

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was due to be held on Wednesday 17th June 2020 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

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

Mr Brown - unable to link to Zoom.

Attending: Mrs Slator, Mr Barnes, Ms Newland, Mr Sole, Mr Wheeler, the Clerk and 1 member of public.

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

Declarations of Interest: None received

Matters Arising:

Police Report: The Chair outlined the report received from our PCSO at the AGM, as below:-

"There have been a high number of road traffic collisions - eight in total between May and January - all on Lower Road. I would suggest contacting the County Council to see if there is any improvement that can be made. I will link in with them but the Parish Council will need to make contact as well".

A member of the public living on Lower Road stated that Sundays were particularly bad days for speeding. He likened it to Rockingham Speedway. Furthermore, he stated that following an accident outside Trulight on Lower Road, parts of the vehicles involved were still in the ditch. Should these have been collected by the Recovery Truck? The Chair suggested that maybe the Fly Tipping Team could be asked. Council will ask our District Councillor for advice and follow this up. Mr Wheeler stated that since Lower Road had been resurfaced, the road markings were much improved. Council agreed that the Clerk should write to the County Council Highways again, citing both the above and older correspondence about speeding from the Police, dated 1997. All in favour.

War Memorial Insurance: BHIB has a specialist team that can value a war memorial. Council agreed this would be a good idea, and asked the Clerk to contact BHIB asking for the cost of this service.

Arrington Parking: Arrington Parish Council has an explanatory article in the Arrington Newsletter (as below) regarding the inconsiderate parking in Church Lane.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR SAY

PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN CHURCH LANE

You will be aware of the worsening situation with people parking in Church Lane to access Wimpole Park and the footpaths across it. This has been exacerbated by the Park's new car park being closed as the Hall is shut during the lockdown while the footpaths legally remain open, but is likely to be a permanent problem once the new multi-use track in the Park is open.

So your Parish Council is working with South Cambs District Council and the County Highways Department to establish parking restrictions along Church Lane, to be funded mainly by a donation from the National Trust. We are not yet sure exactly what form these will take but we want to be sure the idea has the support of Arrington residents. Restrictions should prevent buses and large farm vehicles being unable to get through and people having to walk in the road because of cars parked on the pavement, plus the danger of accidents. We will not be able to have dedicated residents' parking bays but hope to exert control with restriction hours. It will take a few months to achieve our goal so we want to start soon.

Please only respond if you OBJECT to the idea of these restrictions.

The Chair stated that since the new "free" car park in Wimpole Hall has opened, it is indeed free to park your car, but there is then a cost to enter the grounds! Parking in Church Lane and other local roads allows access to the grounds without the much heralded (by the National Trust) free parking. Croydon Parish Council whole-heartedly supports Arrington Parish Council in their efforts with this difficult problem.

Community Benefit Fund Criteria Review: The latest criteria was circulated to Councillors for their comments. After a short discussion over possible outgoings for suggested projects, it was resolved to add the following:-

"Grants will be awarded from £100 to a maximum of £2500. **These limits do not apply for projects instigated by the Parish Council.**

The following criteria are guidelines only and we reserve the right not to progress any initial enquiry to a full application.]"

Copies of the full criteria are available on application to the Clerk.

Councillor Williams' letter: Related to planning at SCDC has been circulated to Councillors as she requested.

Electronic Correspondence:

Planning Restrictions: The Government is asking that in order to help the economy recover, hours of construction working could be relaxed in certain cases to allow the building industry to pick up. Council was asked how Parish views could quickly be captured in consideration of any requests received. Greater Cambridge Planning has to respond within 10 days so a quick turnaround with the Parish would be vital. The Chair said that it is unlikely that this would be required in Croydon, but the Clerk was asked to respond explaining the village E-News system and how quickly information can be sent out and received. All in favour.

Bird Scarers: Under the NFU guidelines, gas guns should be placed away from dwellings and pointed away from them, with a wall of bales or similar shielding materials. Guns should not start before 7.00am and end by 10.00pm. No more than 4 reports per hours is the suggested optimum for scaring birds. There is no law on the use of bird scarers, but the NFU guidelines are available from the link below.

NFU's Code of Practice <https://www.nfuonline.com/assets/4662>.

The gun in question is reportedly functioning 5/6 times an hour. The gun has been screened recently with bales but is still causing nuisance. The member of public asked how long this would go on for. Council was unable to answer this with any degree of accuracy, but suggested that this could be an Environmental Health issue. Clerk will check with Cllr Williams for her advice.

Finance:

Bank statement: Due to the Covid situation and resulting reduced income, SCDC was unable to pay 50% of the precept requested by Croydon Parish Council as it usually does. Fortunately, Croydon's account balance is healthy and Council was able to meet their commitments. As SCDC's financial situation has improved, a further £1200-00 of the precept has been received. The remaining balance of £1200-00 will be paid in September. Current account balance is £9466 - 25

Signatory for Audit: As the Chair is not in a position to be able to sign the documentation, she proposed that the Vice Chair, Mr Barnes, should undertake this. All in favour.

Audit Regulations:

Effectiveness of internal control: Croydon Parish Council does not handle cash. Any miscellaneous expenditure is made by the Clerk, recorded in a notebook and claimed annually in May. All invoices and bank statements are presented at meetings and the Clerk is not a signatory on any of the accounts.

Council went on to deliberate and action the following:-

- i) approve the Annual Governance Statement by resolution - all in favour
- ii) consider and approve the accounting statements by resolution - all in favour
- iii) ensure that the Vice Chair and Clerk signed and dated the
accounting statements - all in favour
- iv) Council agreed that the financial position at the end of March 2020 would enable the Exemption Certificate to be signed. All in favour.

The Internal Auditor's invoice for £40-00 was presented for payment. All were in favour, and a cheque will be signed as soon as practicable.

Planning:

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

This is an identical resubmission of the application which was approved on 31 May 2012, but lapsed so the applicant is reapplying. Plans were shared on screen and following discussion it was proposed by

Ms Newland and seconded by Mr Barnes that this application should be supported. All in favour. Clerk will record this on the Planning Portal.

District Cllr Williams sent the following report:-

Planning

Extra Virtual Planning meetings to help catch up with the backlog of applications to come to committee continues. There has been an issue relating to an application in Steeple Morden where the deputy leader will be taking the council to court in order to quash the decision so that the application can be determined a fresh. We await the details for the review of planning committees through the Greater Cambridge planning service, I really would like to encourage parish councils to take part.

Business Discretionary Grants

Government gave SCDC £1.25 million to administer a discretionary grants scheme to award grants to business that are struggling due to the coronavirus pandemic. There is a fast approaching deadline of Monday 22nd June to apply, if you are aware of a business that is struggling please do encourage them to get in touch with either myself or the district council. It is important to be aware that this grant is designed for businesses that do not qualify from other forms of COVID related grants.

Eligible businesses include:

- Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces with a minimum rent of £250 per month
- Regular market traders who are based in the same physical location with fixed building costs and registered with the Council's Environmental Health/Licensing Service
- B&Bs that pay Council Tax and are registered with the Council's Environmental Health Service
- Charities that pay business rates to the Council and would meet the criteria to receive Small Business Rates Relief if they were an equivalent sized business.

Resident Meetings

Following Covid-19 and social distancing I have been unable to hold surgeries for social distancing reasons, however I am now in a position to hold virtual resident meetings and will shortly be advertising so. I'm more than happy to do Virtual Q & A's on topics such as recycling or planning with residents and parish councils if you should wish, please do just let me know.

Cllr Heather Williams
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Gamlingay Division Councillors Report - South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council - May June 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 and 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!

Track & Trace: Track and Trace is now underway. There are 10,000 track and tracers available and because there are nowhere near this many positive tests per day at the moment many of them are just sitting waiting for a call. The argument is that it is best to have capacity in the system than not.

Shop Local: We are promoting a South Cambs 'Shop Local' campaign. For many of us it is the local shops staying open, doing deliveries and stocking different things that has made life bearable for the past three months. We have relied on local shops during the lock down and it is now imperative that as lockdown eases that we repay what the shops have done for us by continuing to shop local whenever we can. As always, it is a case of 'use it or lose it' and if we do not have local retailers should this situation ever recur, we will find it even more difficult to cope. A really positive aspect of lockdown is the enormous

efforts of all our volunteers and coordinators who are really pushing themselves to the limits to keep all our vulnerable residents safe. As the impact of job losses, reduced income and loneliness and isolation really start to hit, their efforts have unfailingly increased to meet the escalating demand. Thank you so much.

Zoos - They are Open!: There are two Zoos in South Cambs - at Shepreth and Linton and everyone is relieved that you can now visit them albeit with rigorous social distancing in place. Zoos have really struggled during this time as they have not been able to furlough staff or else who would feed the animals? So if you fancy a lovely trip out please do consider a visit to one or both of them.

Construction Hours on Building Sites: Government has instructed local authorities to take a pragmatic approach to allowing house developers to work for longer hours than in their existing planning permissions. This is with a view to kick starting house building which has suffered considerably during lockdown. We are seeing some of the big builders starting with a much reduced workforce on sites and this is the argument for allowing them to work for longer hours. Parish Councils will be consulted and it is not a forgone conclusion that extended operating hours will be allowed everywhere but it is hoped that were it will not cause serious local issues.

New Housing: Very exciting that we have seen new council house handovers in villages such as Gt Abington over the lockdown period and the Housing New Build department continue to work very closely with the tenancy team and patch officer for Housing to ensure that stringent health and safety practices are in place to ensure that the vital role of providing much-needed affordable homes can continue safely and efficiently during these uncertain times.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in a recent consultation on the future of Greater Cambridge - the consultation 'reached more residents than ever'. Initial feedback from the Consultation identified some key areas to be explored during the development of the Local Plan:

For new housing there is support for densification of existing urban areas, along with development along public transport corridors. Views on development around villages were polarised and on green belt development, it appears there is some support for locations which are sustainable in transport terms, to reduce car travel from locations further away.

Infrastructure - which can refer to road and cycle networks, education and health provision, and more - was the theme that attracted the most interest, by a substantial margin, with transport being the most commented on topic. Provision of homes was key and then climate change, which prompted a wide range of views – from those who felt it was a high priority, to those who felt that other issues should take precedence.

Many responses said that continuing economic growth was important, although many also raised questions around whether growth was desirable. Some stated that wellbeing was a priority over growth, while others expressed the view that economic growth was the means to raise quality of life.

The first key milestone for public participation in the plan in summer 2021, when members of the public will be asked to input into the proposed approach. This will be the 'Preferred Options' stage, which sets out specifics such as proposed levels of development for jobs and homes; sites allocated for development; and the preferred approach for key policy topics such as climate change targets, affordable housing thresholds, and approach to development in villages.

Milton County Park: South Cambs has given up to £50k towards Milton Country to ensure residents can keep enjoying the green spaces and paths. The grant will include a £25,000 payment now and the option of the second half from September. It is being made available to the Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust charity, which runs the 95-acre Park on South Cambridgeshire District Council's behalf.

The park has a combination of woodland, water and grassy meadow habitats which are carefully managed to support and enhance diversity and the natural environment. Throughout the year there is an abundance of wildlife to see and enjoy. However, in March, the main sources of income – the car park and café – were closed to help with social distancing requirements. The Park's chargeable sports and activity programme also stopped. These are now re-starting so please do visit!

New Walking & Cycling Routes: As the nation gets ready for a return to a 'new normal' due to Covid-19, the Government has advised members of the public to walk and cycle wherever possible, rather than relying on cars and public transport. Working closely with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, SCDC and CCC have spent time preparing for both permanent and temporary measures – some of which could be put in place within the next two weeks.

These measures aim to make walking and cycling a default option, by making it as easy as possible to make short trips. We have been working with organisations such as Camcycle and Sustrans.

Currently the focus is on schemes in Cambridge and Peterborough but further funding has been promised and Parish Councils are being encouraged to submit their schemes for consideration.

New Police Station in Cambridge: The recent public consultation agrees that Parkside Central is no longer fit for purpose – not enough cells for a start – and so the Police will now look to build a new main station for Cambridge in Miton – while maintaining a presence in the city centre. More consultation in July.

Community Chest Grants: Very pleased to see a £1,000 grant for the Reading Room in Croydon. Are you involved with a community building or group? South Cambs makes many small grants to support community projects so please get in touch – recent funding awarded include for replacement tables, outdoor benches, kitchen fit out, rare bird conservation, mowers – the decision is based on the case made.

National Highways & Transport Survey: Cambridgeshire County Council participates in the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction survey. This survey asks residents for their views on Cambridgeshire's highways and transport services – from the condition of roads and footpaths to the quality of cycling facilities. A randomly selected sample of 3900 of Cambridgeshire residents will receive survey forms from mid June. More at: www.nhtnetwork.org

Connecting Cambridgeshire: Sadly Hatley Village Hall was not included in the short list for WiFi provision because of technical issues. However officers are working to see if they can access central government funding as part of the Local Full Fibre Networks programme. This would enable them to do an independent procurement to get a fibre service installed in village halls.

Low flying Helicopters: Residents in some villages were alarmed by late nights low flights by Apache helicopters in June. Enquiries were made and the Apache helicopters operating from Wattisham Airfield, Suffolk had been authorised to operate in the general and wider area. The rules say low flying should be conducted at the highest separation criteria, (consistent with any operational or training requirements) and should normally be no lower than 250 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) for fixed wing aircraft and 100 feet AGL for rotary wing aircraft. Due to their unique role military helicopters may operate down to ground level in some circumstances.

The MOD accept that flying at night can be particularly disturbing and for that reason they aim to complete it as early as possible. During the summer months some of the essential training activity will commence later, in order to reach the necessary level of darkness to achieve maximum benefit from the training. There are no uninhabited areas of the UK large enough to cater for essential training needs. It is therefore MOD policy, that in principle, the whole of the UK is open to low flying by military aircraft in order to spread the activity as widely and equitably as possible.

Further information about military low flying can be found on the following website: www.gov.uk/military-low-flying

Concessionary Bus Passes: At the start of the lockdown the County Council worked with bus companies to allow concessionary bus passes to be used before 9.30am. By relaxing the time limits people were able to access supermarkets and the reserved shopping slots being offered to elderly residents at the time. However, the introduction of national social distancing measures has since resulted in a reduction in capacity on public transport. To ensure that there is sufficient public transport capacity for key workers bus operators will no longer accept concessionary passes before 9.30am.

Waste Incinerator at Waterbeach: You might recall an application to the County Council for a waste incinerator at Waterbeach was refused by the Council and then appealed. The Secretary of State has agreed with the appointed Inspector that the appeal be dismissed because of the adverse impact on the landscape and the Ancient Scheduled Monument at Denny Abbey (aka the Farmland Museum). The Inspector did not find any adverse reasons related to health or pollution impacts.

Noise at Green End Gamlingay: Having received a number of complaints about noise emanating from the Green End Industrial site Bridget contacted the firm running the timber roof truss factory and they immediately instigated measures to try to alleviate the problem. As far as we know this has been reasonably successful but please do let us know if there is an ongoing problem.

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

Items for the next agenda:

IG report
Website

Next scheduled meeting:-

Wednesday 15 July 2020 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm

It was decided that this meeting will be held remotely - historically, the Council does not meet in August. It is hoped that the September meeting will take place in the Reading Room.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.12pm.

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

Signed

Date

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