

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 17 November 2021 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Wheeler - domestic emergency, Mr Wenman - unwell (email received before the meeting but not seen), Mr Sole - at work, Mrs Slator - unavailable.

Present: Mr Barnes, Ms Newland, Mr Brown, Cllr Williams, Cllr Kindersley and the Clerk. [In the absence of the Chair Mrs Slator, the Vice Chairman Mr Barnes presided over the meeting in her place.](#)

Minutes: The minutes of the October meeting were agreed and signed..

Declarations of Interest: None reported

District Councillor's report to the meeting:

Cllr Williams apologised for the lack of an October written report; she has been experiencing email problems and has been unable to use her SCDC account. She hopes that finally, this has been permanently corrected.

Local Plan Consultation: Cllr Williams emphasised the importance of completing the consultation on the Local Plan. Clerk was instructed to complete this consultation, using the Council's opinions on the helpful categories sheet sent out from SCDC. Cllrs Williams has a hard copy of the plan if anyone would like to borrow it, It is downloadable, but is massive. She is concerned that a maximum density of houses per acre has not been included, which will encourage developers to wedge as many houses as possible onto a site with miniscule or non-existent gardens.

Licensing Hearing: Cllr Williams was informed today, and she informed Council at the meeting, that she is able to represent Council at the hearing for an alcohol licence at Clopton Farm. Councillors were very grateful and it was proposed by the Chair that Cllr Williams represent Croydon - all in favour. She indicated the points she would cover at the meeting, and if the panel is minded to approve the application, the conditions Council request should be added to the licence. After discussion, Council decided on the following - indoor music only, outside music Friday, Saturday and Sunday, recorded music indoors only 12 noon - 11.00pm. Clerk was asked to email the Licensing Department regarding this arrangement.

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. Due to staff shortages, some bins are not being emptied at the expected times. If this happens to you please go to Cllr Williams' website, where she has links to the departments which can help you.

Rural Connections: Please complete this consultation. The idea is that Cambridge City would eventually be car-free, or possibly subject to a congestion charge. Unfortunately, with public transport as it is in outlying villages, it is unlikely that people will stop using their vehicles unless there is a robust public transport network in place. Trains and bus timetables need to be considered simultaneously and this survey will be used to inform the next step. All the information, including the link to the survey can be found at the link below:-

<https://consultcambbs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2021>

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

Written report for October - November from Cllr Williams

District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC - October & November 2021

Local Plan update

The Local plan consultation is now open and will close on 13th December. I would strongly urge as many people as possible to take part. The policies within the Local plan will in many ways dictate how development happens in our villages for years to come. It will be what we rely on to support or refuse planning permissions. It is also vital that it is sound, robust, and reliable as the plan will need to be approved by an independent planning inspector. If the plan was to fail then our district, and our villages would be open to speculative development. This is why, it is one, if not the, most important document the District Council is responsible for producing, and why it is so important that as many people have their

say as possible. The following link will allow you to access the proposals and see where development has been proposed. The following link is for the local plan website. [Greater Cambridge Local Plan \(greatercambridgeplanning.org\)](http://greatercambridgeplanning.org)

Making Connections - have your say on greener travel in Greater Cambridge

As a member of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly, I raised the lack of bus services in our area, and in some cases ridiculous provision and timescales. I also raised how there are no buses to the Ashwell and Mordens Station in Cambridgeshire, in fact it wasn't even recorded on the original travel maps. I'm pleased to say it has now been included in the consultation documents. I believe if we are to reduce car dependency then we must provide reliable public transport. I have stressed the importance of integrated train and bus timetabling, and I hope this will be taken on board. Residents and parish councils now have until 20th December to have their say in the Making Connections consultation, a link to which is below.

[Making Connections - have your say on greener travel in Greater Cambridge | Consult Cambridgeshire \(engagementhq.com\)](http://engagementhq.com)

2018/19 Accounts Audit

The 2018/19 Accounts are still yet to be signed off, or a final report by the external auditors be given. While there is an audit and corporate governance meeting on the 1st December, councillors have been advised that it is unlikely that the accounts will be finalised in this calendar year. The length of time that these accounts are taking to complete is alarming. We will soon be approaching the third anniversary of the 2019 year end and yet no accounts have been agreed. This also means that residents have not been able to see accounts for the 2020 or 2021 year end, only time will tell how long it will take to see this years' 2022 accounts. The administration has apologised for underestimating the amount of work involved, and indeed admitted not always prioritising the year end accounts. This may not be a 'juicy' subject, but it is a fundamental responsibility of the administration to show residents how their money has been spent in a timely manner. I would also question what value the administration puts on the input of councillors from other groups or committees, for since 2018 I and other councillors have been raising the issue of lack of resource in the finance department. Three years on, for the administration to admit they haven't been resourcing the department sufficiently, shows, in my view, either a lack of willingness to listen to others or a failure to take the appropriate action required. Whatever the reasons, this lack of judgement, means that the council is making multi-million-pound decisions without any up to date accounts.

Universal Credit

Please see below details of how the District Council can support people who are financially struggling at the moment. In the current climate many people will find themselves in financial difficulty for the first times in their lives and seeking help may be a daunting and scary experience. I would stress that all conversations with the council, or myself are confidential. And whether this is the first time or not, if you, or anyone you know, is struggling please reach out, there is support out there, short term/ long term which ever applies to your circumstances please do not suffer in silence.

There is a range of options for those struggling financially, including:

- Discretionary Housing Payments which provide financial support towards housing costs. You can [apply for these Discretionary Housing Payments](#)
- The Council Tax hardship fund, which aims to provide support to those who are struggling financially because of the pandemic. You can [apply for this Hardship Fund](#)
- Support and advice from our Welfare and Money Maximisation Officer, Lucy Tompkins, who can be contacted via Lucy.Tompkins@scambs.gov.uk
- Along with Cambridgeshire County Council and partners, we also still offer one-off small payments to help with immediate food or fuel needs - up to £49 for a family, or £29 for an individual, for food or fuel. Anyone needing that one-off help should [email our communities team](#).

[Email our Benefits team](#) if you have specific questions, or call 01954 713 000.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Last year was a Christmas unlike many we have ever known. I know of many who were unable to spend Christmas with their loved ones due to the Covid restrictions. I hope that you will once again be able to celebrate Christmas in the way you wish, though given the current Covid situation I would plead for people to do this in as safe a way as possible. If you would like any Covid guidance you can access this on the link below.

[Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Christmas Bin collection Dates

Please see below the changes to the bin collection dates over Christmas.

Wednesday 1 December 2021	Blue and green bins
Wednesday 8 December 2021	Black bin
Wednesday 15 December 2021	Blue and green bins
Wednesday 22 December 2021	Black bin
Friday 31 December 2021(changed collection date)	Blue bin only
Saturday 8 January 2022 (changed collection date)	Black bin

Wishing you, and your families a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2022.

Cllr Heather Williams
SCDC The Mordens Ward
Tel: 07885 774 775
Email: cllr.williamsh@scambs.gov.uk
Website: www.cllrheatherwilliams.co.uk

County Councillor Kindersley's report to the meeting

Local Plan and Travel in the area Consultations: Cllr Kindersley stated the importance of responding to both these consultations. If you don't contribute, don't complain about the outcome.

Cllr Kindersley has been taking the Chair for County Council meetings, as the Chair has been unwell. Cllr Williams felt he was being taken advantage of, with the extra duties he was undertaking.

Furniture for refugees: If anyone has any furniture they are willing to give for this cause, please contact Emmaus, or email info@refugeecare.org with "Furniture Donation" in the subject line

Land Use Framework: It can be seen from the plan that there is insufficient provision for trees. The link below contains further information:-

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/current-plans-and-guidance/monitoring-delivery-in-greater-cambridge/>

Rugby Benevolent Fund: The Rugby Group Benevolent Fund was originally set up in 1955 to help employees and former employees of Rugby Cement and their dependants. They have extended their horizons to cover local charitable causes in communities near to the company cement plants, closed or still operating. To check if this area is covered, go to the Rugby Benevolent Fund website.

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

County Councillor's written report - November 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!

Pavements in Gamlingay: Following a complaint from a resident Sebastian met with Highways officers in School Close to discuss the weeds growing through the newly laid pavements there and in Fairfield. When pavements are prepared for slurry sealing they are weedkilled using glyphosate (shortly to be banned, apparently). However this does not kill deep roots (eg dandelions) nor seeds, especially grass. The dark slurry warms up in the sunshine and – because it is a seal – moisture collects underneath it creating a perfect and safe germinating space when then pushes through if it can. Hence the weeds. There is, unfortunately, no way of stopping this happening. However the new pavements should cope, and are meant to last for a decade or so before renewal. We shall see!

Covid Update: Gamlingay is a hotspot for Covid infections which is why we have had two pop up testing sessions at the EcoHub. Numbers are rising as we write Please get fully vaccinated when invited and continue to maintain safe practices including mask wearing, keeping rooms well ventilated and social distancing. Please also consider twice weekly lateral flow tests – these are very reliable and pick up people who are asymptomatic before they spread the disease. Local businesses are having to close because their staff are ill or looking after family member and of course C-19 is well established in schools and doctors surgeries are closed for the same reason.

On 22 October the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) published the latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of COVID-19 in England. The R value is currently between 1.0 and 1.2 meaning that, on average, every 10 people infected will infect between 10 and 12 other people. The growth rate is currently between 1% and +3%, which means that the number of new infections could be growing by between 1% and 3% every day.

Business Support Grants: South Cambs Business Support team has just finished administering its final tranche of COVID-related business support funding. We've paid out £1,377,000 in Government funding to 102 South Cambridgeshire businesses since July this year, as part of our Growth Fund. This is a fund supporting businesses who are looking to diversify, scale or start up in our region. This means that in total we've paid out more £38 million in Government funding via local business support grants since the onset of COVID.

Sports facilities in villages: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridge District Council are undertaking the development of a number of Sports Facilities Strategies, overseen by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and external consultants, Strategic Leisure Ltd. The purpose of these strategies is to provide a detailed overview of all indoor and outdoor sports facilities, including the quantity, quality, availability, and accessibility of these to help inform assessment of need and future planning for provision.

Roads and Pavement Update: It is good to see that the surface of the path to Avenells Way Gamlingay has been repaired at the Church St end. A number of people have had trips and falls and hopefully this will now be much safer. We have also installed 'pedestrian only' signs. If you are a horse rider please do not use this path which is a pedestrian right of way only.

The works on the roads in Wendy has been suspended until next year, and Church St Guilden Morden will also be included in a renovation scheme. Blythe Way Gamlingay will be resurfaced in 2021/22 financial year but a date has yet to be agreed.

ALERT: Croydon Hill will be closed to traffic for replacement of a section of water pipes by Anglian Water between January 10th and February 18th 2022. I have spoken with the project planner and they will be utilizing all this time - apparently it's a big job and will be in the carriageway rather than the verge. The diversions will be signed. I have also asked Highways if they would consider resurfacing this stretch once works have completed.

Barrington Trains: We heard at a recent Liaison meeting that it is planned to have two trains a day from week commencing November 29th. As soon as the times for these movements are available, they will be notified to us, and train movements will cease for the period between December 23rd until January 5th.

We were also reminded of the Charitable Foundation that exists for the benefit of those who used to work at the Quarry, their families and their communities. So there is no geographic limit on applications to this Fund which has been very generous over the years.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Consultation now open: We previously wrote at length about the Local Plan proposals. Just to recap - for the period 2011 - 2041 the Councils are only planning an extra 11,000 homes on top of what has already been in previous Plans (and often is already built!). Of those 11,596 the majority will be in and around Cambridge with some also in the big new developments at Cambourne, Northstowe and Waterbeach. Only 384 homes are allocated in rural sites - for example in Melbourn and Great Shelford. There are NO sites allocated in Gamlingay, nor in any of the other Parishes of the Gamlingay Division.

The next stage is a Public Consultation which runs until December 13th - so get your skates on if you have a view! The First Proposals set out where new homes, green spaces, business space and other facilities could be located across the area, as well as policies about climate change, biodiversity and much more. The Councils say that their aim is to reduce climate impacts while improving the quality of everyday life, and 19 new sites have been put forward for new housing and business space to meet local needs.

Visit www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan for more details, including an interactive map and questionnaire, from 1 November to 13 December 2021. There will also be online and in-person events during the consultation period where you can find out more and have your questions answered by officers. Full details are on the webpage. You can find it on the South Cambs website.

County Council Finances: Progress is being made towards closing a projected £19.5m gap in Cambridgeshire County Council's budget for next year - despite growing levels of need leading to uncertainty. The Council is calling on Government to provide a more realistic and robust financial settlement for the county as it continues to take a central role in managing the current effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The five year plan - agreed by Full Council in February this year - saw a balanced budget in the current year achieved by using some one off funding, but at the beginning of the year had estimated an initial gap for 2022/3 of £22.5m, with further gaps to fill in succeeding years. The council is identifying further ways to close the gap through savings, generating income and updating estimates of need based on new population figures.

The council is predicting long term increases and changes in the pattern of demand for its services, linked to the economic after effects of the pandemic - and additional costs are still being incurred as the council takes a central role fighting COVID-19, coordinating the public sector response, managing a complex public health situation, the impact on vulnerable people and children's education.

Besides the pandemic, the other major risks and uncertainties in setting budgets for 2022- 27 include the potential for national policy changes, such as reform of social care funding, the need for a multi-year funding settlement from government, the availability and sustainability of supply chains and resources, and changing patterns of demand for our services that has been a longer-term trend."

Household Support Fund: Do you need help? Cambridgeshire families in need of extra help during the pandemic will be able to benefit from the new Household Support Fund running until March 2022. We will continue providing help via the Direct Voucher Scheme, which offers parents a voucher for a choice of supermarkets. These vouchers are sent to eligible families automatically using school data and information held by the local authority. If your circumstances have changed please get in touch as you may now be eligible for this support.

The Queen's Green Canopy: Next year marks 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II took the throne; to celebrate the anniversary and create a lasting legacy, a UK-wide tree planting initiative named The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) has been established. The scheme involves inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee," with everyone encouraged to plant trees in the current and in the next planting season. Sebastian was delighted to be able to help plant two of the first in Cambridgeshire in Cambridge and Ely on behalf of the County Council.

Everyone is invited to take part and it is easy to get involved - whether you are an expert gardener or complete novice, there is something you can do. This includes individuals planting trees on private land, community planting projects, schools planting trees on their premises and businesses setting up tree planting projects with employees. If you are interested please do get in touch.

Watercourse reinstatement grants: The County Council has agreed to offer grants from a pot of money set up to ensure watercourses across the county are properly maintained. Applications may be made by established community flood groups and parish councils where a watercourse needs to be reinstated, and the riparian owner either cannot be identified or genuinely cannot afford the works to reinstate their watercourse.

A riparian owner is anyone who owns a property where there is a watercourse within or adjacent to the boundaries of their property. A watercourse includes a river, stream or ditch. A riparian owner is also responsible for watercourses or culverted watercourses passing through their land. It is expected that the work to bring the watercourse back up to standard would be one-off in nature, with them being regularly maintained thereafter.

Papworth to Cambourne: Work has started on a new £1.1m equestrian, foot and cycleway to join up Papworth Everard and Cambourne and this is a reminder that the A1198 road is closed along this section most of the time! So plan accordingly (I didn't) until March 2022.

Call for 10,000 volunteers for UK breast cancer study: An international trial, led in the UK by Addenbrooke's, is testing a more personalised way to screen for breast cancer and detect it sooner. The study involves six European countries and is looking to recruit 85,000 volunteers aged between 50 and 70 who have never had breast cancer before - 10,000 volunteers are needed from the UK. Visit the CUH website for more information.

Campaign launched to recruit more school governors: A campaign has been launched to find more people willing to serve on the governing bodies of schools in Cambridgeshire. Schools are looking for governors who can bring a variety of skills and expertise from a wide range of backgrounds. Governors – who are volunteers – support the strategic leadership of the school, providing support, challenge and accountability to the school's headteacher and senior leaders. The headteacher is responsible for the operational running of the school on a day-to-day basis. Cambridgeshire County Council is particularly seeking to build diverse governing bodies which reflect the communities they serve, enabling children to succeed and thrive.

Previous experience of being a school governor is not necessary, as full induction and training will be offered. Experience of working in education is not necessary either. Governors are usually

appointed for a four-year term. Time commitments vary from school to school, but to fulfil the role effectively, governors are expected to sit on individual committees, visit the school regularly and attend full governing body meetings. Responsibilities include working as part of a team, maintaining educational standards and performance, holding the school to account and monitoring the school's budget. Further information about the role and how to apply can be found here on the County Council website.

Got chickens? Bird keepers across Cambridgeshire are being urged to follow strict national measures put in

place by the Government to help keep their own birds and the wild bird population safe this winter. Following confirmation of a number of cases of Avian Influenza (also known as bird flu) an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been declared to help stop the disease spreading. This means that bird keepers are now legally required to take a number of precautions, whether they run commercial poultry businesses or have a small flock in their back garden.

The prevention zone means that all bird keepers must, amongst other things: Keep domestic ducks and geese separate from other poultry; Ensure the areas where birds are kept are unattractive to wild birds, for example by netting ponds, and by removing wild bird food sources; Feed and water their birds in enclosed areas to discourage wild birds; Minimise movement into and out of bird enclosures; Cleanse and disinfect footwear and keep areas where birds live clean and tidy; Reduce any existing contamination by cleansing and disinfecting concrete areas, and fencing off wet or boggy areas; Keep free ranging birds within fenced areas, and ponds, watercourses and permanent standing water must be fenced off (except in specific circumstances, e.g. zoo birds).

Digital initiatives to make planning process more accessible: The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has announced that new digital tools to help local people have their say in the planning process will be trialled in 13 areas across England. Over £1million funding has been allocated to 13 planning authorities under the PropTech Engagement Fund, to test new digital initiatives to make the planning process more open and accessible and improve public engagement. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service has been awarded £98,250 as part of this trial. The pilots, which will run until March 2022, will inform the government's work to modernise the planning system.

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

Matters Arising:

Community Group: Did not meet in November.

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

Speedwatch: Cllr Williams has not heard anything regarding an area meeting. She said if no contact has been made by the December meeting, she will arrange for Speedwatch coordinators in her patch to meet with potential groups.

Clopton Sign: As instructed, the Clerk contacted Mr White and took the sign down to his workplace so that he could copy it and create a replacement, for erection on his side of the boundary fence at the site and readable from the Bridleway.

Additional Dog Bin: No report from the group.

Village Christmas Tree: Council was asked if they would consider funding a tree for the village, to stand outside the Reading Room. After discussion it was proposed by Mr Brown, and seconded by the Chairman that £50-00 should be allocated for this purpose. All in favour.

Croydon Hill Closure: Croydon Hill will be closed to traffic for replacement of a section of water pipes by Anglian Water between January 10th and February 18th 2022. The work will be taking place in the carriageway rather than the verge. A copy of the Order will be eventually be available on:- street.works@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Clerk's SLCC Training: Council funded one day's virtual training for the Clerk with SLCC invited speakers on a variety of subjects. Overall, the Clerk found the training somewhat disappointing, and gave a short report of the day. The subjects covered were:-

- VAT in 2022
- Appraisals for 2022
- Building Connections with your Community
- Risk Management for the Clerk
- Precept, Reserves, CIL, S106, Developers Cash, Dowry, Charitable Funds.

- Community Capacity following the Pandemic

The gentleman who spoke on VAT referred a lot to the two VAT booklets available, 749 and 742. He seemed unable to answer any questions put to him from the attendees but kept referring them to the booklets. He did give his email address for specific questions to be sent to him.

The appraisals is a time to reassess the contract a Clerk has with the Council. Having looked at the recommendations from SLCC (<https://www.slcc.co.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Terms-Conditions-The-Agreement-nl.pdf>) I don't feel it is necessary to have one, and feel that if I was not proficient in the role the Councillors would soon let me know.

The Connecting with the Community speaker was an enthusiastic, 5 years' service Clerk. The parish she served had Council buildings and outdoor spaces and is evidently much bigger than Croydon. At her instigation, Council purchased 30 bird boxes and invited the community to come and help make them, and then put the finished boxes up in the woodlands. There were so many respondents to this that it was, she reported, chaotic, but all the boxes were subsequently put up. Using lessons learned she repeated it another year in a larger building with bird boxes and bat boxes, and is intending to repeat it again.

Risk Management for the Clerk: The speaker said that a Risk Strategy is needed, there must be effective protection for funds and assets must be protected. She also said that a Risk Register helped with managing the risks and Council should also be prepared for unexpected hazards, like a pandemic.

Precept, reserves etc. The Clerk had hoped this would explain how and where S106 assets were obtained. Unfortunately this was a presentation by the event sponsor, who mainly sang the praises of the company outlining how much money they managed and how much income it was generating. At one point he did admit that the charges to manage the accounts were higher than the interest received from them.

The lady speaking on the community following the pandemic stressed the importance that every Council should have an emergency plan in place as part of their normal responsibility. To be fair, I doubt anyone on a local Council had envisaged such an emergency as a pandemic, but in Croydon it seemed that neighbours were keeping an eye on those who might require help. Council did have a register of community volunteers, but these were not called upon.

The previous virtual training from SLCC was very good, but it seemed that some of the speakers were not used to giving talks, either in person or virtually.

Licensing Hearing: Council has been informed that the hearing for the alcohol licence at Clopton Farm would be held on Thursday 18 November at South Cambs Hall. Cllr Heather Williams will be representing Croydon Parish Council as previously agreed.

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: No alterations

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Consultation: Both District and County Councillors expressed the importance of responding to this consultation. Comments may be made at the link below:- <https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-first-proposals/tell-us-what-you-think> Clerk will respond on behalf of the Council.

Travel in Cambridge and Peterborough: Another consultation which may impact on public transport in this area - please respond. The link to the consultation is:- <https://youritcp.co.uk/our-vision-priorities/> This is open until Sunday 28 November.

Cambs Local Councils Conference: The Chair and Clerk have previously attended the events and found them both interesting and useful. The next event is on Friday 14th January 2022 from 9.00am - 4.00pm and will be held virtually. Chair and Clerk are intending to register for the event.

SCDC Post-Covid Community Workshop: SCDC is hosting an online workshop on 22 November from 6.00pm - 7.00pm for any Council or group interested in taking community action post-Covid.

Fulbourn Neighbourhood Plan: This is now open for any comments from the community and locale.

Local Briefing Plan for Parishes: A virtual meeting will be held on 22 November, from 4.30pm

Greater Cambridge Partnership Community Forum Meeting: A South area community forum will be held virtually on Tuesday 23 November from 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

Self-management of Arthritis: The flyer sent with this has been put onto the notice board.

Subsequent receipts:

Way 2 Go - Road Safety newsletter: Circulated to Councillors.

Rough Sleepers in the Parish: Information requested on anyone sleeping rough in the parish over the night of 18-19 November. To Council's knowledge there is nobody sleeping rough in the area. The Clerk will respond as required.

CAPALC - Disability History Month: Cambridge Constabulary is supporting the UK Disability History Month and Councils are being encouraged to join them. The majority of disabled people in employment have hidden impairments, and it is important to make sure that their needs are met. Further information can be found at: <http://ukdhm.org>

Anglian Water: Did you know Anglian Water's **Priority Services Register** is in place to help lots of people with different needs and is completely free? By signing up, Anglian Water can:

- Help if there is an interruption to a customer's water supply
- Help protect customers against bogus callers
- Communicate in different languages, including British Sign Language
- Send bills in alternative formats, including large print, audio and braille
- Knock and wait, giving customers longer to get to the door

Contact Anglian Water to request any of the above resources by:

- Emailing partnerships@anglianwater.co.uk,
- Completing a [Online Form](#) or
- Calling 07971579839

Parish Map: The Clerk had acquired a map, which was forwarded to the Tree Wardens. It did not have sufficient detail that they required, so Clerk is making further enquiries with a view to finding a map that does and the approximate cost.

Finance:

SLCC Training: The cheque for £54-00 for the Clerk's virtual training was signed out of meeting, and recorded here for audit purposes.

Bank Statement: Not received.

Orwell British Legion: An invoice for the village poppy wreath was presented. 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 sent to the Orwell representative.

Village Christmas Tree: As previously discussed, a cheque for £50-00 to Croydon Reading Room was raised and signed for the provision of a village tree to stand outside the Reading Room. Proposed Mr Brown, seconded Ms Newland, all in favour. Clerk was asked to send an advertisement for reasonably priced trees, which was sent by one of the Tree Wardens, in the envelope with the cheque.

Budget before the Precept: Clerk distributed the current state of the nominals in the Council accounts, with comparisons of previous years, as the precept decision will be made in the January meeting. This will also be circulated to Councillors..

Planning:

Site address: 2 Clopton Close Croydon

Proposal: Dropped kerb and installation of external insulated render

Reference: 21/04628/HFUL

Council considered the plans and felt that the application should be supported. Proposed Chair, all in favour. Clerk will update the planning website.

Site address: Brickyard Farm, Lower Road, Croydon - approval of details reserved by condition

Reference: 20/02614/CONDA

This application was for information only.

Items for next agenda: None put forward.

Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 15 December 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 9.05pm.

Signed

Date

Draft Copy