

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21 November 2018 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Mr Brown - working, Mr Wenman, Cllr Kindersley (via Cllr Williams).

**Present:** Ms Newland, Mr Sole, Mr Barnes, Mrs Slator, Cllr Williams, the Clerk and 4 members of the public.

**Minutes:** of the October meeting were agreed and signed.

**Declarations of Interest:** None received

**Members' Interests Forms:** Copies distributed to those Councillors who were present.

### **Matters Arising and Village Issues:**

#### **Implementation Group:**

1) **Hillson possible housing development.** On Friday 16th November, Mr Ralph was informed that Hillson had reached an agreement with the landowner. As Exception Sites are now no longer required to meet the housing shortfall it could prove more difficult to obtain planning and so a proposal that will gain the most support needs to be developed. Whatever happens, all dealings must be open and transparent, and the maximum benefit for the community needs to be achieved. Cllr Williams advised that Uzma Ali would be able to help with a viability report for the proposed site, and this would allow Croydon to have more input. Reports for Exception Sites need to be parish led. The IG is trying to sort all this out before there is any publicity. It is in everyone's interests to be as involved as possible and open-minded on all options. The development is likely to be 10-12 houses, although Hillson has proposed 14. Ideally, there would be a small recreational area, and social rent/shared ownership/rent to buy etc mix of housing. There will be public meetings to keep everyone informed and give them the chance to comment, once there is something to report.

2) **The Village Clear-Up Day** is on Saturday 8th December, under the auspices of the Parish Council.

3) **Parish Website.** The website is back on air and the site is now editable. Clerk to contact Hatley and Arrington Parish Clerks re: costs and programme for the website. Mr Ralph to contact the Comms Team re: information and George needs minutes for publishing.

4) **Footpath:** The footpath across Calves Field is at present positioned diagonally across the field. This makes it very difficult to walk when muddy, so it was suggested that perhaps the path could be relocated at two edges of the field. Clerk to contact the County Council Footpaths Officer to discover the procedure to do this.

**All Saints' Church:** Has received 50% grant of £1700-00 for urgent maintenance from the National Churches Trust. Thanks to Mr Marks and Mr Ralph for work they did to obtain this.

**Council Vacancy:** Still no interest.

**First Aid Course:** The Tuesday Group First Aid training is on 4th December at 7.00pm. Mrs Slator is co-ordinating the event.

**Emergency Plan Template:** Council wondered if Top Farm already has an Emergency Plan as they have an airfield.

**CamBed RR presentation:** It was decided to do this on a Parish Council Meeting day. Clerk to send the dates for next year to Cllr Kindersley so that he can select one that is most convenient.

**SCDC Liaison Meeting:** 27 November at 6.30pm until 8.00pm. Mr Sole may be able to attend.

**High Street subsidence:** Clerk has reported this and received an acknowledgement - nothing further appears to have happened.

**Police Commissioner Meeting:** Mr Barnes felt it was a worthwhile meeting and gave a brief report:- Jason Ablewhite had £1,000,000 for Victim Support. It costs £20,000 to investigate a crime and £30,000 to keep an offender in prison for a year. Speedwatch now has 1,000 volunteers, but Police Speed Traps are only effective for about 10 minutes, as motorists very kindly flash other cars to warn them of the trap. Cambridgeshire is the only Force in the region to have balanced its budget. Any

savings may need to go into the Police Pension Scheme. Cambridgeshire is the second most effective Force after the Met. There has been a lot of reported domestic violence, child abuse and slavery. In order to save money, cuts are being made to Senior Officer positions. A new Police station has been built at Milton with extra cells as Parkside cannot always house all those held in custody. A Community Action Team has been formed, and there are 14 digital boxes to measure speed. Sgt Jonathan Capes and Mr Barnes had a very useful chat including Police visibility. Mr Barnes wanted to make contact Sgt Capes regarding publicity, and Clerk will forward the details to Mr Barnes. If you see anything suspicious, just report it, as with plenty of reports the Police will be able to build up a picture which could help them. There are going to be 112 more constables, but this means that there will be less PCSOs. Mrs Slator thanked Mr Barnes for attending and reporting to Council.

**Speed Sign:** These are very expensive and Council would need to provide data from Speedwatch for the proposed site, and then apply to LHMI scheme.

South Cambs District Cllr Williams gave a verbal report.

**IT problems:** South Cambs District Council has been experiencing IT problems following the recent change of server. No e-mails have been getting through for 2 weeks. Cllr Williams is trying to find out whose idea it was to make the change. She is concerned that her monthly report may not have come through - please let her know if it hasn't.

**Gransden Gliding Club:** The planning application went to Committee and has been given permission, but only for 2 years. Lots of people cited noise in their complaints, but SCDC has never received any complaints from the public regarding noise from the airfield site. This will be used as evidence in the review in 2 years time.

**Wimpole Hall Multi Trail:** Permission has been given subject to conditions. Car parking at the Hall will be free and a Traffic Management Order will be required. This means that a consultation with Arrington resident and the County Council will take place, and the National Trust will have to fund any changes that are deemed to be necessary (yellow lines, residents' bays etc).

**Community Chest Grants:** There were a few changes to the eligibility criteria, including regarding parish council eligibility; only parish councils with fewer than 160 registered electors are able to apply. All non-profit community and voluntary groups can still apply and the amount of funding in the pot remains the same. Further details will be available at [www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest)

**Green Bins:** Additional green bins are available but will have to be charged for. At present, the cost is £20-00 for the first year and £35-00 per annum thereafter. Home/Village composting might be an option or bin sharing.

**Buggy Exercise:** Take your buggy (and child) out for a brisk walk/jog and keep fit - available in Steeple and Guilden Morden.

**Wash and Squash:** Please remember to do this!

Street Cleaning Machine; Mr Ralph asked about its availability for the day of the Village Clean Up on 8th December.

District Cllr Williams' written report to the meeting (already circulated to Councillors):-

**Email Issues:** SCDC have been experiencing IT issues that have meant that I am not receiving my councillor emails. The council itself is running the best it can in the current circumstances but please do call me if you are experiencing any problems getting through to SCDC (as officer email accounts, computers and the website have also been affected) and I will do my best to help.

**Ability to build more Council Homes:** Following Government's Autumn budget, the borrowing cap on the amount authorities can borrow to invest in new council homes will be lifted giving local councils the ability to build more council homes. 100 Council homes have been built in South Cambridgeshire, or have started being constructed, since 2015 however the lifting of this cap will make a key difference in having the capability to build hundreds more council homes in the near future. This is something that I am very pleased to hear as we have a great demand in South Cambs and building council homes must be a priority in my view as I am sure many of my fellow councillors will agree.

**Planning:** We have had two meetings with John Koch, team west leader in the SCDC planning department, and Uzma Ali from the affordable housing team. I would like to thank all who attended. It

was a great opportunity to feed back any frustrations along with insights as to how the planning process runs, my thanks go to all who attended and who helped with the organisation.

**Recycling:** Following the Cabinet meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November, there will now be a charge for and additional green bins, this is something that I hope does not discourage residents from recycling. Contamination levels are continuing to be a problem, during the course of a year, penalties are in the order of £10,000 a month with about 2,500 tons of waste placed in blue bins going to landfill, residents are always welcome to join our recycling champion programme.

**Let's Get Moving:** The Mordens will hopefully be benefiting from a Buggyclass under the Lets Get Moving programme which I continue to work with Ellen Bridges SCDC's Physical Activity Locality Coordinator on and I hope to have more news on this for you soon.

**Overhanging trees or hedges:** Recently many residents of The Mordens have been in contact about overhanging trees or hedges. While the County Council has a responsibility to maintain the grass verges along the many of our roads, the majority of overhanging hedges or bushes belong to private individuals and other landowners. If you have concerns of overhanging bushes or trees, in particular if they are a danger to the public, e.g. if pedestrians are forced to walk out into the road, or signs are obstructed for motorists, and are unable to contact or unsure who the owner is then you can report this using the same tool that is used for reporting potholes and other highway problems: <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>. It also shows whether a report has been made and what the status of it is. The County Council can then address the situation, or work with the landowner, to address the issue.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Local Development Plan:** Any information received has been circulated.

**Electoral register:** No alterations received

**Electric Vehicle Charging Point:** Mr Brown has been kept informed of the meeting that is proposed.

**CAPALC:** Invitation to join received - cost of almost £140-00 pa. Clerk felt that her association (SLCC) at a cost of £63-00 pa is much better value for money.

**Severe Weather Information:** SCDC help available for any rough sleepers in the parish - no-one has any knowledge of any.

#### **Planning:**

**Brickyard Farm:** Council perused the plans at length and commented favourably on the provision of 2.4m x 160m visibility splays, very sensible given the speed on Lower Road. It was proposed by the Chair that the application would be supported - all in favour. Cllr Williams offered to take in the paperwork, as the e-mails at SCDC were not to be relied on. She was thanked by the Chair.

#### **Finance:**

**NSI:** Councillors felt that it was acceptable for the Clerk to sign the requested copy minutes for submission to NSI.

**Royal British Legion:** An invoice for £17-00 was presented for the Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath. It was resolved that, in pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, the Council approves the payment of the sum of £17-00 in respect of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday. All in favour, and a cheque for this amount was signed and will be posted.

**Bank Statement:** The balance at the end of October 2018 is £11799-29. This includes the fourth instalment of the Solar Farm payment for the Community Benefit Fund. 2019 will be the last year in which this will be received.

**Bank Information:** Clerk recently received a letter about updating the information that the Bank holds for Council. She rang and checked the content and it appeared it was not a letter for Parish Councils, but for businesses.

**SLCC:** Clerk asked if Council would be good enough to fund her annual subscription of £63-00 to the Society of Local Council Clerks. Councillors felt that this was a reasonable request and a cheque for £63-00 was raised and signed. Clerk thanked the Council.

**Defibrillator:** The question of whether a defibrillator would be useful in Croydon, given the spread of properties, and if so, where would it go. Clerk suggested that it might be a good idea to speak to Mr Everett, who is coming to give First Aid training on 4th December, before making a decision.

**Parish Precept Consultation:** Council is given an opportunity to look at SCDC's estimates for the tax base for Croydon for 2019-20. Feedback requested by **30 November 2018**. Precept has to be in by 1st February.

**Items for next agenda:**

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 19 December 2018 in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Signed .....

Date .....

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