

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was due to be held on Wednesday 20th May 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. Any required meetings will be held remotely.

**Minutes/Notes:** of the February meeting and March and April reports/notes have not been agreed as correct. They will be posted on the website as "unapproved."

### **Extract from L01-20**

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") come in to force on 4 April.

Regulation 4 – this provides that where an appointment would otherwise be made or is required to be made at an annual meeting of a local authority, the appointment continues until the next annual meeting of the authority or until such time as that authority may determine (Regulation 4 (2)). This would apply to the election of the chairman, the first business at the annual council meeting. Therefore the current chairman will remain in place until an annual meeting is held (possibly next year) unless the council decide to elect a replacement earlier.

### **Election of Officers:**

This would normally be the first business of the May meeting. However, under the L01-20 regulations, the Chair and Vice Chair are permitted to remain in office for a further year.

### **Matters Arising:**

The majority of correspondence received has been information, advice and Local Council/ community actions arising from this. Parts of these particularly relevant to Croydon have been circulated on the E-News (Mailchimp).

### **Finance:**

An "agenda" was circulated via E-News and also posted on the notice board, regarding the business that would have been conducted in a regular Council meeting. After consultation with the Council, the Chair considered that as none of the invoices received exceeded the amount that had been precepted for, it was not necessary to hold a virtual meeting in May as the payments to the regular creditors had already been discussed and agreed by the meeting when setting the precept in January this year.

Parishioners were given the figures for the invoices due for payment in the circulated "agenda", and the opportunity to question/object to these. No comments/objections were received, therefore the Clerk will prepare the following cheques for signature:-

Reading Room - Parish Council hire	£ 182 - 00
IG hire	£ 26 - 00
Parish Insurance	£ 367 - 17
Churchyard maintenance	£ 500 - 00
Clerk's annual salary	£1210 - 00
• IT allowance	£ 25 - 00
• Out of pocket expenses	£ 54 - 52
Total expenditure	£2364 - 59

These will be dealt with as soon as possible.

## District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC May 2020

### Covid-19

May I thank again the hard work that parish councils and volunteers are doing to support residents during this pandemic. Please know that myself and your Patchworker Lynda are at the other end of a phone if you have any concerns. The district council continues to offer support to residents and businesses through this time. I have been contacting many businesses that haven't claimed grants they are entitled to and if you are aware of people struggling please do ask them to get in touch, there are no guarantees but there may be funds out there that they didn't realise they were entitled to. More advice is available via the link below:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

### Planning

At Thursday's meeting my amendment for automatic call in was unfortunately voted down, this means that the final decision maker for which items go to planning committee will be with an officer of the council not an elected representative. It has been made clear that this will be reviewed and I would very much encourage all to be as involved as possible in any consultations. I have sent a letter separately that includes a link to the meeting so that all can hear both sides of the debate and I hope this will help parish councillors in determining their own positions on the matter. Virtual Planning meetings are underway and extra meetings are being filled in to help catch up as there is a backlog of applications to come to committee. As you may be aware the district and city council areas have been divided into 3 zones and have patch leaders. I hope you have been able to get in touch with your patch leader, but if you haven't and would like me to facilitate a meeting (via teams/zoom) then I am more than happy to do so.

### Zero Carbon Strategy

At Thursday's full council I seconded the zero-carbon strategy, a document that received support across the political spectrum. Environmental targets are closely watched by all councillors and I hope the strategy will help the district full fill its commitment to zero carbon by 2050. Below is a link to the document if you wish to read more about it.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/media/15010/zero-carbon-strategy-final.pdf>

### Bin Collections

Our refuse collectors are working hard to collect as many of the green bins as possible, so I would like to encourage residents to keep putting out their bins although they may not always be collected. Also a reminder that bin routes are not done on parish boundaries so there may be an instance where part of a village has been collected and another part not. Below is the link to check when your guaranteed collection date is.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/bins/find-your-household-bin-collection-day/>

Cllr Heather Williams

SCDC The Mordens Ward

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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!

**Green Bins:** The South Cambs green bin collection is up and running again although it will be a partial service until the CV crisis is over. A third of bin operatives were off sick which caused the suspension of the service but most are now back at work. However, at South Cambs we are taking the safety of our operatives very seriously and are implementing the recommendations about social distancing which means only 2 people can be in the cab at any one time. This means that a refuse lorry will not be able to empty as many bins as before but it is right that that employee safety is the most important thing. South

Cambs aim to collect at least 50% of the bins and so far that has been consistently exceeded. So please be patient about this – thank you!

**Business CV Grants:** South Cambs is making huge efforts to get the Government grants out to all eligible companies and at time of writing that amounts to over £20million in South Cambs. Bridget has given a list of 13 local businesses which had not yet applied in Gamlingay alone and was able to ring round them with the good news that filling out a simple form would deliver the money into their bank accounts in a couple of days.

We are aware that there are a lot of businesses which have fallen through the grant net. A second tranche of money has just been announced which might be suitable for some of them. Please do sign up for the South Cambs newsletter which will have the latest news about who is eligible and how to apply. If you are struggling, then please email [cllr.bridgetsmith@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.bridgetsmith@scambs.gov.uk) or [skindersley@hotmail.com](mailto:skindersley@hotmail.com).

**Volunteers:** The response from all the volunteers and local organisations helping residents deal with the CV crisis in Gamlingay has been astonishing. We are delighted that Forward Gamlingay has managed to secure a £1000 grant from the Cambridge Community Foundation to help them with this work and that Lucy and Shelley have got a further £500 from the Tesco Bags for All scheme.

**Council Meetings:** South Cambs District Council is now going live with on line council meetings so if you want some excitement to fill your days please do join us from the comfort of your own homes. It is an amazingly complex system to run meetings that have to be legally compliant but a huge effort has been put in by officers to get up and running. As of May you will be able to watch and even participate in Planning, Cabinet and Full Council meetings. All details will be available on the website. Exciting times.

**Crime:** The national crime figures show a decrease in reported crime and that is certainly reflected in Cambridgeshire though there are still around 140 reported crimes each day. Very few of them are Covid related. However as reported last month we have had our fair share of drug related crime recently in South Cambs with the latest Cannabis Farm being discovered in Church St, Gamlingay. This was a significant sized operation and we are most grateful to the police for all their efforts in uncovering this and in destroying almost £400,000 worth of drugs.

**Cambridgeshire Skills:** Cambridgeshire Skills is offering free online courses to support local people during this pandemic to help people get back on their feet. For a limited period, they are offering their online courses, such as 'employability boot camp, improve your English, maths, computer skills, garden design, food safety, Italian and more free to everyone. There are a wide variety of courses available and for those who are less confident with digital skills there are simple guides to help you get online.

If you would like to improve your knowledge, help build your confidence for a new job or are interested in learning a new skill check out how Cambridgeshire Skills can help you, visit their website for more information or email [cambsals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cambsals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Helpline launched to support those finding this time difficult:** The day to day adjustments that many are having to make due to a stressful job or juggling working from home, coupled with responsibilities at home, are very stressful for many of us. Maintaining and enhancing the emotional and mental health of everyone is critical during these turbulent times.

The Cambridgeshire Workplace Chaplaincy has launched a free helpline for anyone in the workplace who needs help with stress and wants emotional support. All calls are anonymous. The service is available 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday plus an out of hours voicemail if you would like a chaplain to contact you at a later point. CWC's multifaith chaplains are a diverse group who are happy to provide support regardless of whether you're spiritual or religious – their aim is to listen and comfort. Please call 0800 246 5193 if you need support.

**CV Testing:** The University of Cambridge has announced an initiative with AstraZeneca and GSK to build a new national coronavirus testing centre at the Anne McLaren Building on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus with the ambition of up to 30,000 tests a day. The centre will solely focus on PCR Lab tests (the type which identifies whether someone has COVID19) rather than antibody tests (the type which identifies whether someone has previously had it).

**Micro-asphalting:** The micro-asphalting plans for this summer have been postponed as those doing it cannot socially distance.

**Grants:** Persimmon Homes is keenly aware that the charity sector is experiencing particular hardship and is promoting two schemes. Firstly, Building Futures as part of the sponsorship of Team GB will see more than £1 million to support children in sport, health and education. Persimmon is calling on local groups which support children to apply. It can all be done online remotely at [www.persimmonhomes.com/building-futures](http://www.persimmonhomes.com/building-futures).

Secondly, Persimmon's Community Champions donates £64,000 every month in single donations up to the value of £1,000 and this year all funding will go directly to groups supporting the over 70s. Again, if you know of any, can you let them know that funding is available? Again, they can apply online at [www.persimmonhomes.com/community-champions](http://www.persimmonhomes.com/community-champions)

Cambridgeshire County Council is supporting the new Cambridgeshire Coronavirus Community Fund. This fast-track emergency fund is offering grants to help local charities, community groups, local authorities and parish councils, to deal with issues affecting older and vulnerable people in our community as a result of the continuing threat of Covid-19. Grants between £1,000 and £5,000 are available for projects that aim to tackle the impact of financial hardship, potential for hunger, lack of shelter, health issues, loneliness, isolation, etc. You can find more information about the fund, including eligibility and how to apply here:

<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/cambridgeshire-coronavirus-community-fund.html>

Sport England have announced a support package of up to £195 million to help the community sport and physical activity sector through the ongoing crisis, in addition to existing government support. The package includes a new £20 million Community Emergency Fund, which is open now for local club and community organisations to bid for grants between £300 and £10,000; a new £5 million fund for existing Sport England partners facing specific and immediate financial difficulty; and £55 million put aside to support the sector during the ongoing period of restrictions; to fund new and innovative ways to keep people active and then, when it is over, to help organisations get back to business and adjust to a different environment.

<https://www.sportengland.org/news/195-million-package-help-sport-and-physical-activity-through-coronavirus>

**Dispelling fake news:** Fake stories are being shared on social media about police using non-existent powers to remove children from families where there are cases of Coronavirus. If you come across such posts on social media or elsewhere, or people who are concerned as a result, please let them know that these are fake.

**South Cambs Planning:** Regrettably there has been some effort made by the Council opposition Leader to politicize the planning process; including sending a letter to PCs complaining that she had not got her way when two meetings voted against her position. That's democracy, I'd say.

However, in response, South Cambs has advised how important it is that planning decisions are made taking into account all the views of those affected. Parish Councils play a particularly important and valued role in this process.

The previous Conservative administration changed the rules in 2016 so that Parish Councils do not have an automatic right to refer applications to the planning committee for decision. This change has been the source of significant comment from some Parish Councils. Planning officers must always have full regard to material comments on applications and the most significant and/or controversial applications go to committee for decision.

The Liberal Democrats took over the Council in 2018 and began a review of the whole constitution of the Council, which is now complete. One of the issues that clearly needed further work was the question of who decides which planning applications go to committee.

A review was commissioned from the independent Planning Advisory Service. Although this has been delayed by the Coronavirus crisis, the hope is that the review will quickly be able to get underway. As part of the review, Parish Councils, which have a key contribution to getting good planning decisions will be included.

Legal advice is that, pending the outcome of the Planning Advisory Service review, a small change to the current system was required. This means that the decision to take an application to the Planning Committee for determination is made by the Joint Director of Planning or his delegated officers in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee, rather than by the Chair in consultation with officers. In practice, consideration of requests will continue to be made through a joint meeting of both the Director and Chair.

Everyone accepts the current process is imperfect and leaves many parish councils and district councillors dissatisfied. Officers are working hard to optimise the current process and Councillors have stressed how important it is that responses to parish council requests are as full as possible.

**CV Help with Transport:** NHS Volunteers have people signed up to transport people to essential appointments and you can find help on the Royal Voluntary Service website.

**Caring for Carers - Looking after the county's carers:** A project to support people across Cambridgeshire who are carers to friends and family has seen hundreds of people contacted to enquire

whether they need support. Family carers are currently delivering unprecedented levels of essential care and support to people with care needs in the community who are impacted by the pandemic. In response Cambridgeshire County has re-deployed more than 30 staff who are unable to fulfil their usual role due to the Covid-19 outbreak, to contact those family carers currently known to adult social care, check that they are coping, provide preventative advice and connect them to sources of support where this is needed. In Cambridgeshire 1,557 carers were identified and are being contacted. Of those contacted so far 56% or 429 carers have told staff that they are coping. The staff making the calls have had information regarding a wide range of preventative services and have also been able to connect carers to support from services like occupational therapy and the technology enabled care team, as well as raising awareness of help available through Caring Together, previously known as Carers Trust. If you are a carer and you would like to talk to us about the support on offer, please call the countywide hub on 0345 045 5219.

**Children's Safeguarding:** If you are concerned that a child may be suffering physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect or is at risk of significant harm you should contact Children's Services using 0345 045 5203, [ReferralCentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov](mailto:ReferralCentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov).

**Adult Safeguarding:** If you have concerns for an Adult, you should contact Adult Services using 0345 045 5202 or Email [referral.centre-adults@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:referral.centre-adults@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and adult safeguarding concerns can be directed to the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) – 01733 234724.

**Cambs County Hub:** Requests for help and support coming into the countywide hub have continued to rise over the past fortnight with a total of 2,101 telephone enquiries over the past four weeks. The team has resolved a total of 5,856 individual requests for help and support, which include delivering urgent food supplies to 832 people. A further 129 people have been provided with more specialist food, for example that is suitable for people who are seriously ill. There are now almost 15,000 people on the registered shielded list across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and around a third of this group have told us that they have no support in place and will need our assistance. Around 5,000 shielded people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are receiving a national food delivery.

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](mailto: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](mailto:bridget@glockling.com) – twitter and District Councillor Aidan van de Weyer (Barrington, Orwell, the Eversdens & Wimpole SCDC Ward) can be called on 01223 870 869 or email him [aidan@mishmush.com](mailto:aidan@mishmush.com) You can also follow your councillors on Twitter: @Cllrbridget, @SebKindersley @aidanvdew

Next scheduled meeting:-  
Wednesday 17 June 2020 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm

It is very unlikely that this meeting will take place, but will held remotely. If you wish to participate, please contact the Clerk for details.

Signed .....

Date .....