

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 19 January 2022 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

**Apologies:** Cllr Kindersley - road works on Croydon Hill causing travel problems.

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

**Declarations of Interest:** None received.

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

**Community Reports:** Carols on the Green - a very enjoyable evening on the "green", a first for Croydon. Mince pies, hot chocolate and mulled wine were available and almost £80 was raised, to be split between the Children's Society and Salvation Army

**Village Map:** The map was been ordered and paid for some time ago. Clerk reported to the meeting that CCC has been contacted as the map has not been received yet.

**Housing Needs:** An alternative site has been investigated but is deemed not suitable as it does not meet the access requirements. The title to the roadway/footpath at this site is untitled, so ownership is unknown. The Chair refreshed Councillors' memories on the sites originally identified and the reasons why they were excluded - there is one last site left to check on, which Hastoe will do. Cllr Williams did suggest an alternative way forward, but this could impact on exception sites and open up the village to developers.

**Speedwatch:** Cllr Williams is hoping to arrange a meeting for early February, but may not be able to find a date which will enable the Police and Crime Commissioner to be present.

**Clopton Sign:** Nothing further heard.

### **District Councillor Williams gave a report to Council:-**

**Green Bins:** Collections have restarted, so please put bins out as scheduled.

**Omicron Hospitality Grant:** These are available to hospitality venues from SCDC from 17th January. The amount is either based on the Business Rate (up to £6,000) or the income of the self-employed owners.

**Local Plan Consultation:** This has now closed and a full Draft Plan is being developed during 2022.

**Accounts:** The SCDC accounts for 2019 are still being worked on - an extension to 4th February has been granted. Cllr Williams is very concerned about the costs involved in the long delays. There has apparently been a big turnover of staff in the financial department, and a change in accounting systems mid-year, so there is very little continuity.

**Licensing Hearing:** Clerk had been informed that it was hoped to arrange a meeting for before Christmas. Cllr Williams said she understood that the applicant was unavailable, and a second meeting would be arranged in due course. Council will be informed, and Cllr Williams is happy to continue as Council representative.

As there were no further issues requiring Cllr Williams' attention, the Chair thanked her for attending and she left the meeting.

### **Written report for December and January from Cllr Williams -**

#### **Local Plan**

Thank you to all who took part in the local plan consultation. Officers are now looking through all the submissions and are aiming to compile the draft local plan ready for consultation in the summer.

#### **2018/19 Accounts Audit**

The Audit meeting in January has been delayed following resources issues with the external auditors having more staff off sick than anticipated. The meeting will now be on 4th February where it is hoped to bring the accounts to a close.

### **Green Bin collection**

Green bin collections should now be back to normal, waste crews have struggled to collect any bins missed. Unfortunately, if your bin is missed you may have to wait until the next scheduled collection. If a missed green bin causes an especially difficult issue for a resident, such as someone who is elderly, disabled or receives an assisted collection, they are asked to call their Council to discuss their individual situation. South Cambridgeshire District Council: 01954 713 000.

### **Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant**

This grant is aimed at businesses within the hospitality and leisure sector which were trading as registered Business Rates payers in South Cambridgeshire on 30 December 2021. These businesses could be eligible for a one-off payment up to £6,000 depending on the rateable value of each business. Businesses in hospitality, leisure and tourism accommodation sectors, who offer in-person services (like food and drink, experiences and lodging for holiday purposes). Eligible businesses should apply for these grants by 18 February 2022. Payments will be made by 31 March 2022. If you think you know someone who could benefit from this please encourage them to check if they are eligible via the link below. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/omicron-hospitality-and-leisure-grant-and-additional-restrictions-grant-top-up-payment/>

### **Five Year Land Supply**

At a recent Appeal the five-year land supply was challenged, I'm pleased that the inspector has found that the council does have a supply still despite the discounting of 978 dwellings that the council had included in their supply. The inspector found that 'the Council's housing land supply as at April 2021 was 5.6 years, a slightly improved position compared to 5.07 years at the time of the last appeal.' This is a relief but no doubt, eyes will be closely peeled on the next published figures given the current climate.

Cllr Heather Williams

SCDC The Mordens Ward

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### **Matters Arising and Village Issues (continued)**

**Additional Dog Bin:** The Focus Group held extensive discussions with Sarah Phillips from SCDC and presented their recommendations to Council; a section of the report is copied below:-

- **Existing Dog bin by Reading Rooms High Street:** No change proposed.
- **Existing Wooden "Picnic bin" Clopton Close:** We understand that this bin was originally purchased by the PC. (As this is an old open top wooden bin and is now designated as a dual-use litter and dog waste bin Sarah Phillips stated that subject to PC approval this could be replaced free of charge to provide a covered-over green Topsy 2000 style bin. Sarah also believes that this and any other dual-purpose bins could have signage applied to clarify the current dual use for litter and dog waste as it was thought by the group that some members of the public may not be aware that they can dispose of bagged dog waste in these bins.
- **Existing Green Combined Waste Bin High Street by start of footpath near Defibrillator:** Sarah Phillips has confirmed via the waste carrier that this bin is hardly used. This bin could either stay in current location to serve the nearby footpaths or it was suggested that this bin could be relocated as per 4 below. It is currently mobile /not fixed in position.
- **Footpath 19 (Opposite Puck's Cottage ) High Street:** The verge around this area has been identified in the last year as a problem area for dog fouling. (It is therefore suggested that this would potentially be a good location to re-site the existing under-utilised green bin as per 3 above) .This would be subject to PC approval (and would need to go onto public land, the group suggests on flat ground near to the footpath sign (or by the gate to the footpath). There is also another footpath close by on the other side of the road which is reported to currently have a dog fouling issue, so the bin would also serve that. This bin would be dual purpose with the aim of also reducing litter around this part of the High Street.
- **Clopton Way Footpath Croydon Hill Lay-by.** This has been noted as one of the areas where walkers/dog-walkers from outside the village park to walk along the Clopton Way. There is also a lot of rubbish left around this area. Sarah Phillips agreed that this would be a suitable location for a Topsy bin (subject to identifying appropriate location on Highway land). After emphasising that

this would primarily be an amenity for outside visitors Sarah has agreed that subject to PC approval and funding of the provision of the bin, S. Cambs would agree to pay for emptying the bin. The group believe this would be beneficial to the Village as it should hopefully reduce litter and dog waste in the area.

The cost associated with the supply and installation by SCDC would be £414-00 including VAT per bin. A proposal to support this in principal was made by Mr Sole and seconded by Mr Brown. Of the remaining Councillors 4 were in favour with 1 abstention. The Clerk will investigate the cost of purchasing and installing the bins, if Council undertook this.

**Croydon Hill Closure:** This is causing difficulties, although it is possible to get through if the diggers are not in the way. The route is apparently passable at weekends.

**Licensing Hearing:** See Cllr Williams' report.

**Parish Council Elections:** These are taking place on Thursday 5th May 2022. All eligible persons may stand for election to the Parish Council. If there are more than 7 candidates an election will be held. If there are just 7 candidates they are elected unopposed. If there are less than 7 candidates then any spaces will be filled by co-option at a later date. Full details are available from:-

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england>

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** There was a lot of discussion about whether the village would want to celebrate this landmark event. As the weekend in June will be a four day celebration, it was suggested that people may decide to go away for a few days, so it was decided that a survey would be conducted to find out the interest and whether an event or commemoration would be more suitable. Suggestions put forward were:-

- a village sign
- tree planting
- a village picnic

**Village sign:** a group has already been looking into this - many suggestions for the content on the sign were put forward, but favourites are the Clopton Way and a crow. Materials were also discussed and the choice is to be finalised if the sign goes ahead. The site for the sign is proving more difficult. The potential sites are outside the Reading Room, Clopton Close and the junction of the High Street with Croydon Hill. Funding for this will be discussed when a decision is made - it may cost up to £6000.

**Tree Planting:** This is more difficult as the Council does not own any land in the village. Suggestions were to continue the line of ash trees along the access road to Manor Farm, and/or a small copse in the corner of the upper Glebe field (church land). Private landowners are welcome to put forward areas for tree planting, to which the public would need to have access.

**Village picnic:** This could take place on the Fete field or Clopton Close grassy area, dependent on the amount of attendees and any events that may be included in it.

The Clerk and Chair will draft a survey which will be sent to the village. Any or all of these suggestions may be taken up, and it will depend on the results received as to how this matter progressed.

After this discussion, the three members of the public who are involved in specific village issues left the meeting, having been thanked by the Chair for their work and attendance.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Electoral Register:** The new register has been received and is available to view by arrangement, but cannot be copied, although written details may be taken from it.

**SCDC Digital Champion:** SCDC asked if Croydon PC has good communication connections to the village as they are looking for digital champions who are able to disseminate important information quickly when necessary. Croydon has Mailchimp and WhatsApp already in use, and the operator of Clopton Chatter is also happy to be involved with this.

#### **Items circulated to Councillors:**

**Camcycle News and the Chisholm Trail** - newsletter

**SCDC Community Information** - nothing that has not already been notified by the media

**Highway Events** - nothing notified locally.

**Anthony Brown** - Consultation on proposed busway CSET, which is cutting across the green belt and farmland. Please complete the survey and prevent this desecration of the landscape :-

<https://www.anthonybrowne.org/cset-survey>

**SCDC - Volunteer in Cambridge** - request for people to become volunteers

**Scammers using legitimate tradespeople's site** - always be aware and use word of mouth from friends before using the internet to find a tradesman.

**Road Victims Trust** - The Road Victims Trust is a registered charity offering a range of free support services to residents of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire who have been affected by fatal road collisions.

### **Subsequent receipts**

**Community Led Plan:** Offer for funding to refresh this, which was decided at the December meeting. Clerk to respond.

**Litter Pick:** SCDC is trying to find information about litter picking in the villages. They are looking at mapping which villages and towns run litter picks, either regularly or sporadic, with a view to collating it for a website page. Those at the meeting who do litter picks did not want their details published but will continue incognito. The planned litter pick on the weekend of 22nd January will be held with Council cooperation.

**Planning:** Notification that planning application 21/03828/FUL has been withdrawn was received.

**Cambs County Day:** Councils are being asked to nominate a volunteer who was exceptional in community support during the pandemic. There are only 5 places available for the whole of Cambridgeshire. Council felt that although the existing community spirit was increased during the pandemic, the village is not big enough to support any exceptional activities.

**Drainage Matters:** Councillors discussed the offer to attend a Zoom meeting on 10 February, but felt that the expertise available in the District and County Council and Greater Cambridge Planning far exceeds the Councillors' knowledge. Those departments are far better equipped to deal with sites requiring drainage and potential flooding risks than a Parish Council.

**Scams Partnership:** Further emphasis on scams using legitimate websites, and the help from Radio Cambridgeshire. A legitimate tradesperson will never ask for money before any work is done. **Never** send money beforehand.

**Ann Robson Trust:** The Anne Robson Trust is a pre-bereavement charity that passionately believes no one deserves to die alone. The Trust works alongside NHS hospitals to train volunteers, who are with patients in the last days and hours of their life, to provide company and companionship. If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us. The Anne Robson Trust aims to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. Facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone. Calls are free and confidential - call us on 0808 801 0688

**Community Updates:** The rules are constantly changing and relevant information is always circulated via Mailchimp at the time it is received.

### **Finance:**

**Bank Statement:** November and December's statement presented to the meeting. Balance at the end of November was £6702-55, and at the end of December was £6652-55.

**SLCC:** Clerk has received an invoice for the total of £70-00 for her annual subs to this association. The Council has been kind enough to fund this for many years and it was proposed Mr Wheeler and seconded by Mr Barnes that Council would continue to fund this. A cheque for £70-00 was raised and signed for posting to the Society.

**Precept:** The Precept is a tax that Parish Councils charge their local electors to meet their budget requirements. Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and rely on their Precept plus any other income they generate from services or facilities they may provide. The Parish Council Precept is part of the Council Tax and is collected from local electors via their Council Tax payments. The Council has to budget for what it believes it will cost to manage the village for the next financial year (2022-2023).

After earlier consultation and further discussion, the following figures were agreed:-

- Insurance £ 450-00
- Rent £ 200-00
- Clerk's salary and expenses £1470-00
- Audit £ 70-00
- Subs to Associations £ 70-00
- Election £ 400-00
- Cemetery and Village £ 750-00

- Books and training £ 80-00
- Council and website £ 300-00
- Section 137 and contingency £ 500-00

The total precept requested for the next financial year is £4290, which is a rise of 3.6% on last year's precept. Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Mr Barnes - all in favour. The Council had agreed before the meeting to increase the Clerk's current annual salary of £1360-00 for 2021-22 by £70-00 for the year 2022-23, for which the Clerk thanked them. Other figures had been modified by the Council to allow for the perceived financial requirements. The Clerk will complete and return the precept request form to the District Council accounts department before the deadline of 24 January 2022.

**Items for next agenda:** Climate change

**Date of the next meeting:**

Wednesday 16 February 2022 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm .

Signed .....

Date .....

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