

An extraordinary meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 6 October 2021 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Brown, Mr Wenman - both unavailable. Cllr Williams - Party conference.

Present: Mrs Slator, Mr Barnes, Ms Newland, Mr Sole, Mr Wheeler, County Councillor Kindersley, District Councillor Bridget Smith, the Clerk and three members of the public.

The item under discussion:-

Premises Licence at Clopton Farm

Filming: The applicant's representative may be filming proceedings, which he has a right to do. Filming may only take place from the usual public seating and may not be noisy or intrusive or include direct lighting. The recording will be as the meeting happens, and no requests for repeating statements for the recording will be allowed. If the Chair considers the filming is interfering with the business of the meeting, then it will be required to stop.

Application :-

Name of Premise: Passivhaus

Address of Premises: Clopton Manor, Clopton Farm, Lower Road, Croydon, SG8 0EF

The proposed application is to carry out the following activities:

Activity: Sale of Alcohol

The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption on the premises

Monday – Sunday: 12:00 – 23:00

Activity: Hours Open to the Public

Monday – Sunday: Premises not open to the general public

(But approx. 6 public events a year for unspecified number of the public.)

It was noted that the full application states the maximum number of people in the bar will be 100; it is not clear how many members of the public would be allowed on the premises for the public events. Council could only assume that the maximum number would be 5000, as the box in the full application form in Part 3 allows up to 5000. Section L said probably charitable events 6 times a year, but no details of scale. In M Public Safety it states "All temporary structures will be suitable for intended purposes ... Outside is 36 acres of fields and we have plenty of parking facilities ... Late night refreshment has also been ticked, but Box I has not been completed as required.

Criteria limitation for consideration:

There are 4 objectives considered by Licensing, although they are willing to consider other relevant information. Comments submitted may be negative or positive, but must be relevant to the following headings.

Prevention of Crime and disorder: This relates to any crime, disorder or anti-social behaviour related to the management of the premises. The licence-holder cannot be responsible for the conduct of individuals once they leave the vicinity of the premises.

Public safety: This relates to the safety of the public on the premises, such as fire safety, lighting and fire exits

Prevention of public nuisance: This can relate to hours of operation, noise and vibration, noxious smells, light pollution and litter.

Protection of children from harm: This relates to protecting children from the activities carried out on the premises whilst they are on the premises. The law does provide specific protection for children, such as making it illegal for children under 18 to buy alcohol.

Clarifications:

Mr White confirmed at the last meeting there was an error on the map, as a shed is located in an area marked mature trees. This has not been rectified for this application.

Planning:

It has been confirmed that a Licensing application is a separate process to a planning application. Matters regarding planning are not considered by the Licensing authority.

However, Council has an update since the last meeting from the Planning Department.

At a visit to the site, Officers also became aware of other building operations, which have been carried out on the wider site in the applicant's ownership but outside the red line of the current application site. We have no records of any applications for planning permission for the detached window display building, for the two chalet style outbuildings and the outbuilding sited to the north of the car park

Officers consider that the current application 20/03239/S73 is invalid and should be withdrawn, and a full application for planning permission is made to retain all the works that have been carried out on site. This application would seek to regularise all works carried out and will entail a larger application site and revised red line.

The recently constructed timber building alongside the boundary with Croydon House Farm must be included and full elevation and floor plans would be required showing the use and internal layout of the building. The training room has bar facilities and reference to this should be included also. Planning intends to request the current planning application is withdrawn and resubmitted

PC Site visit:

Three members of the council visited the site in July to view the building and area concerned.

Process:

The applicant is unable to attend the meeting this evening. He did request that the meeting be changed, but as the applicant is not required to attend in person the normal meeting protocols were followed, and the request was declined. The applicant was advised he could send a representative to talk on his behalf or additional written information if he wished. The applicant has not done so. However, I will read out the narrative form the application form.

I will then read a summary of any submissions received about this current application. As is practice in all our Parish Council meetings the name of commentators are not read out, but the Parish Council has record and no anonymous correspondence is included. These comments have been edited to only include factual opinions about the criteria above and do not include hearsay or personal comments about the applicant or their business.

I will then ask any member of the public present who wishes to make a statement on the application limited to 2 minutes, to do so.

I will then ask our County and District councillors to comment or ask questions

Finally, the members of the PC discuss and make a decision. The options are Against, For or For with narrative reservations.

In support - 5 households

We would like to voice our support for the applicant and their business plans in Croydon. The facilities, to be outlined again shortly have already been partly executed and can only be an asset to a Village, which has shrunk over many years. The Eco Friendly and educational nature of the business is laudable. The applicant has informed us he was badly advised & the original application was wrong in many sections. We need to support and foster local business which employs some 35 people and their families.

I'm emailing to voice my support for the recent licence permit for Passivhaus.

In such a small village having another venue to be able to visit for a coffee or a beer in my eyes is a positive thing. There is always talk about attracting younger people to the village and this will help.

The applicant and the team work closely with the Pink Ribbon charity and I understand the majority of the proceeds will be going to charity. I think it's a great concept and am in full support. We would like to take this opportunity to support the applicants application for a premise license. He has a thriving business within 300yds of our property, a wonderful farm for the local children to experience, alongside a caring conservation purpose. I believe allowing a license to the applicant would be very beneficial to the community and surrounding area by bringing locals together which can only benefit all of us. Living so close we never hear anything and don't see any issues with noise, traffic or light pollution. If we can assist in any way in the future regarding this application please do not hesitate to contact us.

I would just like to offer my support for the application for licence of the Eco bar White Haus place on the Lower Road , Croydon. I think it would be a nice alternative option for people to have another venue in the village as well as the Wood Grill in the centre of the village.

Overall, given that this is a rural business, and in view of the above considerations, I see more reasons to support this application than oppose it.

Against - 5 households

Road & Traffic safety:

The licence applied for alcohol only not a restaurant and only reasonable access, even to the majority of people living in Croydon or Tadlow is vehicular by road.

The B1042 Lower Road is a busy road and I have witnessed many accidents on the road since moving to this address in 2001. These have included three occasions when vehicles have crashed in my front garden (only one with police intervention). However, since the turn of the year there have been two accidents between Downing House and Larkins Road to my knowledge, one of which occurred close to the applicant's premises

The access to the site would require traffic from Croydon to cross one solid white line for the old farm entrance to the property and two solid white lines if the Clopton Manor entrance was used.

B1042 is a busy road, affected by constant over speeding with a history of road traffic accidents. The entrance to Clopton Manor is situated on a bend in the road and any further increase in traffic, particularly leaving and entering a 50 mph highway, could increase the risk of further accidents at an already dangerous location

1) On the road opposite the entrance to the farm there is no box area, for turning right into this farm. Also there is no hard shoulder. This is a serious concern, knowing the amount of people that could attend the bar.

2) The road is very fast and there is two dangerous bends near the farm entrance, and also a small hill that both can obscure views.

3) No road lighting.

4) There has been numerous collisions, on this part of the road.

My objections to this application are that people using the bar would have to travel to it as there is no accommodation on site and people in cars, having drunk alcohol, would be exiting on to a busy road. From a road safety point of view this is not an ideal situation.

The only access to Clopton Manor Farm is by car. As we all know, it is situated on very busy road with a 50mph speed limit. Pulling out on to that road is at best...a little hairy. We have witnessed several accidents over the past 5 years of living here..sadly some of them fatal. Unfortunately the road is all too often abused by motorists and bikers using it like a race track....we are very worried that by increasing the traffic entering and leaving Clopton Farm that inevitably it may result in an increase in motor accidents. Visibility can be very poor on the bends.

As above, the only access to the farm is by car - drinking and driving definitely DO NOT mix well together....if they are not driving then where are they being accommodated ?

Noise & nuisance

Unfair for the neighbours, noise level that comes from this amount of people attending the bar, Lots for people will be drinking outside.

The bar's position is very close to neighbours' houses

Noise and light pollution.

We are concerned about the negative effects of increased noise and light pollution caused by the 11 hr per day sale of alcohol, music, sporting events and arrivals/departures at the Clopton Manor site.

There seems to be only two changes to the previous withdrawn application. These involve the opening hours and the fact that it would not be open to the public.

If it is not to be open to the public who would the customers be?

It is also very close to neighbouring properties which could cause problems with noise if outside music is played.

There is no mention of any provision for food to be served with the alcohol.

The bar requiring an alcohol licence already in situ is attached to our boundary wall and the outside decking is just on the other side of our wall.

Ourselves and the rest of our neighbours chose to live in a quiet rural setting outside of a village or town and the thought of a drinking/entertainment establishment with outdoor facilities being attached to our boundary wall is unfathomable and not in character of the rural aesthetic that planning have been so eager to preserve.

A drinking venue with an indoor capacity of 100 people with the addition of aiming to host live music events indoors and outdoors has no bearing on any plan ever submitted to the S Cambs planning department

It states in the application that it would be used for events open to the general public 'PROBABLY' up to 6 times a year. The word 'Probably' concerns us. Also phrases like 'special events such as the world cup' and 'use of on occasion' are not specific enough within this application.

The application states that the bar is sound proofed. The outside decking area is not.

The application states that the local community will be able to use the facility for pre-arranged meetings/coffee afternoons/Round Table/Lions monthly meetings ETC. The local community is already served well by the Wood grill pub and restaurant and the reading room.

From a nuisance perspective this is worse than the previous application, as decking has been added and outdoor music is being requested the applicant states he has 36 acres so why does this bar have to be against our boundary wall next to our courtyard.

In conclusion ...The original planning was granted on Clopton Farm on the basis that a 'farmyard rural aesthetic' was maintained. It has not been . The permission for development was granted then, with noise and traffic restrictions. This latest application seems to ignore that these were limits to protect the neighbourhood , not a starting point for future developments

Other activities of site:

Concern Dirty Flash Club, a company incorporated in January 2021 with its registered office at Clopton Manor. What are the proposed activities of this business as its registration documents indicate 'sales of beverages, leather goods, footwear and other clothing'?

Is it appropriate to serve alcohol to employees before they drive home or those in training.

Children

Concern over the advertised name of beer, being a pun in writing but by sound a swear word "PHuck."

From the Floor:

Members of the public who spoke mainly corroborated what had been stated in the "against" comments that Council had received. The main concerns were road safety and noise/light pollution. Concern was also expressed that some of the buildings already on site do not have planning permission.

County Councillor Kindersley:

Councillor Kindersley stated that the County Council is not involved in the Licensing Process - it is a District Council matter. However, he felt that the application form was too vague and the previous issues raised had not been addressed. A lot of the site does not have planning consent and there is no guarantee that it will be obtained retrospectively. If there are to be students on site, where is the accommodation? It does not have permission but it has already been built.

This venue is not like a pub in a village. The surrounding residences were there before the applicant purchased the site and started developing it. Everything is so vague it is impossible to really understand what the applicant requires.

Councillor Kindersley also has concerns over the Highway safety aspect of the application, which is a County Council matter. He suggested a "sternly worded missive" should be sent to Mr Kelly at the Planning Department about the planning consent.

District Councillor Bridger Smith:

Cllr Smith is Leader of South Cambs District Council and said that she only gets "big stuff" land on her desk now. She said that she has received a lot of emails and phone calls about this application. She said that farmers do need to diversify, with the lack of subsidies available. (It was pointed out to her that the applicant is not a farmer, but runs a business and offers training in Passivhaus construction methods). The District Council also has concerns about access and traffic. When Councillor Smith represented Croydon she was instrumental in obtaining the 50mph speed limit for the B1042 and appreciates that the road can be dangerous. It is not possible to give an opinion on an incomplete application. She suggested that in Council's response all the issues should be raised, and there will be lawyers who will advise the panel. It is possible to apply for variations.

The Councillors were thanked for attending, and both they and the public left the meeting.

Consideration by Council, by heading

Council heard five submissions of support and five raising objections

Prevention of Crime & Disorder:

No issues raised

Public safety:

The major area of concern from the public and the Parish Council is road safety. Access to and from the site is onto the busy B1042 on a bend with poor visibility. This stretch of road has a history of collisions including at least one fatality. This risk would be compounded by large numbers entering and leaving the site, especially at night.

Prevention of public nuisance:

Concern has been raised about noise and disturbance of neighbours. Although the bar itself may be insulated, outdoor decking areas and car parks would generate noise. Outdoor music events would also generate noise.

Close rural neighbours would not have expected to be living with an event venue up against their property boundaries.

Protection of children from Harm:

Concern raised that the brand of beer and signage, "Phuck" is not suitable for children.

Decision

Council decided they could not make an informed decision regarding the Licensing application, as the application form was incomplete and lacked detail.

The previous application was withdrawn as the applicant said he did not want events up to 5000 people. The new application still has a ceiling of 5,000 people, although it states the bar area is for 100, and no figures have been given for the size of the outdoor charitable events and the number of events per year is vague.

In addition, it has been made known to the council that the site lacks appropriate planning permission and the planning department has requested a reapplication for the whole site including the bar area. Council cannot support the application for a licence to a site that does not have appropriate planning permission. (Planning detail attached)

Council's unanimous decision was against the Licensing application.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Signed

Date

Draft Copy

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20 October 2021 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Wheeler - unavailable, Ms Newland - unwell, Cllr Kindersley - another meeting,

Present: Mr Barnes, Mrs Slator, Mr Sole, Mr Wenman Cllr Williams and the Clerk.

Minutes: The minutes of the September and Licensing meetings were agreed and signed..

Declarations of Interest: None reported

District Councillor's report to the meeting:

Local Plan Consultation: Cllr Williams has perused the Local Plan and supports the environmental and biodiversity aspects of it. She feels that there are too many houses are being suggested, far more than the Government recommendation, and this impacts on the land supply. Developers cannot be relied on to build faster, and a maximum density for each site should be agreed, but hasn't. This can result in very small gardens and outside areas. The biggest problem for an additional 48,000+ homes is water supply, but this has been passed to the Government to solve and is not considered in the plan.

Finance: Because of the delay in the auditing of SCDC accounts is over 2 years late, an extraordinary meeting was called last week. SCDC was given two weeks to complete the process and if it hadn't would be placed in "special measures". There was an amendment to get up to date by October 2022. Cllr Williams stated that the problem has been staff turnover. SCDC is having to bring in outside interim accountants, at great cost, to cover the work that should be done in house. They have provided reports, and then left, so another interim accountant has been brought in to identify and prove how the report was arrived at. The Head of Finance and the Chief Executive posts have not had long serving post-holders. The computerised system was changed several times, and is now back at the original system. Cllr Williams stressed that the current officers are excellent, but unable to cope with the huge workload. Although there is no financial penalty for late accounts, the cost to the Council has been immense.

Food Waste Collections: Cllr Williams reported that food waste collections are being trialled in some of the parishes in her area, but Croydon is not one of them.

Six Free Trees: Cllr Williams encouraged Council to apply for the free trees. Mrs Slator said that as the Parish Council owns no land, ZCC at South Cambs stated that the trees can only be planted on land owned by a Charity or on County Council land with written permission. Cllr Williams will investigate this.

Speedwatch: The new Police and Crime Commissioner has been approached regarding an area meeting and Cllr Williams hoped that the meeting will be held before Christmas this year.

As there were no further questions for Cllr Williams, she was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Matters Arising:

Community Group: The 1st Tuesday Group welcomed three members of the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group to the meeting on 5th October. They explained about the varied artefacts recorded and collected during several walks adjacent to the site of the medieval village at Clopton. From these it was determined that the site dates back to the Bronze Age. The full report can be found at the Group's website - <http://www.cafg.net/docs/reports/Clopton%20Fieldwalking%20Part%202.pdf> Recent work led by the Dept of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge confirmed that some individuals buried at Clopton were victims of plague.

<https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk/news/plague-medieval-cambridge>

Housing Needs: Nothing to report, although an alternative site is being investigated.

New Code of Conduct: SCDC has adopted the new Code in full, but that it would not become effective until after the elections in May 2022. The new Code is in plain English and is much easier to understand, although there are a lot more pages in it. Council discussed the Code and Mrs Slator proposed that Croydon Parish Council would adopt the new Code in full following the May 2022 elections. Seconded Mr Barnes, all in favour.

Infrastructure meeting: SCD Cllr Smith gave an interesting presentation on Zoom regarding the developments happening in South Cambs over which SCDC does not have any control. For example in

Planning:- National Planning reforms, Ox-Cam Arc, Non Statutory Planning Framework, Sub national Transport Boards - Strategic Transport Plans, Combined Authority Non Statutory Spatial Plan, Combined Authority Local Transport Plan, Greater Cambridge Joint Local Plan, North East Cambridge Area Action Plan. There are many others. It is hoped that now the East-West Rail route has changed the Thakeham threat will disappear. Councillors have been sent the slides from the workshop for their information.

Speedwatch: As reported by Cllr Williams (above)

Clopton Sign: The reinstatement of the old Clopton village sign was discussed. Various suggestions regarding an alternative site away from the old village were discussed. Mrs Slator reported that earlier this year, Mr White had offered to reproduce the sign and fix it so that it can be read from the bridle way, and close to the Clopton village site. Councillors thought this was a good idea and the Clerk was instructed to contact Mr White to take up the offer.

Additional Dog Bin: The Focus Group has been looking into various bins and their uses. After research ch, the Group is suggesting the following

- To take Sarah Phillips up on her offer of a site visit to discuss types and locations.
- To consider also the potential for signage of various kinds.
- To finalise initial thinking and consult with properties neighbouring any proposed sites.
- To consider cost implications.
- To report to the Parish Council with recommendations.

Councillors agreed that a bin of some kind for the village could be funded if a suitable site is found.

County Councillor's written report - October 2021

The Gamlingay Division is comprised of 13 parishes. 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!

Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan: Residents are invited to comment on the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Gamlingay during a consultation which runs from 27 September to 23 November 2021. The draft Plan has been developed by the Gamlingay community over the last six years and, once finalised and adopted, would have equal status to the Council's wider Local Plan, when it comes to setting out where, what and how new development should take place locally.

The Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan's vision is for Gamlingay to continue to be a thriving and sustainable community and an attractive, friendly and safe place to live and work. The plan seeks to conserve its distinctive character as a radial village with satellite hamlets and easy access to open countryside, while nurturing and growing local employment and community facilities to ensure an outstanding quality of life for all residents

This consultation is the last opportunity for the public to comment, before the Plan is examined by an independent planning examiner. The examiner's role is to test the Neighbourhood Plan against the basic conditions that are set out in national regulations. The Plan will then need to be passed by a referendum of Gamlingay residents, before being adopted as part of the planning framework used to assess planning applications in South Cambridgeshire.

To find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan or to participate in the consultation, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/gamlingay-neighbourhood-plan/

Neighbourhood Plans are developed by local communities with support from the district council and have equal weight to Local Plans in the development plan hierarchy and can set out where, what and how new development should take place in their designated area. Neighbourhood Plans must conform in general terms to the strategic policies in the Local Plan for the area, and cannot propose less development overall than the Local Plan puts forward.

About the Barrington Conservation Area Appraisal: A conservation area appraisal reviews a conservation area to decide if the existing assessment of its character is up to date. Where there is no existing appraisal for a conservation area, the appraisal will capture and record the character of the area.

The conservation area in Barrington has not been reviewed since its designation in 1973, so it requires an appraisal document. After meetings with members of the parish council, the Planning Service have now completed a draft appraisal. There is no statutory requirement to consult with local communities or stakeholders but comments on the draft appraisal before it is finalised are invited. The

revised appraisal does recommend changes to the conservation area boundaries to include certain areas currently outside the conservation area.

For more information and to comment on the consultation, visit

www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/historic-environment/conservation-areas/conservation-area-appraisal-consultations/

Gamlingay Gym: Joint statement from South Cambridgeshire District Council and The Cam Academy Trust:-

“The Cam Academy Trust and South Cambridgeshire District Council are committed to continuing to work together, alongside the community, on the future of the gym at Gamlingay Village Primary School. As part of these efforts, there is an intention from a community group to look at the possibility of taking over the operation of the dual use sports facilities on the site in the future. Conversations aimed at securing this outcome are continuing. However, this new group needs to be officially formed and registered with the Charity Commission before it can be considered as a potential operator. The Cam Academy Trust has taken the decision that continuing to run the gym is not financially viable for them in the future and are thus now formally closing the operation of the gym and winding-up the business. The Trust has judged that it has no reasonable alternative but to do this. Gym members are being contacted and any advance payment of fees refunded.

The Multi-use games area at the Primary School remains open for the community to book by contacting the school office.

Both the Council and the Cam Academy Trust have a clear desire to make a community gym in Gamlingay work in future, and working together with the emerging community group to make that happen if at all sensibly possible is our focus. As and when more information is available on a possible future operator for the gym it will be shared.”

Blythe Way: The surface of Blyth Way is a disgrace and in urgent need of resurfacing. Unfortunately the County Council has inspected it and until the pot holes are over 50cm deep they will not act. If one or more exceed this depth they will deal with them within 21 days. Only resurfacing will sort this out and as a cul-de-sac it is well down the list of proposed works. However Highways have highlighted the high proportion of sheltered housing units plus the community room which will be taken into account as the schemes are progressed.

Road Closure - New Shingay, Shingay cum Wendy: Thrillingly for those of us who use it often New Shingay/Fen Road past South Farm is going to be closed for carriageway maintenance works including carriageway recycling and surface dressing from Monday 18th October 2021. Access will be severely restricted along the drove for approximately 8 days. Warning boards will be in place as soon as possible, to advise of dates, and access to property will be managed but may be quite complicated so leave plenty of time! This road is in an appalling conditions so I am delighted that funds have been set aside to repair it. The works stretch from the Wendy junction to approximately the Abington Pigotts turn.

Parking Civil Enforcement: Proposals to draw-up plans to improve the way illegal parking is tackled have moved a step closer. Introducing civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire would see responsibilities for tackling illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to the County Council. This would mean drivers parking illegally and inconsiderately, such as on double yellow lines or too close to a junction or a school, could be fined by Civil Enforcement Officers. This arrangement is common in most other parts of the country and will be considered for South Cambridgeshire by the District Council's Cabinet.

In South Cambridgeshire, the work to draw-up these plans will be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and a formal update on this funding arrangement will follow later this year. A consultation process would be part of the developing plans, allowing residents and businesses to have their say. All civil parking enforcement schemes need to generate enough income to pay for themselves, which will inform how the scheme is developed for South Cambridgeshire.

SCDC's High Streets team passes milestone of 1,000 visits and enquiries: The District Council's Reopening High Streets Safely Team was established in July 2020 to support local small to medium sized businesses recover and reopen. During the last year, the small team of three officers has visited around 700 businesses to provide them with face-to-face advice, and dealt with more than 300 enquiries, concerns and queries.

Visit South Cambs - Business Website and Listings: South Cambs have launched a new business directory of businesses in the District. This is to try to boost local commerce now that we are coming out of Covid restrictions. Any viable, independent, business in South Cambridgeshire can apply to be listed on the website. It is essentially free advertising! - <https://www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk/> . Please do register

especially if you are a pub, restaurant, B&B, food retailer or holiday venue. And please do use it as a customer in order to ensure that you are spending your money locally and helping businesses in South Cambs to survive and thrive.

Afghan Families: South Cambs DC has responded very fast to the government's call to local authorities to find homes for refugees from Afghanistan who have been supporting us over the past 20 years. By the time you read this eight families should be in their new homes and we have agreed to seek further homes for more families.

Electric Bin Lorries: South Cambs is moving forward with its commitment to be Zero Carbon with the purchase of 2 more electric bin lorries. These vehicles are expensive but the savings that are made on fuel together with the environmental benefits means that they pay for themselves in a relatively short time.

Covid: We are expecting a further peak at the end of September /beginning of October. Well over 100 school children a day are testing positive at the time of writing and some classes are having to close as teachers become infected. What is of greater concern is the capacity of the hospitals. Hospitals generally like to be between at 80 and 85% full but all our hospital are at over 95% capacity. Hospital staff are completely exhausted as one might expect. It is deeply disappointing to hear so often of doctors, nurses and administrative staff being abused by patients who are unhappy that life is not as it used to be. We need to remember that these people are the very people who saved thousands of lives, often at huge cost to themselves. They deserve our support and respect for ever more.

Christmas: Eeek - perhaps too early to be thinking about Christmas but South Cambs will be running a Christmas Market in Cambourne High Street. Further information will follow soon.

Black History Month: Great that for the second year running South Cambs will be running a programme of events for Black History Month. This year we are joining forces with Cambridge City Council and the talks and events will be accessible through both councils' websites. The programme is looking very interesting. Please do tune in. Hopefully next year we will be able to run in person activities too.

Cambourne Youth Club: South Cambs DC is also very pleased to help parishes to deliver services to their communities - especially to young and elderly residents. It is therefore good news that Cambourne parish Council are now drawing down a £500,000 loan from the District Council to help them to build a new youth centre.

Growth Fund: Because of our success in getting all the government's Covid grants out quickly and efficiently to our businesses they now have an additional sum of Growth Fund money to spend. The £1,383,610.00 is not for businesses to survive covid but for businesses that have survived to be able to grow and in so doing increase the number of people they employ, their turnover and their profits. So far £1,005,000 has been spent and this money has gone to 63 South Cambs businesses from a vast range of sectors with grants ranging in size from £2,500.00 to £50,000.00. If you have a business with potential to grow contact the council's business support team for advice and support to apply for your share of the remaining £378,610.00

Gully Cleansing: The frequency and regularity of the gully clearance programme had been reduced under previous administrations. Our new administration has sought to remedy that by assigning new resource and budget to implement a 24 month rolling programme to clear all gullies across the County.

This will not solve the problems overnight, and the frequency and severity of storm events means that our historical drainage systems are going to be found inadequate more often. The capacity of those gullies has been found lacking twice already since July and in December we had the third highest rainfall event since records began.

We are also increasing the collaboration with the District Council over the scheduling of road gutter cleaning, so that is done ahead of gully cleaning, rather than after. We also approved a grant aid programme for helping people with riparian responsibility for ditch maintenance, so that the whole drainage system is more effective.

This Land: A review of This Land, Cambridgeshire County Council's arm's length property development company will be complete by November. This Land pays commercial rates of interest on the loans of approx £113m advanced to it by the council and the expected net income council is due to receive in the current financial year is £6m.

So far this year the company has repaid a loan of £2.04m and made interest payments totalling £1.06m. However, concern has been expressed about this project. For example, are the assumptions that This Land has made in its latest business plan reasonable and deliverable? Is there a clear understanding about the exposure to risk, particularly in the medium term? How could the firm quicken

the pace of housing delivery and are there examples from other local authority related housing companies? Does This Land have the right skills, capabilities and expertise compared to a typical housing development company of this type?

County Council Biodiversity: The new administration takes Biodiversity very seriously. Councillors have agreed the investment of a further additional £109k in seasonally dependent biodiversity projects to speed up progress on our climate change commitments.

The need for extra resources in year has been identified as a result of recent increased use of public open spaces (including several council owned scheduled monuments) as more and more people have taken to the outdoors to enjoy what the county has to offer during the pandemic.

The requested £109k is to be used towards staff capacity and to undertake urgent and seasonally dependent site repairs and maintenance, plus beginning a biodiversity audit across the council's land which will help with the countywide 'doubling nature' agenda and the council's commitment to 20% biodiversity net gain.

Grants: Good news that the Gamlingay Schools Out Club won a grant of £350 from South Cambs for projects over the Summer.

County Council's New Shire Hall, Alconbury: Construction of the 'New Shire Hall' building HQ for Cambs County Council, a project of the previous administration, has now opened in a phased return to work plan and September committee meetings have taken place there. Based at Alconbury Weald off the A1 toward Peterborough, there are no viable public transport connections from most parts of the county. It remains to be seen whether the impressive cycle parking facilities there will be put to use. The most surprising feature of New Shire Hall is that it contains no space large enough to hold a Covid-compliant meeting of Full Council so has to hire a suitable venue for each of its Council meetings. New Shire Hall stands directly adjacent to the 'iMET' vocational training centre, a £10 million project launched in 2018, which has now collapsed and is closed, due to lack of public transport access.

Covid Update: The return of schools this autumn has, as expected, led to an increasing number of children and school staff testing positive for Covid-19. As a result, schools are working hard to balance safety with the need to ensure that children receive the education which they deserve.

All schools continue to ensure buildings are well ventilated and have enhanced cleaning regimes in place and children are encouraged to wash their hands well and regularly.

The rules around self-isolation changed last month and it is no longer a requirement for anyone who is under 18, or has had both doses of the vaccine, to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. Adults who have not had both doses of the vaccine still need to self-isolate. It is therefore important that everyone who is eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine, takes up the offer.

Lots of support is available for people who need it whilst self-isolating, including payments for those who will lose income and struggle financially. Parents are also able to claim financial support if they need to self-isolate as a result of a child having symptoms or testing positive.

For more information about this support, please visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/selfisolationsupport

The increasing number of children and school staff testing positive is not unique to Cambridgeshire - it is happening across the whole country. This is despite schools following national guidance and current public health recommendations. All education establishments will have contingency arrangements in place and this may include reintroducing temporary measures that you will be familiar with including the wearing of face coverings and individual classes being ringfenced from other groups within the school in shared spaces. Where there are insufficient staff to safely operate the school, children will temporarily move to remote learning. This will always be a last resort.

Local Climate Leaders: Ahead of the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), Glasgow in November, the Council wishes to celebrate those individuals, businesses or community groups who've found meaningful ways to take positive environmental action, and so inspire others to help tackle the climate emergency. Please consider nominating any who fit this description, by emailing communications@cambridgeshire.gov.uk explaining why they deserve to be an ambassador for climate action in our area.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. 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

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: No alterations

Ox-Cam Arc Survey: Ms Newland volunteered to complete this on behalf of Council, but was not present at the meeting to confirm that she has done this.

Local Plan Consultation: The next big consultation on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will run from 1 November to 13 December 2021. Councillors will be commenting on the Plan and the public and businesses are also invited to do this. The Clerk has applied to receive information in order to publicise this, which will be circulated and put onto the notice board. This Plan will impact on the area in which you live - please respond to the Consultation.

Highways Events Diary: 10 November Bass Belle 10 miler

Green Canopy briefing: ACRE is arranging a short briefing regarding the Queen's Green Canopy Initiative. They are inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" to recognise and celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Unfortunately, there is no Council land in Croydon on which to do this.

The Library presents....: The Library Presents is delighted to announce the Autumn Season of exciting arts events which will run from October to December 2021. Back for its eighth season with a burst of exciting artistic events and activities, **The Library Presents** is returning to local venues in a colourful flurry of music, theatre, workshops, comedy and family friendly shows.

There are fascinating online arts activities, one with Integrated BSL and audio description for deaf and visually impaired audiences, and all with automated or typed subtitles.

Venues are in Alconbury Weald, Arbury, Barnwell, Buckden, Cambourne, Clay Farm, Ely, Haddenham, Huntingdon, March, Sawston, St Ives, St Neots, Whittlesey and Wisbech.

Full details of the programme, along with booking information can be found at

www.library.live/the-library-presents

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the brochure please email

thelibrarypresents@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

School Admissions Appeal panel member: This group is looking for a member to help with the appeals process for schools.

Subsequent receipts:

SCDC - list of Local Approved Builders: This is available on SCDC website.

Road Victims Trust: An invitation from the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire to attend an Evensong of Remembrance at Great St Mary's in Cambridge on 21 November and donate to the charity.

Remembrance Sunday: The service this year will be at Orwell church at 10.50am on 14 November.

Wreaths will be laid at Arrington/Wimpole and Croydon. Approximate times are 12.05pm at Arrington Bridge and 12.15 - 12.20pm at Croydon. Details will be circulated on the E-News nearer the date

SCDC - Visit website: Successful launch and support for the new website. They will also promote local events if sent to them. The Chair asked the Clerk to send in details of the footpaths in Croydon for this site.

Parish Map: The Tree Wardens are keen to obtain a large scale parish map, that shows features and field boundaries in order to mark the type and position of the trees in the parish. Council asked the Clerk to follow this up.

From SLCC communications: (Clerks' group)

Offer of one day training - costing £45-00 + VAT - Council is prepared to fund this if Clerk feels it would be useful.

Community Led Plan - a Clerk has asked if other PCs have repeated a Community Led Plan, as theirs is over 2 years old and nearly all the actions have been completed. Croydon's is well over that, but there are still actions outstanding. As it is community led, Council is not involved and felt that until all the actions are complete, this should be deferred.

Planning: Further details required on an application have been supplied.

Finance:

Precept: Precept of £2070 -00 received

Bank Statement: This is reflected in the bank statement - total balance of £6756 - 55

Items for next agenda: None put forward.

Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 17 November in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. Any necessary Covid precautions that Council feels necessary will be in place.

As there was no further business, Councillors were thanked for attending and the meeting was declared closed at 8.55pm.

Signed

Date

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