

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was due to be held on Wednesday 18th November 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, Mr Wheeler - unwell, Ms Newland - appointment, (email discovered on non-pc address, Mr Ralph.

Present: Mrs Slator, Mr Barnes, Mr Sole, Cllr Williams, Cllr Kindersley (later), one member of the public and the Clerk.

Declarations of Interest: None received.

District Cllr Williams gave a report to the meeting.

SCDC is taking itself to court over a planning decision. More information on this will be in Cllr William's report, which she will send after the full Council meeting on 24th November.

Speedwatch: Cllr Williams is trying to arrange a meeting with the acting Police and Crime Commissioner. This would not be until next year, but she will keep trying, as several of her parishes are keen to get involved.

SCDC Finance: At present, there is no mid-term financial strategy available, but this should be presented on 7th December. There is more government funding and grants available for anyone struggling as a result of Covid. If Council is aware of anyone in the village who might need help, please refer them to Cllr Williams. There is lots of help and support available but it is difficult to locate the right place to apply. Cllr Williams stressed that all information she or SCDC receives is confidential.

Local Plan: More documents have been published - there are approximately 630 site submissions that have been made. The decision on the final sites will be announced later in 2021.

The Chair thanked Cllr Williams for attending and she left the meeting.

Written report from District Councillor Williams.

District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC November & December 2020

Covid-19: As I'm sure you are aware the government has put South Cambridgeshire into Tier 2. I have been in contact with as many business owners that I can to help with access to the government grants the district council is administering; if you are aware of any business that are struggling or have been forced to close please do encourage them to get in touch with myself or the council as support is out there in many cases but people are unaware or unsure how to access it. Below is a link to the districts' business covid support page.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>

Vulnerable residents are being contacted regularly, but if anyone becomes aware of someone struggling, please do get in touch with myself, the council or county hub. The county hub is able to give a wide range of support not just providing food. It is important to note that the food boxes are distributed to anyone who asks, there is no means testing or hoops to go through. It's really important that people know there is support out there. The County hub can be contacted via phone, 0345 0455219.

Motion re consultation on site submissions: I am very pleased to report that my motion at full council today (26th November) written below was successful. I will continue to keep track of the results of the motion, and hope that it will not be long before you are consulted on the site submissions.

13 (c) Standing in the Name of Councillor Heather Williams

This Council notes the outcome of the 'First Conversation' and 'Call for Sites' stages in the development of the next Local Plan for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. The Council records its thanks to officers involved in developing the next Local Plan and recognises the work being undertaken by officers to draw up a list of preferred sites. In light of the large number of sites

put forward in the Call for Sites which affect almost every village/ town and community in our District, this Council calls for Parish and Town Councils to be offered the opportunity to comment on sites put forward for their area and for their views to be taken into account in the process of drawing up a list of preferred sites.

Planning: The Council has issued an apology for granting permission for two applications accidentally, one in Steeple Morden, the other for eight houses in Great Abington. There is an internal investigation currently underway and the results will be published in a public meeting. I think it is vital that the outcomes of the investigation are set out in the public domain as these errors will significantly cost the tax payer; estimates as to the cost of each JR are £5,000, this figure being based on the cost of the first JR the council pursued on itself earlier in the year for the same application as the one in Steeple Morden.

2019 Accounts: It was reported at a recent Audit and Corporate Governance meeting that the council has had a further set back in the auditing of the 2019 accounts, which they had hoped to complete before Christmas but are significantly delayed from the due date of just over a year ago. It is hoped that only a few more months are required at that they will be ready to be signed off at the March 2021 meeting. It was also reported that the council will need to borrow £39 million partially to replace cash used in previous investment acquisitions, and further borrowing will be required to keep up with the Investment programme the administration are pursuing.

I'd like to end with saying Merry Christmas to all and I hope that 2021 will be one where we will be able to see each other once more without the use of Zoom! But also that I am contactable throughout the festive season if residents need assistance.

Cllr Heather Williams
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Matters Arising:

Implementation Group Report: The Implementation Group has come to a natural end and an email has been sent to all past and present members to investigate how they would like to Group to continue. It contains a proposal that the IG be wound up in its present form and for it to morph into a new community group, which would be different in many respects from the current IG. A Zoom meeting is being arranged to decide on the next steps.

Housing Needs: As no replies have been received from the landowners, Hastoe is preparing to send letters to them again.

Website Update: Councillors were shown the second draft of the website and all were in favour of the modifications that had been made. There is a direct link to the Wood Grill website from one section of the website, to which Councillors had no objections. Training on the use of the website is likely to commence shortly, via Zoom.

Speedwatch: See Cllr William's report.

Clopton Sign: The Clerk is currently storing the sign, as it has not yet been discovered who owns the land the sign was previously on.

Defibrillator: The Chair and Clerk have been researching prices and types of defibrillator available. There is a wide range of models and prices, and it is all very confusing to a lay person. However, it was suggested that the best type of defibrillator to get would be a fully automatic one, which talks the operator through the process and will determine if the patient does need to be shocked, administering it if required. The Chair did discover that the access to the old phone box would need to be upgraded to a smooth, trip free pathway, so that there is no danger for anyone trying to access the box, especially if it is dark. BT will provide the electricity for seven years, then it will have to be paid by Council.

Arrington Parking: The parking in Church Lane, Church End and Clifden Close in Arrington is still bad, and seems to have increased during the lockdown. The National Trust is to provide funding to Highways to hold a survey, but to date has not been forthcoming with the finance. The pandemic seems to have slowed everything down.

Remembrance Sunday: A small group representing the parish and the church gathered at the memorial on 8th November. Wreaths were laid and readings and prayers were given. Thank you to those who took part in this observance.

Tree Warden: There are two parishioners who would like to share the post of Tree Warden. Councillors were happy to accept their offer, and Clerk will notify SCDC of their appointment.

Rough Sleepers: SCDC is requesting information regarding any rough sleepers in the village, on the night of 19/20 November. No-one is aware of any, on any night, and Clerk will reply to SCDC with this data.

London Luton Airport - flightpath changes: Investigations suggest that the proposed new flightpaths will be directly in the area above the village. After searches by the Councillors, it seems that the proposed holding stack for Luton will be more to the north of the village, and there should not be a significant difference in the noise nuisance level, although the data from the postcode checker/noise level indicator is sometimes a little odd. Cllr Kindersley has prepared a response from his parishes, and Croydon is happy to support him in this.

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: No alterations received this month.

Opening of Pathfinder Road, Huntingdon: New section has been opened on the A14 improvements.

Cambs and Peterborough Waste Plan: This does not affect this area.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan - workshop invitation: There are two sessions, 1st December for Council and 2nd December for public information. The Chair is planning to join the second session.

SLCC Conference: A Zoom conference offered to SLCC members at a cost of £75-00. The Clerk has looked at the agenda, and felt that the items on it (Subconscious bias, Standards and Behaviour, Social Media presence) for a village of this size.

SCDC Community Facilities Report: SCDC sent a long survey for completion, which is apparently fed into the planning process in the District, which runs to a timescale that SCDC is keen not to let COVID related challenges disrupt. The Chair of the Reading Room Trustees has completed the section on halls for Council. Council completed the questions left on the report.

Letter from Jehovah's Witnesses: The Chair and Vice Chair have both received correspondence from the Witnesses, along with a copy of the Watchtower and an offer to discuss beliefs with them. Apparently, similar letters have been sent to all Council leaders.

Youth and Community Co-ordinator Newsletter: Circulated to Councillors.

ACRE Conference 23rd October: the Chair reported that she had joined parts of the day-long conference and found the most interesting part was the videos of how the Cottenham village had responded and organised their Covid response for the first lockdown of the pandemic.

Electronic Correspondence: Has all been circulated to Councillors, including subsequent receipts.

Subsequent receipts:

Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Integrated Water Management study.

East-West Rail Company: Has launched new environmental surveys. The surveys - which will be carried out throughout 2021 - will gather data on plant and animal life, environmental features like rivers and streams, and historical features. This activity is part of their continued commitment to put environmental considerations at the heart of proposals for the new East West Rail connection. The timing of the surveys is key as certain species can only be monitored at specific times of year.

CCC Vision Zero: The Cambs and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership is relaunching its radical "Vision Zero". The new strategy is based on the principle that no human being should be killed or seriously injured as the result of a road collision and sets ambitious targets for a 50% reduction in people killed and seriously injured by 2030 and working towards zero fatalities and severe injuries by 2040. A key element of the new strategy is the involvement of local road users and communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, in line with the Think Communities approach that is being used in other service areas.

County Councillor Kindersley gave a brief verbal report.

Mud on Croydon Hill: Councillor Kindersley has made repeated representations about mud on Croydon Hill. Highways have been in touch with the farmer and who has undertaken to do what he can to clear the debris etc. The farm is constructing a Reservoir - actually in Arrington. Back in 2017 Highways asked for a condition on construction traffic, management and wheel-cleaning etc, but

Enforcement at SCDC today advise Prior Notification Applications don't normally have conditions and therefore was never added to the PNA Notice. Cllr Kindersley has asked Highways if they agree with this, in which case why are they wasting time commenting? He is currently awaiting a response. The Police say it is not their responsibility, although he feels it is. There are complaints from all the parishes and the lumps of mud in the road are quite large.

London Luton Airport - flightpath changes: If Cllr Kindersley uses the postcode checker for his postcode, it states that there will be significant noise nuisance, although he is not much further away from Croydon. He has prepared a letter on behalf of all of his parishes.

As there were no questions for Cllr Kindersley, he was thanked by the Chair and left the meeting.

County Councillor Kindersley 's written report.

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!

Policing Changes: Cambridgeshire's Chief Constable has announced changes to policing in order to assist in saving £1.7 million in 2021/22. Included in the cuts are the reduction of PCSOs from 80 to 40, but with a single role profile and improved alignment to their team and they will cover all 28 neighbourhoods in the county to deal with the issues that matter most to the local community. Also going is the community safety team resulting in the reduction of six community safety officer posts and the closure of nine enquiry offices (NOT the police stations), with the implementation of a team of police officers to provide people in each local authority area with an appointment-based service to allow members of the public to make an appointment to speak to an officer.

Chief Constable Nick Dean said: "We have had to make some incredibly difficult decisions over the past 12 months when considering how we balance the needs of the community and the policing service we provide, with being able to manage within the budget we have - we simply could not continue with the existing neighbourhood policing model with the budget constraints we currently face, and are likely to have in the coming years.

Volunteer Police Cadets: The police are encouraging young people between 13 and 18 to join the Volunteer Police Cadets. The aim is to encourage the spirit of adventure and good citizenship to anyone wishing to support their community and gain an understanding of policing. It is not to recruit police officers for the future. If you are interested and can spare 3 or more hours a month, please contact Cadets@cambs.pnn.police.UK

County Council Meeting: The County Council met at the end of October and considered four motions. The first addressed the increasing underfunding of education for children with special educational needs and more specifically to ask the Government the whereabouts of £28million which is the current hole in the SEN budget. We agreed to write to our MPS.

The next motion asks for another letter to be written in support of restoring powers to local authorities regarding the allocation of school funding. It's a good sense motion and it is carried unanimously.

Thirdly comes a motion which calls on the Council to do more than write a letter. It calls for the Council to gather evidence regarding the adverse impact (delays and cost overruns) of underground and inadequately documented utilities on highways projects and to recommend ways in which such can be avoided in future. Carried unanimously.

Lastly a motion about anti-Semitism and members wonder aloud if maybe it's motivated by a desire to embarrass the Labour group. There are two amendments both of which attempt to widen the motion and to make it more active. They both fail and - despite the heat of the earlier debate - clearly councillors felt that the original motion was better than nothing and therefore passed it unanimously.

Solar Together Cambridgeshire: The collective purchasing scheme for Cambridgeshire residents to invest in solar panels and/or battery storage, has got off to a great start, with nearly 6,000 households signing up – much higher than initially anticipated. The winning supplier is Greenscape Energy, with an average discount of 30% versus typical market pricing. The scheme is still accepting further registrations, so if you want to sign up, here is the link: <https://solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire/home#>

Recycling Centres and Freecycle: All nine of Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres remain open during the restrictions, but there is significantly reduced capacity so do avoid unnecessary visits.

One good way of disposing of unwanted items is **Freecycle**, which facilitates giving (and getting) stuff for free locally and keeping good stuff out of landfills..

Additional Parking at Gray's Road: Works will shortly begin on the much-needed, additional parking spaces in Gray's Road Gamlingay starting on November 16th and lasting 10 days. We know that parking is limited in the area and that these works will add to the issues during their construction, but please bear with us. Letters will be distributed to all residents alerting them and including a map of the changes.

Covid 19: We are lucky that South Cambridgeshire is a 'relatively' Covid-free area. However, please remain on your guard. In the last seven days Potton has seen 10 new cases and Biggleswade 22. To November 2nd the rate in the Gamlingay Orwell Barrington area (defined by Public Health England) rose to 6.

News from the Fire Authority: Plans have been drawn up for the police and fire services to share the current fire station in St Neots and this will allow police to sell the current police station. All staff colleagues in the Fire & Rescue Service will receive an honorarium of £50 in recognition of the way they stepped up over and beyond during the pandemic.

First Budget Thoughts: An over-lengthy and fractious meeting of the County Council's General Purposes Committee last month considered the development of the Council's budget for next year. The prospects are not good. Even if the battle against COVID goes well, the Council will need to find savings of £40M in the financial year starting next April. If COVID goes bad - and the evidence so far suggests cases are continuing to rise - then the savings needed could be over £82M.

It is unlikely, to put it mildly, that the Government will come charging over the hill with £82M in its pocket. And unless there is more cash coming Cambridgeshire's way, the options available to the Council will mainly be 'efficiency savings', cuts to services, increased fees and charges, lucrative commercial investments*, and council tax.

(*Not working out so well at the moment - the money put into buying student accommodation in Cambridge and leisure facilities in Wisbech isn't making great returns in a pandemic.)

Already lines are being drawn ready for the political arguments that will last through to February's budget meeting and beyond. The predictions we're been given so far assume that Councillors running the Council will go for an increase of two per cent in council tax for adult social care (a service facing huge increases in need), but zero council tax increase for general services.

We don't yet know what maximum council tax increase the Government will allow this coming year. In the past few years councils have been allowed to set rises of around two or three per cent without having to conduct a ruinously expensive referendum - and the Government generally assumes councils will do that. Assuming the maximum this coming year is of a similar level, it might be considered sensible to start building that figure into the calculations. (If the Council were to try to bridge the whole of a £40M funding gap by way of council tax increases, the rise would have to be about 15 per cent, and nobody - absolutely nobody - is suggesting that.)

Administration councillors are talking about council tax rises being their last resort after every other option. We say that while nobody relishes higher council taxes, cutting services and increasing charges will affect the most vulnerable population worst, and assuming an increase in council tax of a couple of per cent at this stage would help bridge that gap (albeit only partly in the scheme of the financial problems unfolding).

Opposition Councillors suggested, not unreasonably, that the Council considers raising council tax as one of the ways to address it. The administration doesn't like this, having made a virtue in recent years of not raising council tax and at the same time squeezing budgets. Fair enough - it's their policy - but that doesn't make a contrary suggestion unacceptable. So how was it described? This time it was not 'political' which might have been forgiven, because it does reflect a difference in policy, but 'disgusting'. The word was used not once but twice.

The Council is now approaching Government to ask for more financial support. That's all well and good, but the Government will want to see the Council doing all it can to bridge its own gap - and appearing to resolutely stand against raising council tax at all probably won't persuade the Government of the urgency of the Council's case.

It's also fair to say that the Council has been asking the Government for 'fair funding' for many years with little to show for it, and there's no reason to assume they will have any better luck this year when COVID has already trashed most of the economy, and Brexit in a couple of months' time will trash the rest.

What does my Council Tax buy?: Councillors often get asked "What does my Council Tax buy?" so we thought we'd supply some examples over the next few months. You may be aware that when a child

comes into care, the County Council becomes that child's Corporate Parent. This means we have the collective responsibility as a Council, ie elected members, employees and partner agencies, for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us until the age of 25.

Latest data shows we have 714 children in care for whom we are responsible. 74 of them are unaccompanied children seeking asylum and 229 are in long term placements or foster homes. Sadly this figure is declining – mostly due to Covid – and so if you are interested in fostering do please get in touch! 65 are disabled and 77% come from a white ethnic background. At any one time between 20 and 30 of these children are 'missing'. The good news is that the number of adoption orders granted is up by 15% and increasing.

'Nottingham Knockers' : We recently received reports that 'Nottingham Knockers' have been operating in different areas of the county. Nottingham Knockers are traders who sell items from a bag on the doorstep, typically cleaning products such as dusters, sprays etc. They usually tell a story that they are former prisoners who are rehabilitating themselves and getting back into work in order to appeal to residents' emotions and get them to purchase their wares.

Items are usually overpriced and often just shy of ten pounds each so that if anyone does agree to buy, they have to find a note to pay. This helps criminals to identify addresses where cash may be kept in the house and therefore prime targets for future distraction burglaries and other crimes. Please spread the word about this to any vulnerable people you may know and please remind them that it is quite acceptable not to answer the door to cold callers.

Drains: There are continuing problems with drains and gullies throughout the Division with many frustrations over shortcomings in Highways responding positively when drainage problems are logged on the County website. We've already lamented the fact that the County Council is no longer doing 'routine gully maintenance' – i.e. not clearing drains on a regular scheduled basis. That this is the case is a matter of deep concern: our drains, roads, pavements and other elements of highways infrastructure are in a state of 'managed decline' with nowhere near the funds needed to bring them up to an acceptable standard. This year an already stretched workforce has been further depleted by the secondment of a number to Covid response. They are now still catching up – and hopefully won't be seconded again. All that said, it's our job to follow up everything that we're made aware of, so please do get in touch if you're concerned.

Bus Services: It will be no surprise that bus operators are really struggling during the pandemic. Passenger numbers have dropped even lower than earlier in the year in the last 2 weeks and are currently running at about 30% of pre-Covid numbers, Operator costs are running at 95% of pre-Covid levels which is obviously not sustainable and of course we are advised to avoid public transport unless we have no choice. So it looks as if this might need more intervention from the Money Tree.

South Cambs DC Planning Service: We have been working very hard indeed to improve the new shared planning service which is joint between South Cambs and Cambridge City. Things are moving well in the right direction and the processes are getting quicker and more efficient. We now have ONE validation process - streamlined - for both authorities which has successfully conquered the historic backlog. The team are now working toward reaching the target of 5 days to validate an application.

New Business Grants: Businesses premises forced to close as a result of CV restrictions are to be eligible for government grants of up to £3000 per month. To be eligible you have to be paying business rates but we are expecting further guidance on discretionary grants which we hope will be available to those businesses that are experiencing serious hardship or have had to close but do not meet the criteria of the main grant pot. All the latest information is on the website which is updated daily. You can also get regular updates by registering for our Open For Business Newsletter which will be updated every time significant new guidelines are issued. If you have any queries that are not dealt with on the website do not hesitate to email openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk to make contact with our specialist business support team.

Community Grants: South Cambs DC has made further money available to help community groups remobilise to deal with the second lockdown. These are small amounts of money in the first case but if your community has special circumstances you can apply for additional funding to help you meet your community's specific needs.

Government's Planning White paper: The consultation on the government's Planning White Paper (PWP) closed last week. Shockingly, we are yet to find anyone with anything positive to say about it. And with good reason: It's terrible.

The PWP is thin on detail and ignores opportunities to address the inadequacies of the National Planning Policy Framework or the horrible consequences of new permitted development rights. Nor does

it pay heed to Government putting its own planning inspectorate in order which was partly responsible for the 4.5 years it took to approve the current South Cambs local plan resulting in 2 years of no 5 year housing land supply and 4000 unplanned houses built with no financial contribution to the communities they were sited in.

The Government loves to play to its audience and its ambition to build 'beautiful' does just that. But if a national design standard to deliver 'beauty' results in houses with no reference to local, indigenous architecture then we have countryside 'cookie cutter' developments and you will not know if you are in Harston or Hartington. Moreover, there is little mention of standards, or of climate change or homes that support health and wellbeing - all the things that really matter to people.

The new housing minister Chris Pincher's focus is entirely on numbers and speeding up housing delivery. And how does he plan to do this? By encouraging small and medium size builders into the market but we get no clue as to how this can be achieved. The last 15 years has seen a 50% decline in SME developers and though they often build better, build quicker and build cheaper they will need help to purchase our very expensive land. If the government is not going to give them that help councils need to have the powers and resources to do so.

Additionally the proposal that no affordable housing will be required for developments of less than 50 units will kill off any new affordable homes in many of our villages, depriving people of the choice to live where they want to live - often close to family, support networks or jobs.

Mr. Pincher was quite convinced that Parish Councils and residents would be so delighted that they were to play a full part in local plan formation that they would not mind that this would be the point at which their voices ceased to be heard. Once 'zones' were created development could go ahead and as long as it is 'beautiful' all will be well and everyone will be happy. Our view, having been District Councillors for a long time, is that could not be further from the truth. The Parish Council and resident voice adds hugely to the evidence for and against development.

This white paper is a 'developers charter'. No more, no less. It removes democracy from planning, it silences local voices, it centralises decision making. It's no wonder no one has a good word to say about it.

Electric Bin Lorry: We are very pleased to finally be trialling a new electric bin lorry with a view to gradually exchanging our whole fleet of refuse vehicles as part of our work to become a zero carbon authority. Long may it continue!

New London Luton Flightpaths: We have signed a joint letter to all local MPs with our colleagues over the border in Bedfordshire asking the MPs to intervene with the NATS proposals. It reads thus: "We, the undersigned strongly condemn the flight path proposals recently put forward by Luton Airport in conjunction with NATS Holdings. These proposed flight paths head directly over a significant number of rural communities in your constituencies not limited to, but including Arlesey, Shefford, Gamlingay, Potton, Biggleswade, Sandy, St Neots, Abbotsley, Wrestlingworth and Langford.

As these flights descend there is likely to be significant noise and pollution impact on our area. Prior to COVID there were an average of 300 flights a day landing at Luton airport. This consultation and the flight paths contained were not shared with local authority councillors during the analysis stage meaning neither elected representatives or residents were able to influence the options.

It is clear there are other options for flight paths which would have not resulted in such an impact. It is not clear why these have been excluded from this consultation. It is also far from clear that the existing situation is not sustainable for some time to come.

The consultation represents a fait accompli and offers no choice to the communities who see all options head directly over them.

In February 2020, the UK Court of Appeal declared the planned third runway at Heathrow Airport illegal as it breached the UK's climate mitigation commitments and the Paris Accord. In October 2020 Heathrow Airport commenced an appeal to the Supreme Court. In spite of a dramatic Covid-19 fall in passenger numbers - London Luton Airport passenger numbers for the first nine months of 2020 were half those of the same period in 2019 - and despite the UK having the world's third largest CO2 emission from aviation after China and the US, "every major commercial UK airport has plans to expand, with many hoping to double passenger numbers by 2030."

This free-for-all, uncoordinated approach is a clear breach of the UK Government's Aviation 2050 Strategy which enshrines "developing a partnership for sustainable growth which meets rising passenger demand, balanced with action to reduce environmental and community impacts." The London Luton Airport expansion plans are also clearly at odds with the Aviation 2050 Strategy and therefore with government policy.

We ask that you write to the Secretary of State for transport and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs condemning these plans and seeking a restart in the whole process so that residents and local authorities are involved at all stages.

Furthermore, we ask that you do everything within your powers as the Members of Parliament for the affected areas to ensure these flight paths do not run over the areas currently selected.”

Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do contact us with any comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can!

Councillor Sebastian Kindersley
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Planning:

Croydon Hill Farmhouse Croydon Hill Farm Croydon Hill Croydon Royston Cambs SG8 0EA

Prior approval for a change of use of an agricultural building to one dwelling house

<https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/20/04407/PRI03Q>

The applicant's agent cited Class Q in the application. Class Q is a form of permitted development, which was introduced in 2014 and allows the change of use of certain buildings from agriculture to residential use. Part of the General Permitted Development Order permits the change of land use, and allows certain physical changes (within certain limits) to make the barn habitable without needing full planning permission. Several of these conversions have already been done locally, whilst other outbuildings have been converted for rental and similar uses. Councillors perused the plans and these were complemented by the applicant's son, who attended the virtual meeting. He explained that this conversion is for him and his family to live in, and help around the farm if required. The alterations to the building will not change its exterior appearance, but will create two storeys internally and it will be both an ecologically and environmentally friendly building. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Mr Sole that no objections should be made. All were in favour. Clerk to action.

Finance:

Bank Statement: Not received at the time of the meeting.

Precept: A new form was issued by SCDC as there had been errors on the first and second mailings. There were no comments on this.

SCDC Covid Grant: Council applied for the £100 grant available to smaller parishes and this has been received. It will be available for the church and Reading Room to apply to Council for hand sanitiser for the buildings.

Remembrance Poppy Wreath: Section 137 of the Local Governments Act 1972 enables Parish to spend up to the product of £8-32 per head of the electorate for 2020/21 for the benefit of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers. It was therefore proposed by the Chair and seconded by Mr Barnes that a cheque for £17-00 for the Royal British Legion should be disbursed from these funds. All were in favour. Clerk will action.

War Memorial Insurance: The Clerk contacted Council's insurers BHIB and to increase the amount for which the memorial is insured will be a further £17-91 for the rest of this year. It was proposed by the Chair that a cheque for this amount should be signed. All were in favour. Clerk will action.

Reading Room: Council has received a letter from the Chair of the Reading Room Trustees asking for Parish Council help with funding for their proposed plans, the estimated total financial cost of which is £39,195-00. The letter was circulated to Councillors, who sent their comments to the Chair. The Chair has been liaising with the Trustees Chair, and requires more information before Council can consider finance. In principle, Council is interested in looking at the installation of Broadband to the premises. It was felt that the redecoration and floor covering should not be undertaken until the proposed building works have been completed. Mr Sole reported that the concrete floor "sweats" under the carpet tiles, probably because the Room is unlikely to have damp proofing. Regarding the use of the Room as a Home Work Hub, it would only be able to accommodate four persons using the tables and chairs in the Room. The Room has had no income during the pandemic, but still has its ongoing costs to pay, and would benefit from any income. Much more discussion will be needed on this.

Items for next agenda: None put forward

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 16th December 2020 almost certainly via Zoom.

If you wish to participate in the Zoom meetings, please contact the Clerk on croydonpc@bobburling.plus.com for details of access to the meeting.

As there was no further business, Councillors were thanked for attending and the meeting was declared closed at 8.31pm.

Signed

Date

Draft Copy