

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mrs Sole - work commitments, Cllr Kindersley - SCDC event..

Present: Mr Wheeler, Mr Barnes, Mr Sole, Ms Newland, Mr Wenman, Mr Buchanan and the Clerk.

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

Declarations of Interest: None received

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Community reports: None received.

Litter pick signs: Mr Buchanan reported that his contact has sold the company, and so would probably be unable to access economically priced signs now. He asked if the additional signs were necessary as there are already two available. In the meantime, he and the Clerk will search for another potential supplier.

Lower Road - report from Highways/Police: Still nothing heard from either organisation yet. The Clerk will ask her Highways contract if he can shed any light on this.

Poor broadband at west end of village:

Mr Buchanan indicated that some form of intervention from the Parish Council may persuade the broadband provider(s) to add a fibre line from the Larkins Road cabinet to the centre of the village. Currently, individual properties appear to "drop out" as the finite number of connections is rotated around the residences. Mr Buchanan will prepare a suitable letter which the Clerk will place onto a PC letterhead before sending to the appropriate supplier.

CCC Weed Control: Following the furore caused by the proposal by CCC to cease chemical weed control, their policy has been reviewed. Council was not keen on chemical control, and the financial benefit offered if Council declined to join the programme was insufficient to employ a manual weed puller, so reluctantly has joined the chemical weed removal programme. .

King Charles III portrait: All Councils have been offered a framed portrait of HM King Charles III. Council does not have any property in which to display this, but has approached the Reading Room Trustees to see if they would like it. They would like it and it has been ordered.

SCDC Four-Day week: Extract from Cllr Smith's letter regarding publication of data requested by Government

"We are proud of the Council's performance data and whilst we are careful not to draw conclusions regarding the four-day week trial, initial evidence suggests that it is benefitting the Council, with key performance indicators (KPIs) demonstrating no statistically significant negative impact of the trial, and indeed in a number of areas KPIs indicated an improvement in productivity."

Our MP, Anthony Brown, has published the following in his weekly newsletter on 24th February:-

"I worked with my team to scrutinise the latest report on the four-day week from South Cambridgeshire District Council and wrote a column about it for the Cambridge News. The only surprising thing about it was their honesty, admitting it is saving a fraction of the money they have previously been loudly claiming. There has also been a dramatic increase in overtime, as staff struggle to do a week's work in four days, but the Lib Dems refuse to tell the residents paying those overtime bills what the cost of it is."

It does seem unfair that, although SCDC officers are already paid for 5 days, they can claim overtime if unable to complete their workload in 4 days!

Car Show facilities: Clerk obtained quotations for the supply of portaloos for the Car Show, which are funded by Council. The previous supplier was the most favourable quote and it was proposed by Mr Barnes and seconded by Mr Wenman that WC Portables would be utilised for the event. All in favour. Clerk will make the booking and request an invoice.

Electric Charging Points survey: A survey was recently circulated on Mailchimp, asking residents' opinions of electric cars and potential charging points. It would be appreciated if as many as possible can complete and return the survey.

Follow up information

Gmail address: The last Councillor has not reported that a gmail address is operational, but will try and get it established as soon as possible.

Gamlingay Division Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – March 2024

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, 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 is on 01767 650510 or Cllr.BridgetSmith@scambs.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on X @Cllrbridget @SebKindersley and Facebook.

Council Tax: All the local authorities have now met and agreed their Budgets for the forthcoming financial year. South Cambridgeshire District Council will increase by £5 for the average band D home, equivalent to a below inflation rise of around 3%. In addition, £519,000 has been agreed as part of the council's continued Digital Transformation work - which aims to make services even more accessible to residents in a way that works for you. The rise sees the average band D home charge £170.31 per year. This is an increase of around 10p per week. This rise continues to maintain the Council's position in the lowest 25% of taxing District Councils in the country.

Unlike many other councils, SCDC is on a sound financial footing. Well targeted commercial investments bring in around £7M per year, which mitigates the huge cut in Government support that all councils have endured in recent years. If it were not for the threat of the Government's Fair Funding Review, which threatens to strip district councils of business tax revenue and give it to bigger, unitary councils, SCDC would have a projected surplus all the way to 2029 (and few councils can say that).

The Council Tax relief threshold has been increased in line with inflation so that people on the lowest incomes can continue to claim. SCDC is one of the few councils offering up to 100% relief for those residents in most need.

To maintain the council's housing stock to a high standard, and to build more council houses, council rents are being raised by 7.7 per cent.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Full Council has also agreed a balanced budget for 2024/25. Members also prioritised funding to improve the condition of roads and footpaths, as well as anti-poverty services. They acknowledged that this was a difficult budget process as many residents have told them that they continue to feel the squeeze from the cost-of-living pressures, but the council also faces significant cost increases. The county council had to close a gap of £37.4m – with 75% of the Council's net spend now being funded from Council Tax. CCC agreed a Council Tax rise of 4.99% (which includes 2% for Adult Social Services) – raising £17.5m of local income to help maintain and protect critical services for the most vulnerable communities. For the majority of our residents in Band A-D properties that will mean between an extra 99 pence to £1.48 a week.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service plans to increase its share of council tax by 2.99% from April 2024. For a Band D property this is an annual increase of £2.34, totalling £82.26 per year or £1.58 a week. However, a combination of financial and crewing pressures means the service has had to consult on a proposal that aims to increase the number of fire engines we have available at weekends in daytime hours but potentially closing Fire Stations at Sutton, Manea and Kimbolton.

The Police & Crime Commissioner's suggested 4.8% increase to the policing element of the council tax will go ahead after Police and Crime Panel members backed the plans during a meeting at the end of January. This equates to an extra 17p per week for Band A property and 25p a week for the average Band D household (£13 per year); and the Commissioner warned that without the additional income, it would be impossible to protect

policing services at their current levels and maintain the performance improvements delivered by the force over the past 12 months.

Lastly, the Mayoral Combined Authority Mayoral agreed an annual precept of £36 a year for a Band D property which equates to £3 per month per household, which will be invested in improvements to dozens of bus routes, including new routes, more frequent services on some existing routes across the region and three demand responsive transport schemes. We shall see.

Council Motions: SCDC agreed a number of interesting motions at Full Council last month. One was to treat care leavers as a protected group, meaning that in every decision the council makes moving forward, the council must bear in mind the impact that decision will have on those who have been in care – this follows the County Council who decided this in July 2023. The second motion asked the Council to work towards White Ribbon accreditation. In fact we are already doing this. White Ribbon are a domestic abuse advocacy organisation who work to provide education about domestic abuse, in particular violence against women. This motion was also agreed unanimously. And finally the council agreed to supply sanitary products as part of its Cost of Living support to people who are struggling to manage.

Home Adaptations: Last year Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency (Cambs HIA) helped more than a hundred families in South Cambs access grants such as Disabled Facilities Grants and Special Purpose Grants to undertake adaptations and repairs in their homes. Adaptations in homes can help prevent accidents, assist people with long term health conditions and help people live comfortably and independently. Please feel free to get in touch with manager Frances Swann at frances.swann@cambshia.org or at 01954 713456 to know more – the Cambs HIA is a partnership between South Camb DC, Cambridge City Council and Hunts District Council dedicated to enhancing the living conditions of residents, particularly focusing on older adults, individuals with disabilities, and those with limited incomes.

Household Support Fund: Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed that it will continue to provide supermarket vouchers for eligible families costing upwards of £3m. Originally funded by Government the Department for Work and Pensions has now stopped funding the scheme but it has proved necessary for so many families and so it will continue. More than 23,000 supermarket vouchers were distributed during February half term. The recent quality of life survey of over 5,000 residents in Cambridgeshire showed that 86% of residents were concerned about cost of living increases and for those getting vouchers 74%+ said the scheme had reduced the need for them to seek other sources of support in the school holidays such as food banks.

Road Improvements: The footways in Blythe Way Gamlingay will be slurry sealed sometime between April 1st and October 1st. Although the proposal is not yet agreed by Committee as I write officers have submitted a budget request of £325k to resurface Church St this financial year; as well as some repairs to footways on Station Rd, Fairfield and School Close.

4 Day Week Update: SCDC has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Public Sector Transformation Awards 2024 in the Efficiency and Effectiveness category for the four-day week trial. The category is described as looking for an organisation that has “harnessed the real potential in their organisation, delivering elevated performance, creating efficiencies, and delivering outstanding customer service with improved value to their residents. Above all, this organisation has shown its ability to adapt to a fast-paced and ever-changing environment, while achieving fantastic results in doing so.” We are in the final along with Kent Police and Swindon Borough Council. [Results after sending Notes in – sorry!]

South Cambs trial of the 4 Day Week working model comes to an end at the end of March. A paper went to the Employment and Staffing Committee recommending the 4 Day Week continues until all of the data collected over the past 12 months has been independently analysed and there is clarity from central government regarding their threats to levy financial penalties on any council that uses this working model. Once all of that is known the whole council will be able to vote on whether to become a 4 Day Week employer.

From September 2022 to 31 December 2023 the Council spent £434,000 less on agency staff by filling posts that were previously identified as hard to fill; this includes planners, HGV drivers (waste service) and business analysts.

It is possible to operate a four-day week working practice without jeopardising performance and service delivery. Route optimisation of waste collection (necessary anyway because of the increase in growth in the Greater Cambridge area) has been successful with few resident complaints.

There has been a positive impact on colleague health and wellbeing and a reduction in days lost due to sickness. This is especially positive amongst waste crews where musculoskeletal injuries are commonplace due to the physical nature of their work.

School transport: Residents often ask what local authorities actually spend money on. One of Cambridgeshire County Council's responsibilities is to provide school transport. In July we had 82,311 students in Cambridgeshire – most of whom get themselves to school. However, 14% get assistance (from buses, taxis etc) which costs us (you) £32.4 million split between mainstream pupils at 11.2m and special needs assistance at £21.2m.

More pupils get first choice of secondary school: A greater percentage of Cambridgeshire students will be going to their first choice secondary school this September. A total of 87.9 per cent have been offered a place at their first choice school—up from 87.1 per cent last year. The proportion offered a place at their first, second or third preference school has also risen, from 95.4 per cent in 2023 to 95.8 per cent this year. The total number of places offered this year was fewer than last – 7,220 compared with 7,413.

Funding for Planning: South Cambs is one of 43 councils that has been awarded £100,000 to support the adoption of cutting edge planning practices. The focus is on new digital service improvements which will hopefully speed up planning decisions.

Community Chest Grants: At a time when many other councils are axing all of their community grants South Cambs continues to award up to £2000 to community groups in the district. Recent awards have been made to a scout group, a pre-school and for a nature recovery plan. Applications are really simple so please do apply using the website if you have a good idea.

Forward Gamlingay: The current trustees of Forward Gamlingay have all been in role for between 15 and 20 years and are very keen to recruit some new blood. The main function of the charity is running the hugely successful youth club on a Thursday night. If you would like to know more please contact Bridget.

Cambridge 2050: By the time you read this we may have learnt more about Michael Gove's ambitions to turn Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire into the UK's Silicon Valley. Central to this is the building of 250,000 more houses - many in South Cambs and essentially quadrupling the size of the city (currently about 55,000 houses). Currently the crisis in water supply has stopped all large scale development in South Cambs so this is all pie in the sky until that little issue is resolved.

Gamlingay Food Bank: Gamlingay's food bank is currently supporting over 40 households who are struggling to manage with the increased cost of living. Unfortunately, though not surprisingly, the cost of living is also having an impact on donations to the food bank and they are not seeing anything like the donations that they need. They are running a campaign to encourage us all to buy an extra can or two when we do our own shopping. If everyone in Gamlingay did this once a month that would make a real difference – thank you!

Shire Hall back on the market: Bids are invited for the lease or purchase of part of the Shire Hall site in Cambridge, after the previous preferred bidder was unable to continue their interest. Shire Hall had been the County Council's headquarters since the 1930s, but the site itself was the seat of government in Cambridge for over a thousand years. Previously the site of two medieval castles, the building was the county council's administrative centre from its completion in 1933 until 2022, when the council relocated to Alconbury as part of its planned savings programme.

The council expects strong interest from commercial bidders, with the building's prime position in Cambridge making it highly suitable for different uses. Due to the historic importance of the site all proposals will require full planning and listed building consents to ensure protection of the assets on site. The council has applied to give part of the lawn between the front of Shire Hall and the Mound the legal protection of 'Town Green' status,

and has also invested in new interpretation boards and increased litter bins and maintenance to improve the visitor experience. These areas are not included in the disposal. More information from Max Marston at BNP Paribas Real Estate (Max.marston@realestate.bnpparibas).

Have your say on creating Healthy Places: Cambridgeshire's public health team is inviting residents to have their say on how new and existing communities can be healthy, supportive and inclusive. Work is currently under way to develop the Healthy Places Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To inform this, the team has launched a survey asking for views on access to healthcare services, inclusive and accessible green spaces, opportunities for active travel and healthy play and leisure, and the provision of affordable healthy food options. The survey is at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WNC1CB/> and is open until Monday 15 April at 5:00PM.

If you have any questions about the survey or the Healthy Places Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, please email healthinallpolicies@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Free data SIM cards for low income households: A reminder that Cambridgeshire Libraries are part of Good Things Foundation's National Databank, O2 and Vodaphone scheme, which makes free data SIM cards or vouchers available to anyone aged 18+ from a low-income household. Recipients can self-declare as eligible, and the support is available for a maximum period of twelve months. The data can be used with any SIM-enabled device. This offer is available at a range of libraries - ask library staff for more details.

Weekly food waste collections: The Government is moving towards weekly food waste collections across the country, with financial support to district councils for changes to collection of the waste, but not to county councils for disposing of it. Any councils not taking up the arrangements would be 'named in legislation' as being exempt from these collection arrangements, until such time as their existing waste contracts expired. In Cambridgeshire's case this is 2037, when the PFI contract at Waterbeach ends - a long time to wait. After prolonged discussion between Cambridgeshire's county and district councils, they have been able to agree to move to weekly collections, and avoid being listed in the legislation.

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!

February/March 2024 Update from Cllr Heather Williams District Councillor for The Mordens

South Cambridgeshire District Council's 2024 Budget: On Tuesday 27 February, I scrutinised the administration's Budget proposals in a Full Council meeting. I voted against the proposal to increase council tax by the legal maximum amount, and I voted against the proposal to increase affordable housing rents by 7.7%. I was disappointed but not surprised that the administration unanimously voted for these proposals, whilst voting to give councillors a 5% pay rise - another proposal that I voted against.

My own group's Budget proposals (see below) considered in the meeting included freezing council tax and housing rents, in addition to removing further special allowances for councillors. I believe that, especially with the current cost of living, the council should be playing its part to help residents - not feathering its own nest. Unfortunately, however, the administration unanimously rejected our proposals. I also raised my concerns that the administration's budget gap is now almost £4.5 million. I warned the administration last year that the budget gap would increase if they didn't change their mentality - and it has increased. My group all rejected the significant increases in debt and borrowing, horrified that the administration is still trying to live beyond the council's means.

I was pleased to see a number of positive motions passed unanimously by all councillors, showing that unity is possible on important issues. Councillors voted to continue pursuing White Ribbon accreditation, to request an expansion to its cost of living support scheme to tackle period poverty, and to do all we can to help ensure those who have grown up in the care system have equal opportunities.

Conservative Group Budget Proposal for 2024/2025:

Ongoing Expenditure proposals

1. Freeze the council tax It has been a difficult couple of years for residents dealing with the cost of living crisis resulting in part from the Russia-Ukraine war, and also with the pressures of the Covid19 pandemic. Ever-increasing household bills, particularly in relation to heating and fuel costs, have hit people hard. It is proposed to freeze the council tax at 2023/24 levels to assist residents struggling to meet their living costs. The income forgone in 2024/25 as a result will be around £343,000.

2. Additional planning enforcement (compliance) officer. There is a need to bolster resources in the planning enforcement team and it is proposed to add an additional officer at a cost of £62,000 to provide for the growing demands and complexities of investigating breaches of planning conditions and consent.

3. Additional Envirocrime enforcement officer There is an increasing problem with fly tipping nationally and South Cambs is not immune to this. It has been recognised that resources deployed to tackle this issue are woefully short and although additional resources are being deployed they don't go far enough. A further officer and dedicated vehicle are proposed to bolster the resources to tackle this anti-social behaviour. The cost of an officer would be £49,000 and the cost of the vehicle would be £50,000, which would be included in the Capital programme. The running costs of this additional vehicle are estimated at £21,000.

4. Additional contact centre officers The contact centre is a vital resource to the Council in its interaction with residents of the district and it is important that it is properly resourced. Particularly given the extra strain that will be put on it with the administration's decision to hire out parts of the building, two further officers will enable the contact centre to deliver the level of service that the public rightly expect. The cost of this would be £74,000.

5. Tackling Isolation Officer Mobility and social interaction are vital lifelines for residents living in more remote, rural South Cambs villages. The proposal is to employ a part-time Tackling Isolation Officer costing £16,000 who will work to support isolated residents and families, enabling them to socially interact within their local area.

6. Self-financing Transformation incentive scheme Transformation works best when the process runs throughout the organisation, fuelled by bottom-up ideas. It is proposed to introduce a self-financing Transformation incentive scheme where staff are encouraged to suggest Transformation initiatives, to then be rewarded with a bonus if their idea is selected and if it saves the council money. Any reward would be paid using that saving. Devising new ideas would not be part of their normal day-to-day responsibilities.

Ongoing Expenditure Proposals

1. Scrap the four-day week. The additional costs relating to the four-day week waste trial of £103,500 be used to part fund the ongoing proposals above.

2. Remove second Special Responsibility Allowance for councillors: It is proposed that the current policy that allows councillors to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance be discontinued, this will save around £14,000. This would ensure the council can continue to maximise the money it directs to delivering for residents.

3. Removal of the Transformation department: The Transformation department continues to be a significant area of expenditure for the council, amounting to £3.894 million in 2022/23. Further, we have seen this department expand by 63 staff since 2018/19. It is proposed that the transformation process be done by existing staff in existing departments. Two members of staff would coordinate the programme and a member(s) of existing staff from each department would be seconded the role of delivering transformation in their department. This would ensure transformation is a bottom-up part of the process completed within departments, rather than top-down, and would save the council money in doing so.

4. Data: It is proposed that the £111,000 bid for the two staff for the new internal data team is not taken forward at this time. The alternative proposal would be to allocate this responsibility to a member(s) of each department, who can then submit departmental data to senior leaders for collation. Completing this work with existing staff would save money and ensure data collection is done by experts in their respective departments.

5. Magazine: The council produces four issues of the South Cambs Magazine per year. It is proposed to reduce the number of issues from four to two, which will save around £30,000. Six-monthly magazines should provide readers with sufficient updates and information.

One off proposals

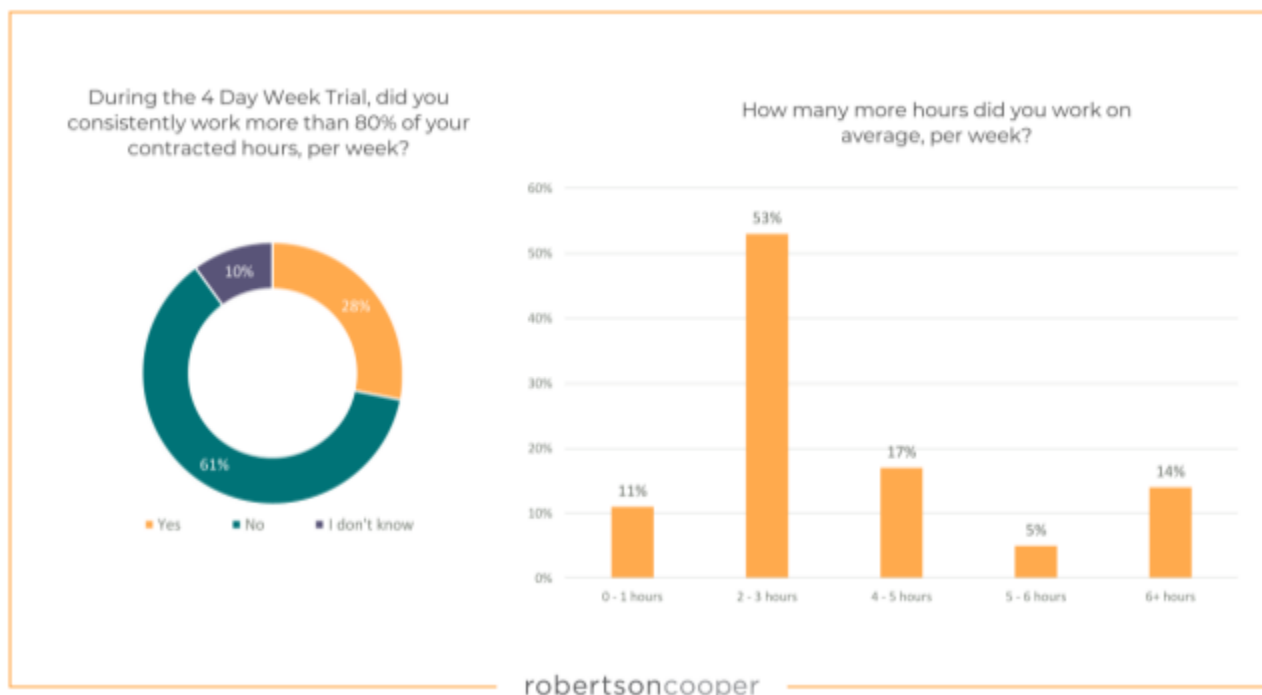
7. Remove bid for Systems Analyst post Remove the bid for an extension to the systems analyst post, saving around £42,000

8. Additional funding for fraud prevention and investigation: Local Authorities have in recent years seen increasing amounts of attempted fraud against them and, if anything, the Covid-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis has seen this sort of activity increase further. It is important to tackle this growing trend and preventative work is seen as a key element to achieving this. It is therefore proposed to invest £10,000 in further fraud prevention work and raising fraud awareness in the community and other related projects. The additional cost of the successful Key Amnesty project carried out this time last year was minimal.

9. Additional vehicle to tackle Envirocrime: An additional allocation be made in the capital programme for an additional vehicle for Envirocrime in the sum of £50,000.

10. Earmarked reserves: The remaining difference to one off items of £18,000 be funded from earmarked reserves.

Four-day week update: I am continuing to scrutinise the four-day working week trial at the council. A wellbeing survey completed by 328 staff showed that almost 100 staff are working more than four days a week - with 53% working 2-3 more hours a week, and 14% working a 6+ hours a week. This means performance is being propped up by some workers working more than four days a week - which is not right. Performance in seven out of 16 working areas has stagnated or declined during the trial, showing staff are struggling to fit all their work in to four days.



The administration repeatedly assured us that any drop in performance would stop the four-day week trial. And yet on Tuesday 12 March, the Cabinet voted to continue the trial - with desk based staff working 32 hours a week instead of 30, matching the hours worked by waste crews. I will continue working hard to ensure residents get what they are paying for - that is, five days' work for five days' pay. I am analysing the data sent to the government each week and will continue to hold the administration to account over their reckless social experiment.

Easter bin collection changes: Only bin collections due to take place on Good Friday (29 March) will be affected by the upcoming Easter bank holidays. Any residents with a bin collection due on Good Friday should put their bin out on Monday 25 March - four days earlier than usual. All other bin collections will remain the same.

Increased fines for fly tipping In July 2023, the government announced that maximum fines for fly tipping, littering, household, duty of care offences and graffiti would be increased to help reduce the issues of environmental crimes and target the worst offenders. The new fines for South Cambridgeshire which come into force on 1 April 2024 are:

- Fly-tipping Fixed Penalty Notices will increase from £400 to £700. The government maximum is £1000.
- Littering or graffiti fines increase from £150 to £400. The government maximum is £500.
- Breaching a household waste duty of care increase from £400 to £600.

Fly tipping is a blight on our beautiful countryside. I am encouraging people to dispose of their waste responsibly to prevent environmental destruction and landscape damage - whilst also avoiding a hefty fine.

Grants for community groups and parish councils: If you are from a local community group or parish council, please do make the most of the council's available grant schemes. The GrantGrabber service helps you search for available grants - all in one place. For further information on receiving a grant for a community project from the council, please visit the grants webpage.

Thank you for reading my report. If I can be of any assistance, please do get in touch.

Cllr Heather Williams SCDC The Mordens Ward

Tel: 07885 774 775

Email: cllr.williamsh@scambsh.gov.uk

Twitter: @Cllr_H_Williams

Facebook Page: Cllr Heather Williams

Website: www.cllrheatherwilliams.co.uk

Correspondence:

Electoral Register alterations: An updated Electoral Register for 23 - 24 has been received. Councillors inspected this and found several discrepancies, due to people moving away and not reporting this to SCDC.

Highway Events: There is a lot of work being undertaken, but this is mostly in the Fen area and not local to Croydon.

The Big Lunch - June 1 and 2: The Big Lunch is the UK's annual get-together for neighbours and communities, with millions of people coming together for a few hours of food, friendship, and fun. It connects people and encourages friendlier, safer communities where people start to share more – conversations, ideas, skills, resources and friendship. The Afternoon Tea ladies put together a lunch for their regulars when they have made sufficient profit from the Teas. The Clerk suggested that their Spring Lunch might be scheduled to take place on this weekend - Ms Newland will consult her colleagues and report back to Council.

Lemon Booking: Following enquiries, it was decided that the service offered is not suitable for Council's requirements.

Speed Awareness wheelie bin stickers: Here at Smartwheelie.co.uk we have been supplying wheelie bin stickers to community and parish councils across the country for 20 years. These self adhesive signs are a cost effective way of raising awareness of lower speed limits in residential and built up areas. Price example: Pack of 100 = £120.00 (Delivered). Council declined to purchase these.

Volunteer Cambs: What is Volunteer Cambs? At www.volunteercambs.org.uk, would-be volunteers can explore opportunities tailored to them - searching by location or by topics that match their skill set and interests - for a specific cause that may be close to their heart, the type of activity they may be interested in, or even by the time they have available.

Organisations and groups load up their opportunities and profiles directly so there's always something new for volunteers to look at every time they visit the site. And the good causes who are promoting their work benefit by having a continuous stream of potential volunteers.

If you are interested in joining then contact Sally Page - info@volunteercambs.org.uk - or on 07564 713 111 (Monday – Friday)

Cambridge Approaches: Cambridge Approaches invites you to join them for an online Zoom update about East West Rail and the impact on your community on March 26th 2024 from 8.00 - 9.30pm

- Update on East West Rail project and Cambridge Approaches campaign activity
- Economics of East West Rail: still no business case!
- Cambridge Biomedical Campus and why it is driving the Southern Approach
- Hear from Buckinghamshire councillor about the real impact of EWR development on local communities, including noise, road closures and vermin
- How East West Rail development will affect you in South Cambridgeshire
- Statutory Consultation - what is it, when is it happening, and how can you respond?

To take part in the meeting you will need to register in advance:

Sign up for a free Zoom account here.

Click this registration link and register for the meeting by providing your name and email address. We would appreciate it if you use your real name so that we know who is speaking in the discussion.

You should then receive a link to the meeting in an email sent to the email address that you registered. You can also join by phone on the phone numbers provided in your registration email. What could possibly go wrong?! email info@cambridgeapproaches.org if you are stuck. It's a good idea to register early and arrive for the meeting on time because our Zoom subscription limits the number of participants.

CCC Holiday Activities and Food programme: CCC is offering to children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals access a holiday scheme for up to 16 hours and will be offering enriching experiences, a meal and snacks daily. Recently arrived refugee families are also eligible as well as families just about managing financially. There is a poster in the notice board and information available on the village website - croydon-village.co.uk

Circulated:

SCDC Parish weekly agendas/e-bulletin

Anthony Browne's weekly updates

Cambridgeshire Matters

CCC/SCDC Community Services

Cambs ACRE Staying in Touch

Integrated Care System newsletter

EWR - Cambridge Approaches

Arthur's Shed - Cambridge

CPRE Campaigns Update

Subsequent Receipts:

Local Nature Recovery Strategy: A CCC led initiative. "Our area is one of the most nature depleted in England and your response to the survey's below will help develop a strategy to help our county to become a world-class environment where both nature and people can thrive. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) will set priorities for nature recovery across England. Your input will help to identify existing habitats and species which it is important to conserve, as well as opportunities to increase biodiversity and create a landscape more resilient to climate change and other environmental pressures.

Are you a local group or organisation that has an interest in nature recovery, we would like to hear your thoughts and ideas to help shape nature recovery in our county.

We also have a survey out for individual members of the public, it would be greatly appreciated if you could please share within your parish.

LNRS Survey for local groups and organisations – deadline 5pm, Friday 19th April.

Link - <https://forms.office.com/e/2ddKrVgDMV>

LNRS Survey for members of public – deadline 5pm, Friday 5th April.

Link - <https://forms.office.com/e/gz7th9AkkE>

Please visit the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LNRS website for further information and sign up to our newsletter for more regular updates.

Resident's Report: It was reported that the bus stop sign by the pub is leaning and overgrown into the hedge. The post also carries a footpath sign. Cllr Kindersley had sent his apologies, but advised the Clerk to report this on the CCC Highways page, which she will do. The resident also

reported that the Reading Room seat has one very dilapidated leg. Mr Sole was certain that the seat legs all had metal running through them, as this is how they are attached to the concrete base. He offered to check and see if it is possible to repair the leg. The 30 mph speed limit sign from Arrington into Croydon has been knocked over. This has already been reported by the residents living nearest to it.

LADACAN: Luton Airport - "The Planning inspectors who examined the application to almost double Luton Airport's capacity will make their recommendation by May 10th. Michael Gove then has to make a decision by mid August. If granted, a second Terminal will be built to increase capacity to 32 million passengers.

Many of us have seen posters and paid-for adverts in national papers claiming Luton Rising will deliver the greenest airport ever. We also know the increasing urgency in the calls from experts to restrain aviation growth for the sake of the climate. Aviation is almost completely dependent on fossil fuel kerosene, and the large amount of energy needed for planes to get, and stay, airborne makes air travel the most carbon-intensive form of travel in most cases (see graph). Taking one return long haul flight can generate more emissions than any other activity in a whole year."

Highway Events: CCC is offering a Traffic Management Qualification, so that the qualified person has the ability to close roads without relying on Traffic Management companies. This qualification is not required for Croydon.

SCDC Community: The Community Connector, Sarah Freeman, sent information on a Tuk Tuk (called Nellie) originally owned by Soham Community Association and purchased for £4,000. It is currently being offered for sale, but needing some TLC.

Finance

Bank statement: At the end of February the balance in the current account was £4579-06.

Bank mandate: The Clerk attended a Barclays branch in Huntingdon and has delivered her mandate as per the instructions in the accompanying letter. The staff member there suggested that this should be confirmed in a fortnight, but might take longer. The Clerk will then be able to speak to Barclays about the PC account, which she is currently unable to do as she is not a signatory.

Sanders and Jay: The invoice for the annual website hosting of £238-80 was received. It was proposed by Mr Sole and seconded by Mr Buchanan that a cheque for this amount should be raised. All in favour. Clerk will make sure this is paid to Sanders and Jay.

Clerk's Salary: The Councillors had previously discussed this amongst themselves and had decided to raise the Clerk's salary for 2024 - 25 by 10%, making a total for that financial year of £1650 + £165 = £1815, for which the Clerk thanked them. The Clerk's salary is paid annually in arrears.

Barclays - confirmation of cheque signatories: The Clerk has offered to take Mr Wheeler to Huntingdon Barclays so that he can deliver his mandate form there. This branch of Barclays, although further to travel, is much easier to access than the Cambridge branch. The offer was accepted and this will be done following the April meeting.

Items for next agenda: None put forward

Next meeting: Wednesday 17 April 2024 Annual Meeting in the Reading Room at 7.30pm
Wednesday 15 May 2024 Annual PC Meeting in the Reading Room at .30pm

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.23pm.

Signed Date