

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Wenman - unable to attend, Clerk - has Covid. Cllr William sent her apologies after the meeting, as she was in a work meeting until around 10.00pm.

Present: Mr Wheeler, Mr Barnes, Mr Sole, Ms Newland, Mrs Sole, Mr Buchanan and one member of the public.

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

Declarations of Interest: None received.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Luton Airport Flight Paths: The Council wants to add their comments regarding the noise etc from the revised flight paths. A Croydon letter was circulated to Councillors and they were in agreement that a letter from Croydon should be sent. Council has also been asked to support the RELAS letter which is being sent before the deadline. Clerk to action.

SpeedWatch volunteers: There are enough volunteers to start a Speedwatch group. Clerk was instructed to contact the volunteers, with a view to obtaining a co-ordinator from those volunteers. A co-ordinator ensures that the data collected by the Group gets to the SpeedWatch Business unit that processes it. Arrington's data is transcribed into a data base form and saved as a CSV (Excel type) document. The results are then emailed to the Business unit. The group has to have its own specific email address and account. All volunteers have to sign an indemnity form and the Co-ordinator has to keep a record of everyone's form and contact details.

Extra Long Litter Picker and Signs:

Following some problems over the location of Council's payment, the litter pickers have finally been received and are at the Clerk's residence. Mr Buchanan was making enquiries about additional litter picking signs, as requested by the team.

Lower Road: Council is still waiting for the results of the fatal accident from the Police and Highways Investigation Team have both reported. Until these have been received, no signage or speed restrictions will be made, although a large bumpy road sign has appeared on Larkins Road, which has been there for some time. Cllr Kindersley was not in the meeting at the time. If the reports indicate that further signage would be beneficial, then Council may like to apply to Local Highway Improvements.

Presentation of pre-application plans: A resident would like to present their pre-planning application plans to Council. After discussion, Council thought this may require a village consultation. If the resident applied to the planners, then Croydon would automatically be informed and the identity and address could be published. Following the discussion Councillors voted unanimously against a pre-application presentation of the plans to Council, although the resident is welcome to arrange a village meeting and present his plans in that way.

Website recurring problem: The website did not have a warranty attached to it. However the agreement made by the previous Chair indicated that any problems would be dealt with at an ad hoc rate of £65-00 per hour. This was 2 years ago, so the cost is likely to have increased. Clerk was instructed to contact Sanders and Jay to have the problem corrected, but to challenge the possible £100 + VAT projected cost.

East-West Rail: Cambridge Approaches has co-ordinated a simple letter of protest at the Southern Approach selection and Cllr Kindersley copied it to Council, with a request that the Parish Council considers agreeing to add their support to the letter. At first glance the Parish may not directly impacted by the route selection but between a new town at Tempsford and a lengthy and disruptive construction period for the Railway there will be few Parishes in South Cambridgeshire unaffected by this decision. Councillors were in favour of adding their support to the letter.

Anthony Browne meeting: Our MP strongly believes in the importance of growth and development for this region. However, he is also keenly aware that this must be approached thoughtfully and responsibly, as this area's unique natural beauty and existing amenities could be compromised without careful consideration. Details on how the "Cambridge 2040" plan will be implemented are beginning to surface,

but there remain crucial questions about the precise locations for housing and commercial space, as well as the funding for essential infrastructure improvements.

Our MP is deeply committed to promoting Cambridge as a global tech capital, understanding the significance of investing in wet lab space to foster technological advancements. South Cambs' population is growing rapidly, placing immense strain on the existing infrastructure, and proactive action to address these challenges must be taken.

This meeting provided an opportunity to listen to concerns about the potential impact of excessive development without adequate planning for services and infrastructure and engage in an open and constructive dialogue. It is right that representatives from local Parish Councils have the opportunity to voice their concerns, propose solutions, and work collaboratively on this issue.

Mr Wheeler attended this virtual meeting with Anthony Browne and has updated the Council with the content.

Parish On-Line: Council does not want to take up the offer as it has the Croydon Village website - Clerk to acquaint the company of this decision.

Local Highways Improvements: The Local Highways Improvement (LHI) programme covers all districts in Cambridgeshire and invites any groups or organisations that represent the local community to apply for funding. The schemes are community driven and give local people the opportunity to put forward proposals for highway improvements in their area. Councillors discussed the re-siting of the 30 mph sign by Church Farm Heights as it is obscured by a telegraph pole. Clerk to complete the survey indicating that Croydon would like to participate.

Follow-Up information

Gmail addresses: It was reported that nearly all the Councillors now have a gmail address. Mrs Sole has taken responsibility for setting up her gmail, as well as Mr Sole's. The format is Councillor's initials, followed by croydonpc@gmail.com.

CPRE: Clerk requested that Council's membership be transferred to Cambridgeshire, as it is only the Post Office that thinks Croydon is in Hertfordshire. This has been done and the membership pack for Cambridgeshire has been received.

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: Alterations circulated to Councillors, and the register will be updated.

Highway Events: October's Highlights

IWM Duxford q4th October: Final event of the flying year

*Please remember details of all highway events can be found on

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/highway-events/>

Action on Energy - Autumn event: [Action on Energy Cambridgeshire](#) is a partnership between Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. Together we provide our communities with advice on how to maximise the energy efficiency of their homes, save money on their energy bills and cut carbon. An event is being organised to see how it would be possible to work together to deliver home energy efficiency improvements at the pace and scale required to support our communities. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Date/Time: Wednesday 11 Oct 2023, 10:00 - 14:00

Location: Meadows Community Centre, 299 Arbury Road Cambridge CB4 2JL

Full details and to sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-together-to-improve-energy-efficiency-of-cambridgeshires-homes-tickets-651872818147?aff=oddtcreator>

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come-first served basis.

Congestion Charge: Following the amount of public opposition to the proposed charge, this was first "watered down" and finally scrapped, although it is likely to resurface at a later date. Quote from Cllr Mike Davey - "Sustainable travel has not gone away - something is going to have to happen."

The Library Presents: Cambridgeshire County Council's 'The Library Presents' is back this autumn full of fun and fantasy with the widest range of arts activities yet with over 50 events across Cambridgeshire libraries. An eclectic mix of performances and workshops are on offer to suit all ages, including music, theatre and dance, as well as magic, puppetry and film showings. The 10-week-long season of 52 events, which will run until December, kicks off on 1 October with a condensed version of Macbeth.

Tickets are on sale from 1 September. Standard performances are £8 and workshops are £6. Concessions and other affordable options are available, to make sure everyone can join in. You can find details and book tickets at [The Library Presents events online at Library.Live](#)

CCC - Weed Spraying Policy: In April 2023, the Council changed its operational policy in relation to the removal of weeds. The purpose of the change was to achieve two goals;

1. To improve the natural environment and biodiversity by reducing the use of chemicals that can have a detrimental environmental impact.
2. To reduce the running costs of the operations as part of the overall need to reduce costs across the Council as part of its budget planning process.

The policy change moved the Council away from carrying out cyclic chemical spraying of road edges, channels and footpaths to a risk-based approach where we will remove weeds where they present a hazard to road users. We will however pre-treat weeds ahead of any works that we undertake such as resurfacing or slurry sealing.

Generally, weeds are not a safety issue for road users. They can be unsightly but do not affect their safety unless they build up significantly to become a trip or visibility hazard. When we are made aware of concerns by the public and communities, we will assess the risk the reported weeds present and then determine what action to take.

Council instructed the Clerk to contact the County Council regarding the amount of weeds in the gullies and lay-bys, which is causing the rainwater to run down the road and not into drainage. There is also a survey attached to this CCC policy, which all Councillors were asked to complete.

SLCC - draft climate action guide for smaller councils: A 24-page document received from the Society of Local Council Clerks. This was not printed out but has been circulated to all Councillors.

Circulated Items:

- Cambridgeshire Matters
- Cambridgeshire ACRE
- NHS September newsletter
- Anthony Brown's newsletters
- Arthur Rank House
- 3C Building Control
- Zero Carbon Communities
- SCDC - Civility and Respect training
- Community Gritting Scheme
- Hedgehog Highway
- Eco-homes events

Subsequent Receipts:

Green Connect: No-one available to attend this meeting on 27th September.

SCDC Parish Council Planning Meeting: To be held on 5th November via Zoom. No-one available.

GCP Executive Meeting: To be held on 28th September, live streamed on YouTube at 4pm. No-one available at this time of day.

Slow Ways: This is a network of walking routes connecting all of Britain's towns, cities and national parks. Over 120,000km of routes join up all of Great Britain's towns and cities, and now these routes need verifying. Would anyone be interested in walking some of these local routes, to check that they are correct and accessible. No-one interested.

Village Sign: A member of the public reported at the Council meeting last week that a "Croydon" sign has never been present on the road from Hatley on the approach to Croydon. Having a sign there could slow traffic approaching the village from Hatley. All other entries into the village have a village sign. This will be an agenda item for the October meeting,

Finance:

Bank Statement: From the bank statements, the balances in the current accounts at the end of July were £3396 - 54 and at the end of August - £3204 - 56.

PKF Littlejohn: Notification received that Council's Exempt Status has been logged.

Barclays Bank: Paperwork received from Barclays asking that the current cheque signatories would confirm the information requested on the form. Clerk dealt with this out of meeting as a rapid response was required. A letter was also enclosed regarding the third bank signatory - Barclays has already seen Mr Wheeler's credentials, and closure of the local branch and his employment is making it difficult for the

him to attend a branch of Barclays. Clerk asked that as he had previously been signing cheques for about 10 years, whether it was still necessary to take further paperwork into a branch. A reply from Barclays is awaited.

Items for next agenda: Macmillan Coffee Morning - 29th September 10.00am - 1.00pm
Speed sign at the Arrington entry into Croydon - resident's email

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

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed

Date

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