

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20 June 2018 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Brown - working.

Present: Mr Wenman, Ms Newland Mrs Slator, Mr Sole, Mr Barnes, Cllr Kindersley, Cllr Williams, the Clerk and one member of public.

Minutes: of the May meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received

Members' Interests Forms: One still to come

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Implementation Group:

- **Village Design Statement:** Mr Ralph and Mrs Slator will be attending a meeting at SCDC on 26 June. The Village Design Statement has to be a Community Led development - the idea of the Statement is to advise and guide new developments. SCDC Is looking to pilot the scheme and will use a spread of large, medium and small villages - Croydon can apply but may not be selected. There may be an officer from SCDC coming out to speak to the Implementation Group and the Parish Council about it. As the Implementation Group already has the information needed, it could start on the Statement.
- **E-News:** Five new members have joined the E-News Group, which is promising. If you want to join the group, please e-mail croydonvillagecambes@gmail.com
- **Whatsapp Group:** An alert was sent out last week about a suspicious vehicle. The group is an electronic Neighbourhood Watch!
- **Signage:** Should there be signage for Neighbourhood Watch? Is it beneficial?
- **Cameras:** The privacy aspect could be a problem. Private cameras might be the answer.

The agenda was paused for a

Verbal report from Cllr Kindersley as he had to go on to another meeting.

Grass cutting: The verges on the Croydon Hill junction were reported over a week ago, and at the time of the meeting had not been cut. Cllr Kindersley said that last time he reported a highways issue caused by long grass it was dealt with the next day.

Clopton Close: Grass has not been cut. This is SCDC responsibility.

Tree planting: Cllr Kindersley will ascertain if a licence was issued.

Barrington Parish Council: Cambs County Council has organised a meeting with Barrington PC, other interested parties and the Clinical Commissioning Group (who are £38 million in debt) to discuss GP provision when the newbuild at Barrington old Cement Works goes ahead. The CCG are only that much in debt because the NHS is good at doing new projects, but when the grants run out, the CCG has to foot the bill to keep the project going. Heidi Allen will be leading on this because there are so many villages involved.

E-mailed report from Cllr Kindersley - CCC:

All Change at South Cambs District Council: A number of substantial changes have followed the results of the local election in May. The Lib Dems now have control of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The make-up of the Council is as follows: 30 Lib Dems (20 of whom are new Councillors and 13 of whom are women); 11 Conservatives (2 new); 2 Labour (1 new); and 2 Independents. The new Leader of the Council is our own Bridget Smith who announced that there would be a new way of working that is collaborative, inclusive and transparent. This was immediately demonstrated by the choice of Cllr Douglas de Lacey, (Independent) as the new Chairman of the Council; and Cllr Granville Chamberlain (Conservative) as the Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee. In her

inaugural speech at the first full Council meeting Bridget laid out the three Day One priorities for the new Council: affordable housing, environment and business growth. You can read her speech here: <https://wp.me/p9Xyh5-13>

Combined Authority: The political landscape in Cambridgeshire is getting more and more complex. As well as the County Council (responsible for education, health and social care) and the District Councils (responsible for planning, housing and waste management) we have the Greater Cambridge Partnership (formally The City Deal) attempting to deliver transport improvements in South Cambs/Cambridge and now the Combined Authority and the Mayor doing transport, housing and skills throughout the whole county and Peterborough. It will be no surprise that this is proving somewhat challenging to work with especially as there is overlap in what they are all wanting (and in some cases failing) to do.

The Mayor has recently taken over responsibility for the Local Enterprise Partnership which was responsible for the Economic Development Strategy for a very large area including all Cambridgeshire. This concerns us as we are very aware that South Cambs and Cambridge City are the power house driving the economy of the whole County and there is no guarantee that the Mayor is as committed as one would hope to ensuring the continued successful business growth of our area.

He has even more recently tried to halt the well developed plans of the GCP to build some new park and rides and to put a Busway along the A428 corridor. This would not be a problem if it were clear that the CA was going to be able to solve the ever-increasing congestion problems facing us all (but especially people commuting in and out of Cambridge) in the short term but that is not the case.

It is clear that the Combined Authority (CA) is beginning to flex its muscles. The Mayor and the CA would like to subsume the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) much as they did the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). At the most recent meeting it laid out its 4 year plan which encompasses several ambitious transport schemes (including the CAM metro and, worryingly, an extension of the M11 northwards to Wisbech) and began to consider the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER). With five levels of government locally it's also clear that reform is needed.

County Council HQ relocation to Alconbury: The reform referred to above was one (of many) reasons why we do not support the move of the County Council HQ to Alconbury – a decision made at the last Council meeting and which is based on an assessment which is riddled with inaccuracy and unjustified assumptions. CCC will build a shiny new HQ just in time to disappear (potentially) and – given our not very good track record – it's likely to be over budget and over schedule. Alconbury is almost entirely devoid of any kind of public transport – just think for a second – how would YOU get there? If all we need is an office block for 300+ officers then why not in or around Cambridge? It's a terrible waste of your tax, which could be far better spent on frontline services.

Fire Authority: The saga of the Police and Crime Commissioner's attempt to take over the running of the Fire Service rumbles on. The Fire Authority has agreed to pursue a Judicial Review of the Home Secretary's decision to allow the power grab on the basis that she did not meet the statutory criteria and secondly that she used an internal Home Office report to inform her opinion which the HO now refuses to share with us.

Why do we care so much? Firstly, Gamlingay has a Fire Station (as do many smaller communities) which must be in the sights of the PCC's drive to save cash. Secondly, it might be argued that the PCC has enough to do already with a Police service which does not have a brilliant record with the public. Lastly the Fire Service is extremely well run with a lean financial regime and on the basis of if it ain't broke....

Park & Rides: We are receiving an increasing number of reports that Park and Rides, especially at Trumpington, are full. A planning application has been lodged for the expansion of the Trumpington P&R on its current site. There are also (very unpopular) plans for a new site west of the M11, but those are not so far advanced. However, it is not clear whether this will now have to be halted to take into account the Mayor's view that Park and Ride is not part of his vision for Cambridgeshire.

Drains do not Like Wet Wipes: The flash flood in Cinques Road Gamlingay at the beginning of the month was the direct result of the sewers being blocked by wet wipes. The heavy rainfall flooded the foul water system as well as overloading the surface drains and the result was that some households ended up having raw sewage lapping at their front doors. Anglia Water attended but blamed 'The Council' for failing to maintain the drains sufficiently well. But the bottom line is that if people continue to put stuff down their loo which should not go down there then the drains will block.

Responsibility for the sewers is Anglian Water's. The County Council is responsible for the surface water drains and South Cambs is responsible for ensuring that any contamination from sewage is cleared up by the people responsible for it. Needless to say these things nearly always happen at weekends or out of office hours and it is really hard to get anyone to answer the phone.

A428 Dualling: We were invited to attend a briefing at Tempsford about the proposed A428 dualling from the Black Cat to Caxton where we learnt that a preferred route announcement will 'definitely' be made in 2018 followed by a four month consultation period. It will not be part of the Cambridge – Oxford Expressway as the scheme is too far advanced – but it will be future-proofed so it slots in easily. We'll see. Part of the presentation was interesting. There is a Designated Funds grant scheme available to communities affected. Acceptable projects must fall into one of five categories: environment; cycling, safety and integration (CSI); air quality; innovation; and growth and housing. More information on Designated Funds can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/highways-england-designated-funds>. If you have a suggestion, please email a428blackcattocaxtongibbet@highwaysengland.co.uk.

Rural Housing: We hear a very great deal from residents about the lack of affordable housing locally – and we hear a lot from Government about its intention to make it easier to get some affordable housing built. However this is getting harder and harder as Government itself changes the rules. Whereas before any housing over 3 units in South Cambs had to provide an affordable element (up to 40%) now any development of 10 units or less does not have to make any provision for affordable housing. So guess what happens? Planning applications come in for 10 houses or less.... It's so blindingly obvious – but not to our Government, it seems.

Robinson Court: We now know that some local people have secured the shared equity housing in Robinson Court which we are absolutely delighted about. The application procedure has been unnecessarily complex and has resulted in quite a lot of stress for some people and for this we can only apologise. We shall be looking into how lessons can be learnt for next time. If you are interested in the rental housing or the market housing do keep a close eye on the site and on Homelink as they are likely to go like hotcakes.

Does Gamlingay have a new quarry?: Activity at the old Cambs Recycling site on Potton Road has led to action being taken by the County Council's enforcement officers. It appears that sand was being extracted and the resulting void being backfilled with inert waste. This is without planning permission and the site owner has now agreed to stop activity, refill the voids and dispose of the waste in an authorised site. This should take two months.

Citizens Advice Centres: We mentioned before that Gamlingay residents have been turned away from CAB offices in St Neots and Biggleswade. We now understand that Rural Cambs CAB - who run the St Neots office - are changing their processes and moving towards a system where there will no longer be any face-to-face drop in sessions, and all clients will have to contact them initially via their contact centre (there is a possibility that some emergency drop-in sessions will be retained if necessary). For the approximately 20% who need additional face to face help following the initial contact, an appointment will be made at one of Rural CAB's 'agile' locations, which are in libraries, doctors' surgeries, etc.

This is of grave concern to us as one of the consequences of austerity has been that it is getting more and more difficult to access advice, help and support. One of the main services that CAB offer is on debt management which we know needs to be accessed quickly by people in order for them to avoid even bigger problems than the ones they already have. There is a self-service CAB terminal in the Eco Hub which is free and which the staff can help you to use.

We shall be reviewing the grants which South Cambs DC gives to CAB to ensure that all our residents have access to the level of support they need.

Parklife 2018: If you and the family would like an active day out please come to Parklife 2018 at Milton Country Park between 10am and 5pm on July 1st. There will be a whole host of water based activities to have a go at as well as cycling, football, archery, den building and climbing. Full details and advance bookings can be found at www.scams.gov.uk/parklife

The Council is also offering a number of summer sports camps in Athletics, Netball and Rounders and Kwik Cricket. www.scams.gov.uk/sportscamps. The cost is £24 per day and camps are open to children aged 7-14.

South Cambs DC News: One of the first actions upon taking over control of SCDC has been to establish two new committees and one new working group. The Climate and Environment Committee

will be looking at all the ways in which the Council can positively influence matters both in its own and its partners' operations to reduce damage to the climate and improve our environment.

The new Grants Committee is reviewing all the grants currently administered by the Council to make sure that they are providing maximum benefit where it is most needed. Money is very short these days and so no council can be as generous as it was 10 years ago. We are spending your money and so need to be able to be confident that we are spending it well and to best effect.

The Brexit Working Group is investigating ways in which the Council can help businesses in and around S Cambs to cope with any anticipated or actual consequences of Brexit. We already know that farmers are struggling to get the gangs they used to be able to get easily to harvest their crops and that some of the high skills industries, which are reliant on a European workforce, are seeing a reduction in applicants from outside Britain. This would not be a problem if we had all the skills they need within British-born people but we don't and so there is a risk that these big employers could consider relocating abroad. On top of this is the reliance of our already over stretched health service - especially hospital-based services on people from other countries. This covers all professions from our top consultants to the physios, emergency responders, nurses and cleaners.

Housing Land Supply: As you may recall South Cambridgeshire District Council could not demonstrate that it had a rolling five year land supply for housebuilding. As a result, any policies that sought to restrict residential development were suspended and in particular our village frameworks. This has meant planning permission for over 5,000 houses has been granted where previously it would have been resisted. Some villages like Waterbeach and Cottenham have been very badly damaged by this but many have suffered to a greater or lesser degree. We all accept we need houses and quickly, but the development must be planned and delivered properly making sure provision is made for GPs, schools, road, and all the other obvious things.

Thankfully, as of the 21st May SCDC considers that it can now demonstrate a five year housing land supply of 5.0 years for the period 2018-2023 using the stricter calculation required by Government (the Sedgefield method) and applying a 20% buffer. This is good news.

Needless to say the Local Plan Inspector still has not released her final report. If she manages to spin it out to September the Local Inquiry will have taken longer than the one for Sellafeld. That's quite a demonstration of ineptitude.

A1198 Overnight Closures: A head's up that the A1198 will be closed overnight for major resurfacing works from September 10th to 21st. Diversions will be in place and actual timings are weather dependent. Good news that Highways are taking some action here as currently the road surface is badly damaged and potentially dangerous. It's very sad that the Histon & Impington Bike Club have had to cancel the Strawberry 50 Bike Ride as too many roads on the route are judged to be dangerous for cyclists.

Why resurface the A603?: Residents from everywhere have been questioning why the A603 in Wimpole is scheduled for resurfacing when it's the only road for miles around without an actual pothole. The Highway Inspector noticed some defects in the surfacing in that the road was displaying signs that the binding material (oils) were beginning to separate from the aggregate. This then leads to the road surface failing, so if it's not caught quickly enough potholes etc. will start to appear.

Surface dressing will remedy this, but what it will not do is fix roads that are already showing signs of serious deterioration or are heavily potholed. (i.e. all the other ones). It is a preventative treatment and significantly more cost effective than allowing the road to deteriorate to such a point where a full resurfacing job is required.

As for the cat's eyes these will not be making a return. A class roads feature road studs down the centreline mainly due to their high speed nature. This doesn't apply in Wimpole as it is street lit and has a lower speed limit.

Flooding in Arrington: Many residents have been in touch about the new river in the A1198 that appears after any heavy rain. A wide range of interested parties met at the start of May to see what the problems were and what solutions could be agreed. Neighbours, the solar farm, Highways, the National Trust and more now have a series of actions to take to see if we can prevent Cambridgeshire's newest river from becoming permanent. We will report next month on the results of a series of camera inspections done under the road.

Clinical Commissioning Group: We reported last month on the parlous state of the CCG. It has now agreed a £42.1m deficit and a financial plan that will end 2018-19 at £35m deficit. A capacity and capability review by PWC further identifies – amongst a long list of deficiencies – a history which demonstrates a lack of grip, action, financial forecasting, financial control and delivery. In particular a

failure to deliver reduction in demand required to offset planned growth in the system; instability at leadership level impacting on delivery and causing uncertainty for staff; a lack of experienced leadership and capacity, resulting in insufficient grip, control and energy to drive improvement and the ineffectiveness of the Governing Body to ensure the CCG met its statutory duties. An action plan has been agreed but – amazingly – not a single Governor has thought they should resign for this appalling performance. Well, at least we don't think anyone has because our enquiries have been met by stony silence.

Wimpole Estate application: You may be interested in the application by the National Trust to build a multi-use trail around the estate – the second application for this is now open for consultation quoting reference S/1694/18/FL at South Cambs.

Innovate & Cultivate Funding: The latest rounds of the Cambridgeshire County Council's Innovate & Cultivate Fund are now open. The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications include adult social care, children and families services, and the waste service.

The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. The Innovate and Cultivate Fund has two funding streams: a 'Cultivate' stream for small grants of £2,000-£10,000 and an 'Innovate' stream for larger grants of up to £50,000. Cambridgeshire Community Foundation can answer questions about applying for the Fund info@cambscf.org.uk.

Barrington Quarry: An updated planning application is now available to view on the County's website for the importation by rail and deposit of inert restoration material to restore former clay and chalk quarry

Application No: S/0204/16/CW

Verbal Report from Cllr Williams - SCDC

Planning: The new administration wants to sort out the criteria, so nothing is being looked at. All planning applications are taken on a case by case basis.

Fun Day: This is 1st July - advertised in the SCDC magazine. It is designed to be social as well as for activities, for example sitting curling and buggy walks. There will be fitness professionals on hand who will help with the buggy walk routes and if enough support will lead the walk. Council will DBS check you at no charge if you want to get involved.

Bin bags: There are to be trial bag sales from the Queen Adelaide - £3-50 for 50 biodegradable bags (which fit food caddies). Bags sold in supermarkets are not properly biodegradable and not as eco-friendly as the SCDC bags.

E-mailed report from Cllr Williams:

The Council: The Council now comprises 45 members as opposed to 57 prior to this year's elections. There has also been a reduction in the amount of Cabinet Portfolio Holders from 10 members to 7. Licensing and Environmental Services are now combined, and there is no longer a portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing or Strategic Planning Infrastructure.

5-year land supply: As of Monday 21st May 2018 SCDC, confirmed that it considers us to have a 5.0 year land supply following an appeal at Cottenham resulting in 154 more houses being granted planning permission. This gives SCDC a surplus of 67 houses following the council's forecasts. The local plan has been of concern to many parishes and residents. Now that a 5-year supply has been demonstrated we hope that the Inspector will accept this also and then we can look forward to adopting it as a council.

Environment: During May the council took part in the International compost awareness week. Composting at home for 1 year can save global warming gases the equivalent to the CO₂ a washing machine makes in 3 months. Supermarkets and other stores now sell plastic compost bags that are biodegradable. These bags unfortunately do not comply with the refuse collection system at SCDC this can lead to loads of green bin waste being sent to landfill due to them containing the plastic bags. SCDC do sell paper bags that are bio degradable and can be used in the green wheelie bins. These cost £3 per pack and as I appreciate that Cambourne is a long journey to purchase food waste bags I

am happy to bring bags to parish council meetings or take orders from Residents and drop them too them.

If you regularly have extra recycling, please get in touch with myself or the council to order a free additional blue bin. Food Waste Caddies are also available free of charge.

Community Chest Grants: As of 31st May, the District Council will not be accepting any new applications for Community Chest Grants. This is because the New Grants Advisory Committee being established by the council wishes to review the qualifying criteria. We have been told that Grant Applications will re-open following the review process.

Parklife: On the Sunday 1st July Milton Country Park will host Parklife 2018. This is a free family fun day with the aim of encouraging residents of all ages to explore ways of improving their health and wellbeing. There will be a wide range of Sports, refreshments, a vintage tea tent, zorbs, den building, fire lighting and much more including water sports although the water sports are normally very popular, so advanced booking of timeslots are advised.

Potholes & Other Highways Issues

I would like to urge residents to continue reporting potholes to the County Council. Below is the link that allows you not only to report the potholes but also claim compensation for damage caused by potholes and highways faults.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roadsand-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/?platform=hootsuite>

There is a new round of Local Highways Initiative grants with a bid application deadline to the county council is Tuesday 31st July 2018. This is the annual opportunity for parish councils to bid for local highways improvements for which the county council will fund most and the parish council a minimum of ten per cent. The bidding parish council will be contacted by a county council project officer to develop a Feasibility Study as a way of supporting the parish council with their application on a practical level. Below is a link to the guidance provided by the county council on their website:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-your-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding/>

Your Councillor: Following the AGM, I have roles on certain committees. I am a committee member of Corporate Governance and Licensing and a substitute on Planning and Climate Change & Environment Advisory Committee.

Most of all I am your voice at South Cambs so please do get in contact if you have any concerns or would like my help and support.

Heather

Contact me via:-

- Cllr.williamsh@scambs.gov.uk
- 07885 774775
- @Cllr_H_Williams
- Or my facebook page Cllr Heather Williams

The agenda continued:-

Lower Road: The white lines have not been replaced yet - it is hoped that all the white lines will be repainted, and the situation continues to be monitored.

Trees: Some trees have been planted on Highways ground and Cllr Kindersley is to make enquiries regarding the legality of this, as a licence should have been obtained.

Letter: A letter was sent to Mr Wheeler thanking him for his exceptional work on the Council for the last 10 years and particularly as the Chairman.

Website and Webmaster: Mr Wheeler has been webmaster since the village website's inception, and has decided to hand over the reins to someone new. Mr Wenman is prepared to investigate what is involved and see if he is able to take this on. Mr Ralph said he would send an E-News round the village asking if anyone would be interested in the position.

Correspondence

Minerals and Waste Plan: Council had no comments to make on this.

SCDC Register of Electors: The monthly changes were circulated to Councillors.

Wysing Arts: Notified Council that they will not be sending out so much publicity material, along with information on the latest exhibition there.

Dispensation Forms: These can now be authorised by the Clerk. Council to consider all applying for dispensation, as this may be useful in future. A dispensation enables Councillors to take part in Council business where this would otherwise be prohibited because they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest,

Mythbuster Tour: Visits to sites of affordable housing around Warboys on Tuesday July 3rd from 9.30am - 1.30pm.

Finance:

Audit Regulation: All completed, hopefully to Littlejohn's satisfaction.

Bank Mandate: Mr Barnes was given the mandate to complete and will bring it to the next meeting for completion.

NSI: Clerk wrote a letter to NSI explaining the situation and it was signed by all the new signatories. She could not locate a suitable form on their website, so hopes the letter is sufficient to make the change. All in favour

SCDC Invoice: An invoice for £105-00 was received for the recent PC election. A cheque for this amount was raised and signed - all in favour.

Bank Statement: The balance at the end of May 2018 is £7297-96.

Items for next agenda: Village Design Statement

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 July 2018 in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm. As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Date