

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 15th March 2023 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mrs Sole, Mr Wenman, Mr Sole - all at work, Cllr Kindersley - away.

Present: Mr Wheeler, Mr Barnes, Mr Buchanan, Ms Newland, the Clerk and Cllr Williams (later).

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

Declarations of Interest: None received

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Community Reports: Affordable Homes: A very simple report this time as there has been no change since the February Parish Council meeting, as far as the PCC is aware. This means that the situation remains that, ahead of any decision about a Diocesan land sale, Hastoe Housing Association intends to submit a development pre-application to SCDC in respect of a small number of affordable homes in one of the two fields along Church Lane. At this stage, Planners comments are to be sought on both of the fields to gauge whether none, one, or both are deemed permissible. The exact number of homes to be built will be guided by a conservative view (75% - 80%) of the declared demand as evidenced by a refreshed Housing Needs Survey.

Coronation Celebration: A small group of people from the village met and have decided to hold the village celebration on Sunday 7th May. It will be in the Reading Room at 12.30pm and will be a Bring and Share lunch, with activities for the children and, if the weather is kind, access to the rear patio. Finances permitting, all children in the village will receive a coronation gift of some sort - to be decided.

London Luton Flight Paths: A public meeting was held in Little Gransden Village Hall, with several MPs in attendance, on 23rd February at 7.30pm. Information from the meeting is available on the relas website - <https://relas.uk/> Anthony Browne was unable to attend as he was out of the country, but sent a recorded message, available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3z4pJ7i0iQ>

Village Map: Mr Buchanan has been looking into the costs involved in compiling and displaying a map of the village, with house names on it. Costs for an A2 engraved map vary from £380 + VAT to £800 + VAT. Because there is only one house which seems to cause problems for the delivery drivers, it was decided not to progress this at the moment but to keep it on the agenda.

SCDC meeting - 23rd February: Mr Buchanan and Mr Barnes attended South Cambs Hall and met with the Planning Service Delivery Manager, several other officers and Cllr Williams. Both Councillors felt it was a productive and informative meeting and well worth attending.

Follow-Up information

Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund: No further information on whether or not the application for funding has been accepted. Cllr Williams is doing her best to facilitate this.

CCC Care Together: The lady organising this has accepted an invitation to come to the May Croydon Cafe and speak about what is being done to help people stay in their homes for as long as they can, and the help that is available.

Gmail addresses: Clerk is still waiting for two Councillors to set up their g-mail addresses in line with the agreed address Council address and send her notification of this. Councillor's initials, followed by croydonpc@gmail.com.

Parish UK Network: Chairman reported that Croydon has its own website and information is also available on SCDC website, so did not feel it is necessary to

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: Alterations to the register were noted.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS): Clerk was approached regarding the newsletter distributed by this group and has agreed to be included in the circulation.

20mph Application: Cambridgeshire County Council have created an annual 20mph funding programme to install either 20mph zones or limits countywide. The programme will open for applications annually and anyone can apply if they have the support of their local County Council member.

In general, a new 20mph limit should be in an area with features that justify a lower speed limit to drivers, for example, an area that has:

- evidence of traffic incidents or potential dangers within an existing 30/40mph

- vulnerable road users e.g. pedestrians (of all ability), cyclists, equestrian users and motorcyclists
- visible homes, shops, and business frontages
- a school or a school route
- a cycling route
- a quiet lane designation
- an area that would benefit from more active travel such as cycling and walking

The map available on this website: - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/20mph-funding> shows local areas which may benefit from a 20mph speed limit. Croydon High Street does not show any serious accidents, although Lower Road does. Further enquiries will be made to see if it could be applied for on the High Street.

Cambridge Water Company: Their draft management plan is available on:- [Our Water Resources Plan | Cambridge Water \(cambridge-water.co.uk\)](#)

CCC Highway Events: Thriplow Daffodil weekend is taking place on 25th/26th March. Admission only by on-line pre-purchased tickets.

CCC Resurfacing Programme: Many roads in the area are due for resurfacing with microfibre. Dates for the work are very much weather dependent, but plenty of advance warning and alternative routes will be clearly indicated.

Circulated:

- Multiply Bus Roadshow
- Arthur's Shed (Arthur Rank Hospice)
- Cambridgeshire Matters
- Cambs ACRE - staying in touch
- HAF Easter Holiday Activities and Food

Any subsequent receipts:

East-West Rail letter: Huw Merriman replied stating that he visited the area on 6 February to understand the issues around East West Rail. Unfortunately, diary pressures and existing commitments mean that he will be unable to pay a further visit following SCDC's invitation. No-one was aware of the visit and councillors were not happy.

Civil Parking Enforcement: Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District (SCDC) and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) have resolved to bring Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) to the District of South Cambridgeshire. CPE, is a system of parking governance that allows the Highway Authority, CCC, the power to carry out parking enforcement using its own agents rather than relying on the Constabulary to provide that function. Croydon has not been included in this.

PCC request: The funding received from SCDC for the Jubilee Bench fell short of the cost of installation and the various plaques needed. The PCC was asking if the PC was able to assist with the shortfall. It was decided to look at this in the Finance section of the meeting.

County Councillor Kindersley's written report:-

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!

New Council Homes in Gamlingay: It's wonderful to welcome the first of 34 new Council homes in Gamlingay on the Downing Gardens site. The first 10 new energy-efficient homes have been completed and by the time you read this they should all have people with a local connection living in them.

All have high levels of insulation to help residents keep energy bills as low as possible and reduce carbon emissions. Bicycle sheds are being provided for every home. The wider development includes a village green area and children's play equipment – both located close to the new Council homes and the newly opened footpath to Green End.

Of the first 10 new Council homes, six have been made available at affordable rent with rent capped at no more than 80% of the local market rate, including service charges where applicable. All six affordable rent homes are 2-bedroom houses. The remaining four will be available on a shared ownership basis. There are two 2-bedroom homes and two 3-bedroom homes available.

Anyone interested in these new Council homes should visit Home Link on the Council's website. Those interested in the shared ownership properties should visit William H Brown and search for shared ownership properties in Gamlingay.

County Council Budget: The council set its 2023/24 budget at its Full Council meeting in February. All four political group leaders on the County Council have also written to Rt. Hon Michael Gove MP Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to press for progress with funding reforms for local government which currently penalises Cambridgeshire and its residents. Among other points made to him was that Cambridgeshire County Council has seen its core government funding cut from £143m in 2013/14 to just £68m in 2023/24, a real terms reduction of 70%. In 2023/24, Cambridgeshire's core spending power per head will be £746. The average of our statistical neighbours is £831 per head - if Cambridgeshire received this average instead, we would have around £58m of additional funding available to us - to fill potholes, for example. And we do need it - between the 2011 and 2021 census points, the population of Cambridgeshire grew by more than 9 times the rate for England.

Cost of Living Support: Plans for a further cost of living support package for residents, worth more than £200,000, have been published by South Cambridgeshire District Council and will include a roadshow of cost of living talks; support to transform more Warm Hubs into Community Wellbeing Hubs, increasing awareness of Council Tax support, more free energy saving appliances and the creation of a South Cambridgeshire **Sustainable Food Network:** The roadshow of cost of living talks, organised in partnership with parish councils, will see a rolling programme of events that are designed to highlight support available to the most vulnerable.

25 Warm Hubs have been running across South Cambridgeshire, including Gamlingay, this winter, with more than 2,000 visits recorded up to the start of February. Run by Cambridgeshire ACRE, they are free cosy spaces which residents of all ages can visit to socialise, work, and catch up with friends. Shortly a Council Tax communications campaign will start in order to increase the number of eligible people who are aware of, and subsequently claim, financial help towards their Council Tax bill.

There are also plans to expand South Cambridgeshire District Council's scheme to provide free energy saving appliances to those residents who are only just about managing, next winter. So far this winter, more than 300 South Cambridgeshire residents have been provided with either a slow cooker, electric blanket, or both by the Council.

We are also proposing a South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Food Network to link all the existing food banks in the district, creating a network of support for each other – with the over-riding aim of replicating what the brilliant Gamlingay Food Hub does by distributing food that would otherwise end up being thrown away. The network would also look to create links with local farmers to donate excess food that is not suitable for supermarkets, encourage communities to grow fresh vegetables for the most vulnerable, and promote healthy eating and more plant-based diets.

Support for Ukraine: At South Cambs we continue to look for new potential hosts via our Spare Room campaign which appeals for anyone who would like to get involved to apply to re-match existing guests via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Hosts receive up to £500 per month as a thank you payment. If you are interested in hosting, or know of someone else who may be interested, please take a look at our website for details of the support available to new hosts and or text ROOM to 88802.

The Home Office has commissioned a hotel in Bar Hill for temporary accommodation for refugees. This is being replicated throughout the country as part of the Refugee Dispersal Scheme.

20MPH schemes: The Highways & Transport Committee approved the changes to the Council's policy on 20MPH speed limits. The proposed timetable for applications for funding for new 20MPH speed limits is as follows: Go 'live' with application process on-line for new schemes in February 2023 with applications between February and April 2023. Prioritization of the submitted schemes will take place in May to June 2023 with Committee report for approval in July 2023 and thereafter programming and delivery of schemes from August.

From the Fire Service: Fire Service colleagues have asked resident to keep an eye out for faulty or damaged hydrants. These are marked with a yellow sign usually with a big H on them. You can contact the Hydrant Maintenance team at <https://orlo.uk/YBCE9>

Are you on oil?: The Alternative Fuel Payments scheme is intended to deliver a one-off payment of £200 to UK households who are not on the mains gas grid and therefore use alternative fuels, such as heating oil, to heat their homes. The scheme is now open via GOV.uk (and not Councils).

Bird Flu: The threat of avian influenza ('bird flu') to poultry and other captive birds continues and the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ), including mandatory housing measures announced on 7 November 2022, remain in force across England. The measures legally require all bird keepers to keep

their birds indoors and to follow stringent biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the disease, regardless of type or size. Reports of found dead wild birds should be reported through Defra's new online reporting tool or the helpline 03459 335577.

Relas (Reject Luton Airport Stacking):

Please continue with your objections & complaints to noise@ltn.aero on any excess noise and disturbance caused by aircraft approaching Luton and please copy in your Parish and District Councils to all objections/correspondence to Luton Airport. In your complaints to Luton Airport, you are encouraged to refer to the sub-standard consultation process and the poor design of AD6 which pollutes air further, by lengthening flight times. There was no mention of night flights in the consultation documents.

Take 5: As pupil numbers rise at schools across the division concerns about the safety of pupils and parents around the school as well as the increase in traffic at school arrival and departure times means that we are looking at ways of encouraging people to not drive to school. Recently, the County Council had funding to pilot Take 5 in some schools.

Take 5 is a walking zone around each school researched by pupils and adult volunteers; and publicised to parents, carers, and families using a Take 5 map, banners outside the school, and special events. In most cases the Take 5 scheme is also marked out by easily identifiable signs on lamp columns. Families who live in, or near the zone are encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to and from school every day, while those with longer journeys who need to drive are asked to park safely outside the zone and to walk the last five minutes of their journey. Walking is a great way to improve the general health of the whole family. Many parents say they drive to school because they need their car to travel on to work. This scheme shows families that it can often be quicker and easier, and indeed less stressful to leave the car at home while they do the school run, and they can get some healthy exercise at the same time.

If this is something you might want to get involved with then please get in touch...

Super market Vouchers for eligible families: The County Council will continue to provide supermarket vouchers for eligible families with pupils who meet the following criteria:

Eligible for income related funded two-year-old education (aged 2), Early Years Pupil Premium (aged 3 and 4), income-related free school meals (4 to 16), 16+ bursary (16 to 19) and those receiving an Education, Health and Care Plan (up to 25).

Vouchers are allocated through an online system with parents receiving vouchers by text and email.

East West Rail: Representative Group meetings continue with no new information offered by EWR. Cabinet Office advice is that consultation results should be made available within 6 months unless there's a very good reason not to. We are approaching two years now, and no reasons given so far. South Cambs and a number of Parishes write recently to rail minister, Huw Merriman, expressing concerns about EWR and inviting him to visit to see for himself some of the villages that will be most impacted. He has declined and has told us he was here in February though no one seems to know anything about that visit - which is both annoying and extremely discourteous. The parish councils are less than impressed.

Planning Consultation: The latest consultation has been launched and includes plans to increase planning fees etc which has long been called for by all parties. It's not all good news though. In summary, the government is proposing to increase planning fees by 35% for major applications and 25% for all other applications; introduce additional fees for bespoke or 'fast track' services and introduce double fees for retrospective applications amongst other proposals.

Flooding: After a huge amount of public money has been spent on remedying the flooding situation in Arrington it is depressing that floodwaters are this morning running down the A1198 and at least one property has been flooded. Early days but it looks like more work is required at this site.

Road Closures: High St Shingay-cum-Wendy (Jubilee Cottages) April 6; Church Lane Gamlingay (St Mary's) April 3-7; Church St Harston (with diversion via Barrington) April 11-14; Mill St Gamlingay March 20-28.

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

SCDC Williams' report to the meeting

Mechanical Cleaner: The smaller unit has been through the village. Cllr Williams asked if anyone had noticed the difference, and whether it would be worth including Croydon on the regular route.

Council Tax: Council Tax will be going up, with the addition of a new tax from the Combined Authority which is towards provision of buses. This new tax will add £12-00 to a Band D property. Some Council Tax bills have been incorrectly printed, so it is likely that they will need to be re-printed.

Food Waste Collection: Cllr Williams had hoped that this initiative would be rolled out across the county, but it has been stopped altogether.

4 Day week: SCDC is looking at a four day week for the bin men/ladies. The four day week is not popular with everyone - trying to do a week's work in four days is considered to be too stressful. There is still some working from home, but people are needed to go in to work as, with the four day week, some departments are left with no officers available at all, and it also makes team working difficult.

Rents: Council rents are increasing by 7%, the same as Council Tax. Cllr Williams did not support this motion because those who can least afford it will be hit with a double financial blow.

Congestion Zone: This is proceeding at present, but Cllr Williams felt that there should be a referendum. If the idea is supported after a referendum, she said at least there would be a mandate to continue.

Civil Parking: This will enable CCC Highway agents to issue parking fines in certain areas.

SCDC Williams' written report for The Mordens Ward SCDC - March 2023

Not yet received

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

Finance:

Bank Statement: Balance at the end of February - £5308-09

Cheques: An invoice from Sanders and Jay for £238-80 was received for a year's website hosting. The PCC has a shortfall on the installation of the Jubilee bench and has approached Council for £111-90 to cover the shortfall. Mr Barnes did not participate in the PCC bench discussion as he has family connections. Council has an interest in the land where the bench is sited, having purchased the land for the village. The Chairman proposed that cheques for £238-80 and £111-90 should be raised and signed. All councillors eligible in each vote were in favour.

Bank Signatory: Clerk is still waiting for confirmation from Barclays that the third signatory on the bank account has been authorised.

NS & I: The interest from past year is £20-60, so the total in the Investment Account is currently £22,158-23. The bulk of this money is the Community Benefit Fund, but there is also some of the Council's operational funds saved in there. Clerk had already outlined the state of the finances and felt that, as current account funds had been used for Community Benefit purposes, it would be prudent to withdraw £2500 to make sure that Council is solvent until the first instalment of the precept is received. Councillors discussed this and it was proposed by the Chair that this should be done. All were in favour. As Mr Sole was still at work, Mr Barnes signed the cheques and the required NS & I paperwork, and the Clerk will approach Mr Sole out of meeting for his signature on these.

Planning: 23/00663/HFUL: Two storey side extension

Low Farm, Acacia Farmhouse Lower Road Croydon Cambridgeshire SG8 0EE

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/00663/HFUL>

Council discussed the plans and did not have any objections to the proposal as detailed in the application.

23/00814/PRIOR: Erection of an agricultural building
Valley Farm Lower Road Croydon

Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/23/00814/PRIOR>

Council discussed the plans and did not have any objections to the proposal as shown in the plans and the necessity for it. The proposed barn would be to the rear of the office complex.

It was proposed by the Chairman that both applications would be supported. All in favour.

Items for next agenda: None received

Date of the next meetings:

Annual meeting: Wednesday 19th April 2023 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 17th May 2023 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed

Date

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