A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Cllr Kindersley - away, Mr Sole - in London, Ms Newland - family issue, Mrs Sole - working late.

Present: Mr Barnes, Mr Buchanan, Mr Wenman, Mr Wheeler, the Clerk and Cllr Williams.

Minutes: Minutes of the November meeting previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received

Verbal report from Cllr Williams:

Emails: Cllr Williams' email address at SCDC is not working again. She stated that if people wanted to contact her, please use her mobile number.

GCP Making Connections survey: This ends on 23rd December at noon. Cllr Williams encouraged everyone to get involved and pointed out that the proposed Congestion Charge is question 9 on the survey form.

Bin Collections: Due to the very cold weather there has been some disruption o bin collections. SCDC is sending out notifications and updates are available on their website.

Electric Bin Iorries: Solar panels are being built into a canopy in order to charge the new electric bin lorries. Unfortunately these panels are currently covered in snow and are producing very little electricity. **Planning Enforcement:** The name has been changed to "compliance", which is not such a strong word as enforcement. Breaches can only be reported on-line now and there are not enough officers to deal with these.

SCDC Officers: Many are still working from home and South Cambs Hall is sparsely populated. Because of this, there is a possibility that office space could be rented out to other public service agencies.

Cambourne Business Park: SCDC has bought Cambourne Business Park. There may be house building near to the college.

Four Day week: This is being trialled for three months from January 2023, when the results will be assessed. Key Performance Indicators - which are set by SCDC, will be used to ascertain the success of the venture, implemented as SCDC has been unable to retain permanent staff. Agency staff will still work five days a week and the four day week staff will alternate their days off.

Cllr Williams was asked about the street cleaning machine and her response is in the minutes below. As there was nothing else requiring her attention, thanks and seasonal greetings were exchanged and she left the meeting.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Community Reports: The Christmas Bazaar raised £540 - well done to everyone involved.

Dog/Litter Bin signs: Mr Buchanan will liaise with a member of the Dog Bin group to finalise and check the arrow direction on the signs, before placing the order with the chosen supplier.

London Luton Flight Paths: The village has not seemed very interested in supporting the offer of a surgery led by London Luton Airport representatives. Clerk was instructed to prepare a Mailchimp circulation to gauge the interest in this, and if it is sufficient a surgery will be arranged for next year.

Street Cleaning Machine: Cllr Williams has not been able to discuss this with the necessary department as her emails are not working and a great deal of the SCDC officers are working from home.. **Gmail addresses:** Clerk is still waiting for some of the Councillors to set up their gmail addresses and

send her notification of this.

Civility and Respect Pledge: The Clerk attempted to sign the Council up to the Pledge, but felt that it would be impossible to do this for Croydon, as some of the clauses were not met and it would be wrong to say that they had been, or were going to be met. After discussion Mr Buchanan suggested that due to the size and limited resources available to our small parish council we cannot sign the pledge in full but we will attempt to align ourselves with the principles of the pledge and support adherence to the relevant statements where possible. This approach was agreed by all those present.

Hastoe - Affordable housing: Further information has been received from a PCC member regarding the housing. The Diocese was surprised that plans were being sent to the PC, and since then they have reined things in and scheduled an internal meeting for 11th Jan between the Diocese, Hastoe and two PCC reps. It is possible a PC member may be able to attend this meeting. Councillors suggested that Mr Sole could be asked, as his family would be most affected by the development. Mr Buchanan stated that if a PC representative were able to attend and Mr Sole could not, he would be willing to. The Clerk will approach Mr Sole regarding this.

Lower Road - accidents: As previously reported, Highways has put up free-standing Bumpy Road warning signs at each end of the undulating stretch of Lower Road. Highways is unable to make these signs permanent until a report from the Road Safety Team has been completed. If the Team's report states that signs would be beneficial, this would be carried out. Regarding a reduction in the speed limit, if the report indicates that this would be beneficial it will happen anyway, otherwise Council will have to apply to change the limit through the Minor Highways Improvements scheme. If the limit could be reduced to 40mph, this would allow SpeedWatch to operate in that area.

Memorial Cleaning: Most of the companies who are listed on the internet for cleaning war memorials are much further north or in Wales, and had no basic costs available on the sites. Mr Barnes suggested that the War Memorials Trust might be able to help with a grant. The Clerk downloaded the rather complex Grants Pre-application form; the Chairman suggested a local company he has personally used, and has approached them regarding cleaning the memorial. A response, with a cost, should be available by the January meeting.

SCDC Trees: South Cambs District Council has again offered 6 free trees (whips) to all parish councils. Croydon Parish Council does not own any land, but the PCC would like one pot grown tree and from the list supplied has requested a wild cherry for the churchyard. The Clerk has ordered this and it should arrive by the end of January 2023.

Warm Hubs: From conversations Mr Buchanan had with the people attending the Croydon Café, many would like this to run on a fortnightly basis. In order for this to happen more volunteers are needed. if you would be interested in volunteering to the Café in the Reading Room on a rota basis please contact the Clerk for details.

County Cllr Kindersley's written report to the meeting:-

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!

Community Chest Cost of Living support: SCDC's Community Chest fund provides grants to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life locally. Criteria have been expanded to allow bids that include contributions for any project that has a positive impact for communities related to the cost-of-living crisis. Parish Councils of any size can also now place grant bids. A ringfenced total sum of £20,000 has been made available for these new Community Chest grant applications, provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System, to ensure support is co-ordinated effectively and directed at those in need locally this winter. Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan: Huge congratulations and thanks to all those people who have worked tirelessly for years to get the Neighbourhood Plan for Gamlingay adopted. Now that the plan has passed the referendum and been formally adopted by South Cambs Full Council it becomes part of the official planning regulations. Neighbourhood plans are an excellent way for local people to have a say in what they want to happen to their own communities. https://www.scambs.gov.uk/new-plan-to-protect-gamlingay-s-special-gualities

Help for Households campaign - social tariffs: The government has worked with a range of Internet Service Providers (IPSs) and Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to deliver low-cost broadband and phone service packages, called social tariffs, for those on low incomes. Social tariffs are available for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits, with some providers offering deals from £15 a month.

Warm Home Discount scheme reopened: The Warm Home Discount scheme will provide a discount of £150 off electricity bills for three million low-income households this winter. Most households will receive the discount automatically. The government has launched a new online tool, to make it easier for the public to check if they are eligible for the discount. The online tool will guide customers through the eligibility criteria in England and Wales, asking questions about electricity supply, the benefits they receive and characteristics of their property. All customers will receive a letter between this month

(November) and mid-January 2023 confirming their eligibility and the payment will be made automatically through energy suppliers by March 2023. The government is also writing to customers who may be eligible, advising them to use the tool linked below to check eligibility, as well as to use the helpline for particularly complex cases. https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme

Gamlingay Warm Hub: Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs are working with communities all across the district to open Warm Hubs to help people struggling with fuel cost or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are now 20 up and running with another 7 on the way. Gamlingay opened its Warm Hub at the Eco Hub.Opening Times: Wednesday, 2pm to 4pm; Thursday 10am to 12pm; Friday 10.30am to 12.30pm; and Saturday, 10am to 12pm.

Libraries across Cambridgeshire are offering a "Warm Space" for anyone who needs it during the winter months.

Anglian Water: Anglian Water offer a range of financial assistance, including discounted tariffs, assistance schemes if you've fallen behind with payments and affordable payment plans. Call Anglian Water's specially trained Priority Services team on 0800 232 1951.

Cam Sight Befriending service: Would you like a bit of company – someone to pop in for a chat, join you for a cuppa or maybe read your post, a book or newspaper? Would it be easier to get out if someone accompanied you? If the answer is 'yes', please let us know. Our volunteers are trained in visual awareness and sighted guiding and have been through our recruitment process. Email or phone Joy Hallifax on 01223 420033.

Ukraine - new hosts for guests needed: Cambridge and South Cambs have between them about 500 hosts for Ukraine guests. With the war in Ukraine continuing, the six-month hosting arrangements have needed to be renewed, though not all hosts are in a position to do so. Anyone who might be able to provide a spare room for a guest from Ukraine is asked to get in touch with SCDC. We need new homes for about 200 people. For this reason we have launched the GOT A SPARE ROOM campaign. If you are interested all you have to do is text ROOM to 88802. https://www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room/

Housing Issues: If you rent a home in the private sector, we would urge you to seek help from the Council if mould or associated issues are not resolved by your landlord. In South Cambridgeshire, the District Council has a role in ensuring that homes in the private sector and the Council's own properties do not contain health hazards. Most properties within the private rented sector in the district are in good condition, but the Council's Environmental Health team will investigate any complaints. Private Sector and Housing Association tenants can make a complaint about the condition of their home by emailing env.health@scambs.gov.uk The Council has the power to take the appropriate enforcement action if there are issues that need to be resolved. This action could include writing to the landlord to ensure the issue is resolved, but the Council can also serve a legal notice to instruct works to be carried out. The Council manages around 5,500 Council homes and takes reports of mould in any of them extremely seriously. Do not hesitate to contact Bridget if you have an unresolved issues in your Council house.

Gamlingay First School Site: It was agreed at Gamlingay Parish Council's meeting on November 8th to issue a statement with Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council regarding the First School site, off Green End in Gamlingay.

During the examination of Gamlingay's Neighbourhood Plan the Examiner deleted a policy in relation to the field site. However, this does not mean the field is unprotected. The built school site and the southern part of the playing fields are within the Conservation Area. The original school fronting Green End is a listed building. The playing field is a Protected Village Amenity Area in the current adopted Local Plan (2018). The scout hut, car park and playing fields are listed as Assets of Community Value. All these designations aim to restrict and control development across the site.

It is also important to note that the new emerging Local Plan being developed by Greater Cambridge – which guides development within South Cambridgeshire until 2041 – has no development proposals detailed for any part of Gamlingay Parish let alone the First School site.

Gamlingay First School site belongs to Cambridgeshire County Council. The County has a significant running deficit within the Special Educational Needs and Disability budget and has applied to the Department of Education for both permission and funding to build a number of specialist schools across the County which will reduce this deficit over time. Included within this bid is a proposal to provide a new 60-place special school in Gamlingay, including a specialist girls unit, subject to resource being available. The aim is to open this new school in 2025/26 with 20 places available. The remaining 40 places are expected to become available over the subsequent 2 years.

This is a change to the previous plan which was to build provision for over 100 pupils – and of course it comes on the understanding that these projects do change and evolve over time.

The current buildings on the site are not suitable for this kind of specialist school. Once the new school has applied for and received planning permission, the 'new' parts of the First School site will be demolished and building will start. At that point the 'old' listed part of the building is likely to be offered for residential conversion of some kind yet to be established by Cambridgeshire County Council. The new school and residential development will be subject to the usual planning application processes. The new school pupils will obviously need access to outside space so the Playing Field on the site will continue to be available to them during school hours – exactly as before. Outside school hours the Playing Field will continue to be available for community uses – the Scouts, Footballers, Rainbow Preschool and so on – exactly as before. Every user group will need to formalise their access arrangements with the landowner. The Parish Council is pursuing a simple arrangement with Cambridgeshire County Council, and this work is ongoing.

The County Council have confirmed that there will be no change to the Scout Hut and the lease of this land is currently being renewed. We will endeavour to keep residents up to date as discussions on the future uses of the First School site continue.

6 Free Trees: For the third year running South Cambs is offering free trees to parish councils across the district to help provide homes and food for wildlife and combat climate change. The Six Free Trees campaign has seen 390 trees planted across South Cambridgeshire since it was launched in 2019. Parish Councils have until 21 December 2022 to apply.

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/free-trees-for-a-cleaner-greener-south-cambridgeshire/

CCC business planning for 2023-24: The County Council faces a budget gap of about £29 Million due to inflation, as we have reported previously. At the time of writing, much work has been done to close that gap ahead of the February budget meeting, but a £13 Million gap remains to be filled. Detailed papers on service areas will go to December committees.

Making Connections Consultation: No apologies for including this a second month running – it is very important that YOU give feedback. The Greater Cambridge Partnership 'Making Connections' 2022 runs until 23 December 2022. This is about a completely different way of running bus services, more active travel links and a congestion charge for Cambridge. We are being asked to share this information as widely as possible, and to encourage everyone to respond. Points of local detail are vital and in their best form these can only be provided by local residents based on their everyday travel needs. The proposals are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change how we travel in Greater Cambridge and the wider area, relieving pressure on the road network and responding to air quality, cost of living and climate crises; and also, creating workable public transport and active travel links in more rural areas where currently, costly private vehicle transport is the only way to get to jobs, education and other essential daily travel needs.

We will be submitting a response from the villages we represent based on any feedback received, in mid-December. The survey, plus information about the proposals, including maps, frequently asked questions, dates of public meetings etc can be found at: http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022. Residents and those travelling to the area are asked for their thoughts on the three parts of the proposal:

- 1. Transforming the bus network From mid-2023, GCP is proposing to transform the bus network through new routes, additional services, cheaper fares and longer operating hours. Please check the proposals and add your comments: are these satisfactory or is there a better way?
- 2. Investing in other sustainable travel schemes. Alongside the bus network, GCP is proposing to invest in new sustainable travel schemes, such as better walking and cycling links. Again, input is needed.
- 3. Creating a Sustainable Travel Zone GCP is proposing the introduction of a Sustainable Travel Zone which includes a road user charge. Vehicles would be charged for driving within the zone between 7am and 7pm on weekdays, and money raised would fund improvements to the bus network and other sustainable travel schemes. The Zone would be fully operational in 2027/28 but only after the bus improvements are introduced. Again, your input please.

None of these parts could work without the others and the fundamental premise is that attractive alternatives to driving must exist prior to the introduction of a congestion charge – which once in place would provide the revenue to run the scheme long-term. The initial set-up outlay would be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, itself funded by central government on a time-limited basis. December 7th Community Policing meeting

A second meeting with Cambs Police, open to all, will take place December 7th at Bassingbourn Old School Community Centre.

Poultry: A reminder that all birds of any kind should currently be under a roof to help stop them becoming infected by avian flu.

Glebe Field & Paddock Orwell: Many congratulations to all those who have been fundraising to buy the Glebe Field & Paddock from the Diocese of Ely. Not only are there very exciting plans for the future of the site - with improved public access and features - but this beautiful and unique place will remain in the hands of local people in perpetuity - brilliant not just for Orwell but for the wider community.

Barrington: The Liaison Group met recently and Cemex advised that more trains are likely - with two a day rather than just one. Residents highlighted some concerns in particular about idling trains and this will be addressed.

Concerns have also been expressed about the crossing from the new path from All Saint's Gardens to the school. Highways officers are to be engaged to see what could be done within the available budget. (FYI A toucan crossing would cost £125,000. We were flabbergasted.)

Festive Greetings: We wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a trouble-free, warm and peaceful New Year 2023

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 District Councillor Bridget Smith (Gamlingay Ward, SCDC) is on 07729 836449 or Cllr.BridgetSmith@scambs.gov.uk

District Councillor Williams' written report to the meeting:-

Awaiting receipt

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: Full Electoral register received. This is open to the public by appointment with the Clerk, and written extracts may be taken but no copies or photographs of the list are allowed. The list will not be displayed on the notice board.

GCP - Making Connections: This survey closes are noon on 23rd December. Please try and complete it as it will affect transport and the possible Congestion Charge.

CCC - Care Together: Clerk has received a questionnaire from Cambs County Council's Adult Social Care commissioner, asking for people over 55 in the Mordens Ward (which covers Croydon) to complete and return. The link will be sent out in the next Mailchimp and a few copies will be taken to the next Croydon Café. The idea seems to be to prepare the County Council for possible social care needs in the next 10-15 years.

Highways - Coronation street party: Clerk has received notification regarding any potential street parties that might be held to celebrate King Charles' coronation. As Croydon is on a bus route then a street party would require closure of the road; however Councillors felt that a similar event to the jubilee celebration in Clopton Close would be a preferred choice, thus avoiding road closure.

Highway - trees: Apparently the school bus had a front upstairs window broken by an overhanging tree between Arrington and the far end of Croydon High Street. Consequently the bus company will not come through the village until the trees have been cut back. The original communication received was:

Thank you for contacting Cambridgeshire County Council.

At this time we do not feel that any action is necessary. The criteria we use when deciding to deal how to deal with highway defects can be found at https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-plans-and-policies/highway-policies-and-capital-maintenance-programme

The latest report Cllr Kindersley received is:-

Subject: FW: Report of double decker bus hitting overhanging trees along High Street, Croydon Good evening, Councillor

I will be dealing with this.

Enforcement Officer

Highways and Access Teams

Hopefully something will be done about these trees now and the bus will be able to get through again. **SCDC - Support for Ukraine:** SCDC is asking for anyone with a spare room to consider hosting Ukrainians who have been displaced by the war with Russia. This was circulated to the village.

SCDC - street trading policy: This was circulated to Councillors and there was some concern over the use of residents' campervans for village functions. Clerk looked at the full policy and it is acceptable for village functions.

Anthony Browne - Luton Correspondence: From Anthony Browne's secretary: -

This morning Anthony wrote to the Aviation Minister regarding the general guidance on flightpaths and its unsuitability for rural areas. He also wrote to the Civil Aviation Authority requesting an extension to the consultation to ensure that final decisions are not made on data garnered during the aviation sector's recovery from the pandemic. Mr Browne does understand that constituents would like the disturbance to stop immediately and sympathises with that view strongly. Unfortunately that is not realistic at this juncture and it is therefore his priority to ensure that long term decisions are taken with a full understanding.

Mr Browne's correspondence can be seen at the following link:

https://www.facebook.com/anthonybrowneMP/posts/pfbid02aBn3F1CQBWXAAxAVZ2DPgMBvKf1LUcoGgX6iUKauF3q477bTworc1yr44DrJam2gl

Combined Authority update: At the advice of his doctor from the Royal Papworth Hospital, the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Dr Nik Johnson will be taking a three month plus leave of absence for treatment of an ongoing medical condition, subject to the advice of his doctors. From Friday, 18th November the Combined Authority will be temporarily led by Cllr Anna Smith, who will take over as deputy Mayor. Cllr Smith will act in place of the Mayor for the duration of his absence or longer if necessary.

Waterbeach Waste Education Centre: Has reopened for bookings and training. From their correspondence:- "We all have the power to be proactive in the climate change fight and simple actions in our daily lives can and will make a huge difference. Nearly half of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions relate to the things we buy, how we use them, and how we dispose of them - from food to fashion. By making small changes this Christmas, we are making a great contribution to both tackling climate change and the effects of the increase in the cost of living. In the UK, 70% of food waste comes from our homes with a value of around £14 billion a year, and a cost of 25 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste & Resources Action Programme, (WRAP) Research, (from 2018) shows we now throw away 6.6 million tonnes of household food waste a year in the UK.

This means the average household throws away 165kg of food costing £500 every year. Across Cambridgeshire this means households throw away 48,000 tonnes of food worth £145m every year. So, by planning what you buy, reducing waste, re-using items, cutting food waste and recycling what you can, we can give back to the environment this Christmas

Please be aware that:- Household food waste would fill approximately 66,000 three-bed terraced houses, equivalent to the population of a town the size of Peterborough!"

American inquiry: One of the ladies who is familiar with village history has replied to the American lady and will start making enquiries into the whereabouts of the children shown in the photograph in the New Year.

Circulated to Councillors:

Adoption of Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan Cambridgeshire Matters ZCC Winter newsletter SLCC Early Day motion

Subsequent receipts:

Poppy Appeal: The Clerk collected for the Royal British Legion in the village and a resident collected from the outlying properties. The Clerk's collection was notified as £118-93; the total from outlying properties is unknown, but the total for the area is £3203-47. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy appeal.

SCDC Letter to Huw Merriman: Council was asked if they would support a letter which is to be sent to the Minister of State for Rail and HS2 regarding the unsuitability of the plans for East West Rail, and the way in which the lack of transparency with both the planning authority and the public has been inadequate. The letter was read by all present and it was proposed by Mr Buchanan and seconded by Mr Wenman that Council would support the letter. A vote was taken and there was a majority decision to support the letter; the Clerk will inform SCDC of this.

CCC - Stay well this winter campaign: The Clerk has received packs for the campaign and will try and distribute these at the next Croydon Café n December.

Finance:

Bank Statement: Although cheques for payment had been issued, no bank statement has been received yet. This is probably due to the Christmas post and the postal strikes.

Appointment of Auditor: The auditor appointed for Croydon is PKF Littlejohn, as in previous years. At present Council has a precept which does not require an external audit, but the production of an Exemption Certificate, which is posted on the notice board and on the village website, along with other financial paperwork

SLCC Subs: The Clerk approached Council to ask if they would continue to fund her subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks, at a cost of £73-00 for this year. It was proposed by Mr Buchanan and seconded by Mr Barnes that Council was happy to fund the Clerk's membership - all in favour.

Charles Arnold-Baker: SLCC Cambridgeshire Branch Committee had agreed to award grant funding of £75-00 each for up to four smaller councils (under £10k precept) to purchase the latest edition (13th) of Charles Arnold Baker and the Clerk applied for this. She has received notification that Croydon has indeed receive one of the grants for funding this, and SLCC will be sending a cheque for £75-00 to her shortly. SLCC is offering members a reduced price of £137-00 for the book. The price if the book if obtained elsewhere is in the region of £164-000. It was proposed by Mr Wheeler and seconded by Mr Wenman that Council would purchase the publication from SLCC at a cost of £137-00 with £4-00 for carriage and plus VAT, but less the £75-00 grant. All were in favour and Clerk will action this after the cheque has been received and banked.

SLCC Pay Rates: The Clerk has received and presented to Council, notification of the pay rates for qualified, full-time Parish Clerks for the next tax year and although not suggesting she should be offered a pay rise, felt it was to be important that the Councillors were aware of how much they may need to offer a qualified replacement for the post of Clerk and RFO when the Clerk retires. At present the Clerk is still enjoying her job and feels she is capable of carrying it out, but will not be able to go on for ever. Councillors felt that a comprehensive review of the Clerk's salary was necessary and asked her to send her hours for the next few weeks to them, before the January meeting at which the precept will be set.

Planning: Ref: 22/04147/PRIOR - change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house at Hill Farm, Croydon. Prior approval was given on 7 December 2022.

Items for next agenda: None put forward.

It was previously decided that due to inclement weather, the Christmas nibbles would take place after a meeting when the weather is better. Clerk had already informed those volunteers in the village who had intended to come that this was cancelled.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 18th January 2023 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm

As there was no further business, Councillors were thanked for attending, seasonal greetings were exchanged and the meeting was declared closed at 8.36pm

Signed	Date