continued to raise the need for resourcing the finance department adequately, as while there is no fixed penalty for a Local Authority being late with their accounts, there will be extra external audit fee costs potentially of a 6 figure sum; this I did raise back in 2018 when the troubles around the accounts began. Subsequently the March 2019 accounts are yet to come to the committee, though I hope that these will be available shortly, and the March 2020 accounts are also late. It is hoped the council may be able to recover its timetable in order for the March 2021 accounts to be on time.

Investment Strategy: The SCDC Administration continues to implement its Investment Strategy despite the change in circumstances. This has concerned myself and others, so when the cabinet agreed to purchase 2 further commercial properties for their portfolio I, with support from other councillors called in

one of the acquisitions, however this was unsuccessful and the purchase went ahead. At full council it was also agreed that SCDC would enter into two Limited Liability Partnerships. For confidentiality reasons, as the meeting involved the exclusion of press and public for these decisions, I am unable to provide any details other than that I voted against such proposals.

Clr Heather Williams
SCDC The Mordens Ward
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Items for the next agenda:

None put forward

Next scheduled meeting:-

Wednesday 16 September 2020 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm

It is hoped that the September meeting may be able to take place in the Reading Room, subject to the restrictions in place then. If this is not possible then remote meetings will continue.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.28pm.

If you wish to participate in the Zoom meetings, please contact the Clerk for details of the meeting.

Signed Date

