

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 16 March 2022 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Cllr Kindersley - later, by email. Mr Brown - recovering from Covid. Apology received after the meeting

Present: Mrs Slator, Mr Wenman, Mr Wheeler, Ms Newland, Mr Barnes, Mr Sole, Cllr Williams, one member of the public and the Clerk.

Declarations of Interest: Mr Wenman - Certificate of Lawfulness
Mr Sole - Reading Room business

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Community Reports:

Dog bins: Following PC agreement at last month's meeting with the proposals made by the focus group, the purchasing and relocation actions are being pursued working alongside the PC Clerk. Subsequent to last month's meeting, a small sub-group has looked at the provision of limited signage to direct walkers to their nearest bins. Careful consideration is being given to signs being placed only where necessary, and to be as unobtrusive as possible within the landscape while still fulfilling their function. For this reason, it is anticipated that most, if not all, will be affixed to existing public footpath direction poles.

Jubilee Commemorative Bench: The PCC has decided to apply for a grant(s) to purchase a commemorative bench to be placed at the far end of the new churchyard. It is to be of the same design as the one bench already in place at the top end of this churchyard. Having looked at examples, it is likely that the commemoration will read **HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE 1952 - 2022**. The expectation is that this will be fully funded by grants but if it transpires otherwise then consideration will need to be given to how any gap might be bridged.

Croydon Classic Car Show: After a two-year break, plans are underway to resurrect the Croydon Classic Vehicle Show. Several expressions of support have already been forthcoming from within the village. To avoid any overload resulting from the Jubilee, the date of the show has been moved from its usual July slot to **Sunday 11th September**. This will be the eleventh event of this kind and has drawn support from North London to Peterborough. Proceeds from the show support both the Church and the Reading Room. In past years the cost of the public toilets has been paid by the Parish Council, would the Council be prepared to do the same for this year, please? A core team is being assembled to manage this event though significant additional help will be needed on the day. In past years this event has been very well supported and brought most of the village together. **Anyone wishing to be involved in the core team, or simply on the day, please contact 07801-434603 for further details.**

Village Map: It is permissible to make copies of the village plan that has been purchased, but it may only be copied for Parish Council use.

Housing Needs: Still ongoing, but nothing to report.

Speedwatch: The inspirational paragraph received from a successful Speedwatch group co-ordinator has been passed to the volunteer co-ordinator to circulate to the village, with a view to obtaining more volunteers.

Clopton Sign: Two emails have been sent regarding the production of a new Clopton site sign, but no responses have been received.

Dog/litter bins: See report above. Council has placed an order for two Topsy bins.

Licensing Hearing: The Licensing Panel has made a site visit but no date for the hearing has been notified to Council.

High Street and Village signs: The High Street sign has been ordered, but there is a long delivery on it. One of the Councillors may know the whereabouts of the missing "Croydon" sign.

RR Table Top sale: This will be held on 2 April in the Reading Room. See the advertisements around the village.

Elections: All the relevant material regarding the election process and eligibility to stand is available on the website, and has also been sent out via the E-News.

Website and emails: A quotation to have individual Councillor emails through the website was discussed, and rejected as far too expensive. When developing the new website and considering the

GDPR requirements we discussed the possibility of each councillor having a dedicated email address for their council work. The Chair has suggested the following:-

If councillors use their personal email address, in the event of a freedom of information issue it could result in all private emails being disclosed. We asked the company that manage our website for a quotation to add our emails to our Domain name. This would mean our email addresses would end in @croydon-village.co.uk.

The total cost of this would be £881.40 and an ongoing cost of £33 per month. Full details have been circulated to Councillors. Other such systems all charge about £4.50 per month per address. So a minimum monthly charge of £36 per month. This cost is excessive, and I don't believe it can be justified. As an alternative I propose a free system, which each individual councillor can set up exclusively for council business. Gmail is free and you are allowed numerous accounts. Councillors could all use the same style. As an example I have set up the following Gmail account

sue.slatorCPC@gmail.com

The convention being Councillor's name with CPC for Croydon Parish Council. You can set up email and read the emails on any device, PC, Mac or on a website. I propose you adopt this email style from the May meeting following the election. Council discussed this proposal and agreed in principle to standardise their emails, following the next election.

Mrs Slator will not be standing for election in May, but would be happy to continue working with the Clerk on the website. Council was very pleased and happy to accept her offer.

District Councillor Williams verbal report:

Budget: Some things are welcome and others were not. I was unable to support this.

Green Bins: These are getting back to normal but there are likely to be more disruptions. If your bin is missed it can now be reported.

Congestion Charge: This charge would be wrong in the current climate. If the proposed amount were adopted, the cost to someone working in Cambridge would be £3,500 per year.

Accounts: The accounts for 2018/2019 have still not been completed and signed off. It is planned that they will be presented at a meeting on 29 March, just before the start of the next financial year. The officers are working long hours, but there are not enough of them. It will possibly take another 18 months to catch up on the uncompleted audits. Audit fees for the work so far have been horrendous and the turnover of the accounting staff is huge.

Council Tax Rebate: Please see the South Cambs website Energy rebate page. The refund will not be paid automatically, but needs to be claimed.

Written report for the Mordens Ward from District Cllr Williams

Not received.

Planning:

Certificate of Lawfulness: under S192 for the use of the land for the siting of two residential mobile homes.

Site address: Queens View High Street Croydon

Reference: 22/00743/CL2PD.

This is for information only.

22/00886/FUL: White Carpentry, Lower Road, Croydon:

Retrospective application to regularise and/or for works already completed.

The Chair gave a brief summary to the meeting.

Issues of concern

- The documents submitted do not explain the master plan and indicate further building of lodges.
- Retrospective applications are usually made for minor alterations and adjustments to developments. However, in this case we are talking of extensive development for which no permission was sought.
- The longer term use of lodges is not clear and indication of visitor centre to see animals suggests tourism and the use as AirBnB has been mentioned in a village meeting by the applicant. A mark III build is mentioned in the application with a longer ten year plan, which is unspecified.

- The date of build is not specified, but since 2015 with the fourth building added after May 2020.
- Still no mention of the bar and advertised “pub” in the application as requested.
- We have received objections about the intrusive 3m boundary fence and the closeness to a neighbour’s barn.
- We have had objections of the development of storage unit without permission against the boundary.
- We do believe the lodges would not have gained planning permission, if applied for, as they do not fit the criteria of the South Cambs Local plan.

Further to these, the applicant states that some of the buildings have been there for "many years". Three of the lodges appear on Google Earth in May 2020, but the fourth has been built since then. There is not a reference to the use of the Training Centre as a bar/pub and there does not appear to have been a change of use for this.

A neighbouring property emailed as follows:

I particularly object to the 3m fence which is an eyesore and visible from my property and I also object to the wooden cladding he has placed against my barn wall. I have put these objections in writing to the parish council and I have also raised concerns about the house he has built in the grounds at the entrance to his complex. I was told this was office space and only temporary but it has been occupied during the last two years with lights on at night and I've seen people leaving in the morning.

The fence currently only has a 2m height permission.

It is unclear what the final objective of the developments there are for.

So many complaints have previously been received about the whole site that, in the wider public interest it was resolved that Council would object to the application and ask for it to go to the Planning Committee. Proposed - Mr Barnes, seconded - Mr Sole, all in favour.

Council objects to this application for the following material reasons:

Loss of privacy: Erection of a 3m high fence, intrusion of residential amenity.

Overshadowing: Building constructed by the applicant on a party wall. Scale and mass is impacting on the amenity of neighbours.

Highway Safety: The nature of the development implies increased traffic movements on the B1042.

Traffic: Increased traffic movements implies increased need for parking on the site. If permission were to be granted for the "bar/pub" building, then the Parish Council would request a traffic management scheme to be in place.

Noise: Increased traffic movements will create more noise.

Environment: The cumulative impact of the number of developments currently on the site leads to severe harm to the environment.

Overdevelopment of the site: The developments have changed the character and landscape, design and appearance of the area. Concern of neighbourhood disturbance as site appears to develop an entertainment and tourist venue as well as the original carpentry business.

Environmental Impact: Tarmac already laid should be replaced with gravel, to allow natural drainage. The land on which the lodges have been built had to be cleared, and given the amount of clearance, this would cause harm to the biodiversity of the area.

Written report from County Councillor Kindersley:

Gamlingay Division Councillors Report - SCDC and CCC - March 2022

The Gamlingay Division comprises the Parishes of Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Litlington, Hatley, Orwell, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow & Wimpole. This report is /for all Division Parish Councils but please be aware that it will include items that may have little or no relevance to your particular Parish. Apologies in advance!

Cambridgeshire County Council Budget: A Local Government Association peer review team visiting Cambridgeshire last summer, consisting of senior councillors from all political parties and senior officers from several local authorities, concluded the following – this was directly after the elections and change in administration:

“The Council is entering a period where future years budget gaps and required mitigation are of a significant magnitude and urgent. A forecasted budget gap of £64m over the MTFS period requires

detailed and immediate planning. There has been a reliance on one-off balances and some use of reserves across previous years to fund the budget shortfall which has resulted from a lack of financial strategic planning which is not sustainable. Although balancing the budget from the general fund balance is possible in the short-term, using reserves is seen as high-risk and should be avoided. Historic decisions not to increase council tax by the maximum possible has resulted in significant ongoing lost income. There is now a need to establish a clear Council Tax strategy for the next 4 years.”

The council has now agreed its budget for 2022-23, which closes a projected £22.2 million gap using efficiencies, savings, and the government’s one-year financial settlement. It also starts to address a projected gap of more than £80 million over the next five years. Budget gaps have continued to grow. Between the December and January there was an increase of £2.5m in the costs of providing care and our own social care workforce, as a result of significant pressures (supply chain, cost of living rises) and labour shortages facing the sector.

The headline government announcement was that Cambridgeshire’s core spending power would increase by 8%, but around two-thirds is due to the additional Council tax that the settlement allows us to precept, and that government assumes will be utilized. There has been no indication of any continuation of government support for free school meals during the holidays, or for the household support fund.

The County Council share of council tax will increase by 4.99 per cent – 1.99 per cent for general services, and a 3 per cent rise for Adult Social Care. This will mean an extra charge of 90p per week for a Band A household, £1.04 per week for a Band B household, and £1.19 for a Band C household. The increase in Band D is £1.34 per week, which will still leave the County Council’s council tax share below the average for shire counties.

The increase comes at a time when many families are struggling with increases outside the council’s control, such as National Insurance, energy bills, and food price rises. The council’s budget therefore offers a safety net for those least able to pay.

The budget also offers support through with the Household Support Fund – see below – continued funding for Free School Meals throughout the school holidays – £15 per week for each eligible child.

A 100 per cent council tax rebate for care leavers until they reach the age of 21, and a targeted fund to support them, if they need it, until they are 25.

A £1 million ‘catch up’ fund to help children catch up on activities which help them learn skills, build self-confidence and make friends.

In addition, the council’s business plan pledges to deliver a ‘Just Transition Fund’ towards a more equal and sustainable Cambridgeshire –with scope to include flood prevention and environment and climate action as well as a variety of social enterprises, such as repair cafes and social care enterprises. The council’s business plans also includes:

A £2.9 million countywide programme to support older people living in their own communities and homes for longer – part of a proposed investment in a new vision to create a more localized care workforce.

Increased investment in projects which support biodiversity and access to open spaces.

More investment to improve safety on roads, and the accessibility of footways and bridle paths.

A continued roll out of the Real Living Wage, not just for lowest paid council staff but working with contractor and supplier organisations to make this aspiration a reality as soon as possible.

Strategy to move faster to tackle climate change approved by Full Council: An action plan setting out how and by when the council and the whole of Cambridgeshire will reach net zero was approved by Cambridgeshire County Council’s Full Council in February. The strategy will mobilise all parts of the council to prioritise cutting carbon emissions and building community resilience to climate impacts.

It also outlines how the council will deliver on its commitments to reach net zero, work with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority’s Climate Commission and district council partners, and respond to the inevitable future challenges by setting a new ambition for Cambridgeshire to reach net zero emissions by 2045 and an organisational target for the county council to reach Net Zero by 2030 and highlights the need for the council and others to engage, support and collaborate with communities, partners and businesses to make positive changes themselves.

Roads: Please be aware that major works will be taking place up to May 5th on the A1198 at Arrington – this is to repair the highways drains which have contributed to a lot of flooding in the area. The road at the Cinques, Gamlingay which also has been flooding will be jetted on March 4th so should be in better repair by now.

20mph speed limits: New tools have landed in the Highways community kit box, which will be welcome news for all those communities with an interest in 20mph speed limits. There are two types of 20mph schemes which can be introduced by the council – 20mph limits and 20mph zones. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or small numbers of streets and requires signs only, while 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings.

The former are more cost effective, but the latter have been found to have a greater impact in reducing speed limits, especially when accompanied by traffic calming measures. The County Council Highways and Transport Committee will establish a new process for the implementation of 20mph schemes. This will allow third parties – such as parish councils - to make an application for a 20mph limit in their chosen area, with a number of schemes then progressing following a period of assessment and prioritisation.

Footpath 10 Gamlingay: We are now making progress with the reopening of Footpath 10 which runs through Downing Gardens from Green Acres to Green End. With considerable help and support from County Council officers the part that runs behind Green Acres is now open and has been cleared - after a fashion. Quite a lot of restorative work will be needed but at least you are not torn to shreds by brambles. The council has used drones to identify the route that a temporary path could take while Morris Homes completes its build including the instatement of the new permanent path which will run through the estate and restore the safe route for pupils walking and cycling to school. The situation now is that conversations are underway with Morris Homes to agree the temporary route and we are assured that we are weeks, rather than months, away from it being up and running.

Voneus: Sebastian wrote to the Head of Risk & Compliance about the process Voneus had (or rather, hadn't) undertaken in Gamlingay suggesting a proper and full consultation strategy to explain who they were, what they sold and how it worked. I have had a very helpful reply as follows:

"We would not normally be in this situation as we always engage with prospective communities before any planning applications are made. On this occasion, however, our sub-contractors launched ahead with the project before any such engagement was able to take place. I apologise for this and the upset it will have caused.

Our community engagement is normally very comprehensive as we have an excellent dedicated Community Engagement Team headed up by Zoe Day. Zoe specially drove to the [Parish Council] meeting from Yorkshire as we realised our normal process had not been followed.

In light of what has occurred and feedback from the meeting we have withdrawn all the planning applications and will be revisiting the whole project. As a company, Voneus, always seeks to work in partnership with communities.

We would expect a revised project plan to be ready by mid to late March 2022. It is expected that this plan will have less impact in terms of visible infrastructure. Please be assured that we will engage with the community prior to submitting any planning future applications.

Once again please accept my apologies and feel free to share the above with the community."

So - I hope that any future plans by Voneus will include very full public engagement and information-sharing with Gamlingay residents and that they will use consultation feedback from the community as the basis for any further projects in the village.

Ethics & Behaviour at the County Council: You may be aware of 'Farmgate' whereby an independent investigation concluded that the former Cambridgeshire County Council deputy leader breached the Council's Code of Conduct in six different areas. Ex-Councillor Hickford failed to treat Officers and others acting on behalf of the Council with respect; used a bullying manner in order for the Council to pay for works that would otherwise be the responsibility of the tenant. He also used a bullying manner in order to set the terms of the lease for Manor Farm. He compromised Officers and others' impartiality in his dealings with regard to Manor Farm and his conduct towards Officers and others and his conflict of interest would have reduced the public's confidence in him being able to fulfil his role or the Council being able to discharge its functions.

He also used his position as Deputy Leader to receive concessions that the Council would not otherwise have agreed to and failed to register a disclosable pecuniary interest (the tenancy of Manor Farm) within 28 days and he failed to declare a non-statutory disclosable interest in meetings with regard to County Farms matters.

Obviously one bad apple is a bad apple too many so the Council is taking a wide range of steps to ensure that appalling behaviour such as this will never be tolerated again by officers or Councillors.

Luton Flight Paths: The new flightpaths for Luton Airport came into operation last month. At busy times flights are stacked in a new stack over Huntingdon at 8000ft and then start their descent over Gamlingay

and the Hatleys into Luton. You can track this happening on apps such as PlaneFinder. So aircraft are travelling over the villages dropping from 8k to 7k feet. We all objected to these changes - including the local Councils -but were ignored.

Worryingly, Luton Airport is pursuing plans for expansion to 32 million passengers per annum (mppa) with a second terminal and associated infrastructure to deliver this passenger growth by 2041. This application meets the thresholds to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. That means they must apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO). The application will be examined by the Planning Inspectorate and decided by the Secretary of State for Transport (not Luton Council). Do sign up for further updates and please consider responding to the current consultation at <https://magpielanding.traverse.org.uk/surveys/FutureLuToN> - this closes on April 4th.

Paper Food Bags: Residents wanting the brown paper food bags issued by South Cambs DC can pick them up from the Parish Council office. They cost 60p a bundle.

Community Chest Grants for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: SCDC would like to support communities in marking 'The Queen's Platinum Jubilee'. For this reason, the criteria for the Community Chest Grant scheme has been flexed on a temporary and one-off basis until 12 April to allow Parish Councils and community groups to make Jubilee-related applications of up to £700. Applications will then be assessed at the Grants Advisory Committee meetings to help parishes plan ahead.

Maybe you'd like to purchase a Commemoration bench? Or plant a tree or a rose in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee? These are just a couple of ideas! We welcome your application, and if you know of any community groups wishing to undertake a Jubilee-related project, we would ask you to make them aware of this fund. Applications should be in the spirit of the rest of the Community Chest grant criteria. For further details: Community Chest Grant page at SCDC

Manor Road Parking: We hope residents will be pleased to hear that hot on the heels of the lovely footpath repairs in Murfitt Way and Manor Rd, we are expecting some new parking bays to be installed which will help the bin lorries to gain access without having to drive on the verges.

Business Grants: The last round of Covid Grants is now being allocated and is focused on businesses which have specifically been affected by Omicron including those in the food and hospitality sectors and supply chains and in personal care e.g hairdressers and beauticians.

Since the start of the pandemic, the District Council has distributed a total of around £45 million in Government business support grants to more than 5,000 South Cambridgeshire businesses. Anyone needing advice relating to their business can contact the Council's Business Support and Development team at openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk or visit www.scambs.gov.uk/business

Civil Parking Enforcement: Last month we told you that South Cambs District Council and the County Council were working together to introducing civil parking enforcement. This will see responsibilities for dealing with illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to Cambridgeshire County Council. This will mean drivers parking illegally, such as on double yellow lines, could be issued a ticket by Civil Enforcement Officers and ordered to pay a penalty charge.

The County Council will prepare an application to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area, via the Department for Transport, to introduce the scheme. Subject to the approval of this application, it is expected that civil parking enforcement could begin in South Cambridgeshire in the autumn of next year.

In South Cambridgeshire, the upfront costs of introducing civil parking enforcement will be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, including a full review of road lines and signs. They will also cover any financial deficit of the scheme for the first five years and all income that is generated by fines will be used to help pay for the costs of running the scheme.

Focus on Nature: South Cambs DC has just published a Bio Diversity Supplementary Planning Document which you can see at <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2476/qcsp-biodiversity-spd-feb-2022.pdf> and which supports the Doubling Nature Strategy published last year. It details how all new development must protect, preserve and enhance nature and encourages parish councils to develop their own nature recovery plans.

Water Supplies: It was deeply concerning to hear, via a journalist, that there may have been a pollution incident in South Cambs around Duxford, Shelford and Stapleford. SCDC immediately contacted Cambridge Water who were unaware of an enquiry and as soon as we were fully cognisant of the facts, we turned to looking at our own responsibility for monitoring private water supplies, which amounts to a small number of private wells and bore holes in the district. All these bore holes were subsequently confirmed to have water that is deemed to be 'wholesome'.

A subsequent press enquiry has highlighted a report from 2007 which cast further doubt on the quality of water in the area. Cambridge Water has now published a lot of information about this on its website.

Budgeting for Climate Change: South Cambridgeshire District Council is allocating £6.83m of its £70m total spend to its Zero Carbon Strategy and Action Plan. The measures range from a solar farm to power bin lorries - to the completion of a massive programme to install energy-efficient LEDs in streetlights all of which contributes to the ambition to halve carbon emissions locally by 2030 - and reduce them to zero by 2050. Money will also go towards maintaining the 275km (171 miles) network of watercourses in the district, and financial support of parish councils and community groups to reduce their carbon footprint. More electric vehicle charging points would also be installed.

Wild Minds: Covid has affected very many children's mental health and current services are not sufficient to meet the urgent need. The Wild Minds project, sponsored by South Cambs aims to help young people experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues to improve through activity courses. By the time you read this the latest courses will probably be underway but more will follow.

Young people benefit from spending time in a therapeutic outdoor environment with qualified activity instructors, trained youth workers, and a small group of peers. The course is designed to help teens tackle things like mild anxiety, low mood and depression, and to improve self-confidence and esteem. A clinical psychologist oversees the course, providing support to young people who may otherwise go without, due to not meeting the threshold for NHS mental health care.

Young people who would like to attend, or parents or carers who think the course may be suitable for a young person in their care, can register now online: www.scambs.gov.uk/wildminds

Fixed Term Tenancies: The Government has revoked the legislation that limits council to issuing 10 year fixed term tenancies to council house tenants because it meant that council house residents faced uncertainty about their futures once their lease expired. The fixed term tenancies that South Cambs had to issue at the time are now up for renewal and will be replaced with secure tenancies.

Climate and Environment Fortnight: Residents, businesses, community groups and Parish Councils were invited to a fortnight of free online events as part of South Cambridgeshire District Council's second annual Climate and Environment Fortnight. The webinar series comes after the news that the Council has been selected out of hundreds as a finalist in the Public Sector Transformation Awards 2022, for its 'Green to our Core' programme of work.

The webinars were held online to celebrate climate action taking place in the district, as well as looking at some of the things that the Council is doing to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the future. Recordings of all 6 sessions will be available on the South Cambs website. Bridget introduced the first one which focused on how communities can work together to create and deliver their own climate change action plan. Find out more about what the Council is doing to tackle climate change in South Cambridgeshire at www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/what-are-we-doing-to-tackle-climate-change-in-south-cambridgeshire

South Cambs DC Budget: South Cambridgeshire District Council has approved its budget for next year and set its Council Tax charge from April. Continuing to have one of the lowest Council Tax charges in the country, councillors agreed to raise it by 10 pence a week or £5 a year for a Band D property to enable the Council to continue to transform council services and deliver £230,000 of savings every year. This coming year it will cost over £80 million to run South Cambridgeshire District and Council Tax will bring in £10.7 million. Business Rates bring in £11.6 million. Only £2million is expected in government grants. Investments account for over £5 million in income. Our investments include Ermine Street (our wholly owned housing company providing private rented accommodation, such as houses in multiple occupation for single people), the Cambridge Ice Rink and even Cambourne Youth Centre. The council is also supporting business start-ups and the development of tech industries by investing in the Cambridge Science Park which is in South Cambridgeshire.

We also receive income from our fees and charges and contributions from fellow councils for the cost of running the shared planning and waste services. But unlike many other Councils we do not have income from car parks or civic amenities such as a sports centre.

Council housing stock, is now growing again and with 189 new council homes having been built over the past three years it now stands at over 5,500. However, we have to fund this mainly from council rents. £7 million will be spent on refurbishing council houses to reduce tenants' heating bills.

We appreciate that in these difficult times those on lower incomes are struggling which is why we have more officers advising those finding themselves in financial difficulty and we also pay Citizens Advice £85,000 a year to help our residents. Apart from Housing Benefit we also have a Local Council

Tax Support Scheme and discretionary support for Council Tax. As a result of this support, last year we were the best in the country for collecting Council Tax and in the top ten for the collection of Business Rates.

We are one of a few councils in the country to have set a balanced budget for the coming financial year with a small surplus going into reserves to off-set possibly deficits in the future.

Household Support Fund: Since launching in October with £2.4m of government funding, the average spend for the number of requests received has been £25k every day, with a total of 14,986 applications, of which more than 11,000 have already received payments. We have successfully run a wider scheme that has additionally provided support for water bills, other essentials, fridges, freezers and cookers, as well as boiler repairs. To allow us to continue to support those with the most immediate and urgent needs, the following changes have been made:

- The fund will continue to support those with the most immediate and urgent needs in relation to food and household energy bills.
- The fund will no longer accept multiple applications, offer financial help with water bills, other essentials or replace white goods.

We know there are many more people in our county who still require help. All applicants to the fund will continue to be directed to other sources of support as listed in the Household Support Fund Information pack: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/Household-Support-Fund-Information-Pack-CCC.pdf>

Camsight Support Groups: Camsight write "Our support groups in the East have enjoyed talks from Vision Aid Technologies recently. Vision Aid provide specialist low vision and blindness technology solutions. If you would like to talk more about the products they offer and how these could support you, contact Vision Aid on 01775 711 977.

If you are not already part of one of Cam Sight's monthly groups and would like to be, please contact us. They are a great opportunity to access information and support, as well as meet others and form friendships.

We hold monthly groups in Bar Hill, Bourn, Burwell, Cambridge, Chatteris, Cottenham, Girton, Haslingfield, Impington, Linton, Littleport, Melbourn, Sawston, Soham, Stapleford, Whittlesey, Wisbech. New members are always welcome - so please come along and give it a go!"

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

EW Rail Update: Although nothing certain has been heard, there is speculation that this project may be dropped.

Reading Room Wi-Fi/alterations: Council received most of the information requested, but was missing the minutes of the meeting at which the estimates were discussed were not attached, the email from Building Control and a business plan with financial current and projected income. The two estimates received were for very different schemes, so Council also requested a copy of the specification that was sent out for tender. The request for Wi-Fi funding had been discussed at several different meetings, and Council had already agreed to fund a viable scheme. Based on the information received from the Trustees, it was proposed by Mr Wheeler and seconded by Mr Barnes, that Council would pay for the first 2 years of funding for the Wi-Fi in the Reading Room. All in favour. Quotation received is for £36-95 per month + VAT x 24, a total of £1064-16. Funding for this will be taken equally from The Reading Room and Contingency nominals. A cheque for this amount was raised and will be delivered to the Chair of Trustees, along with a letter requesting the missing information.

Highway Events: Local road closures are for Thriplow Daffodil weekend - 19/20 March, Northstowe Half Marathon - 24 April, Sawston Fun Run - 8 May.

SCDC - Help for Ukraine: The Council has pledged to support people fleeing the Ukraine and is calling for a national resettlement programme to be set up by the Government so that this can happen. Councillors have said that the Council will play their part and work to identify local homes for refugees leaving the war zone if needed. You can read the Council's position in full here:

[pledge to support people fleeing Ukraine](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/assistance-for-those-affected-by-the-war-in-ukraine/). Further details of charities to contact is available on:-
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/assistance-for-those-affected-by-the-war-in-ukraine/>

Boundary Proposals in England: The Commission is undertaking an independent and impartial review of all constituencies in England, to ensure the number of electors in each constituency are broadly the same. As part of this process, the number of constituencies in England will increase to 543. If you wish to comment of the boundaries for your area you can access the BCE reviews website:-
[Secondary consultation now open: Have your say on our constituency boundary proposals | Boundary Commission for England \(independent.gov.uk\)](https://www.bce.org.uk/secondary-consultation)

Anthony Brown - cycle for Ukraine: South Cambs MP Anthony Browne is embarking on a cycle ride of more than 100km from London to Cambridge to help Ukrainian civilians. The cycle ride will take place on Saturday, March 26, and Mr Browne is aiming to raise more than £1,000 for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. To sponsor the ride go to
[justgiving.com/fundraising/anthony-browne-mp](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/anthony-browne-mp)

Food Waste Action Week: Poster advertising this was on the notice board,
Circulated to Councillors:

- Camcycle newsletter
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- CCC Cambridgeshire Matters newsletter
- Our MP March newsletter
- Zero Carbon newsletter
- Adult Education Budget Consultation
- March 2022 CAPASP Newsletter
- SCDC Think Communities newsletter

Any subsequent receipts

NALC: The National Association of Local Councils has a committee specifically dedicated to smaller parish Councils (under 6,000 population). Does Council have any specific issues they would like to raise as agenda items at the Smaller Councils Committee?

Poppy Appeal: The amount raised in Croydon was £134-25, and the District total was £2433-06. Thanks to those who supported the appeal.

CAPALC: An invoice for Council's membership was received. Council has declined to consider joining.

The Library presents: For information on activities in libraries around the area and to book go to:-
[Library Live | The Library Presents](#)

Wildlife Ponds: The village pond in Croydon is owned by private individuals. Information was sent on to the Reading Room Chair.

Anglian Water: A Priority Services Register can help with lots of support. Please go to the link-
[Sign up for Priority Services \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/sign-up-for-priority-services)

Finance:

Bank Statement: The current account stood at £6565-55 at the end of February.

Website Annual invoice: Sanders and Jay sent their invoice for the year. A cheque for £238-80 was raised for this. Proposed Chair - all in favour.

Glasdon: The cost of the two Topsy bins is £425-71 including VAT. A cheque for this amount was raised. Proposed Chair - all in favour.

Items for next agenda: None put forward

Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 20 April 2022 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm .

Wednesday 18 May 2022 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm .

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed

Date