The Annual Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 15th May 2024 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Cllr Williams - family emergency, Mr Wenman - away, Mrs Sole - appointment.

Present: Mr Wheeler, Mr Barnes, Ms Newland, Mr Sole, Mr Buchanan, Cllr Kindersley (later) and the

Clerk.

Minutes: of the April meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None

Members' interest forms: Mr Buchanan has updated his; the Clerk will keep a copy and update SCDC.

Election of Officers: Mr Wheeler was proposed as Chairman by Mr Sole and seconded by Mr Barnes. As there were no other nominations and Mr Wheeler was willing to stand, he was elected as Chairman for the next year. Mr Barnes was proposed as Vice Chairman by Mr Sole and seconded by Mr Buchanan. As there were no other nominations and Mr Barnes was willing to stand, he was elected as Vice Chairman for the next year.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

The Big Lunch: The Croydon Café ladies are organising the Big Lunch on Saturday 1st June, using some of the surplus money from the Café. There is no charge to attend the lunch and it is open to all residents. They would like to put £60-00 of this towards the purchase of food and accessories for the Big Lunch and asked if the Parish Council would match fund the event. After a brief discussion, Councillors agreed they were happy to match fund the event and the cheque for this would be raised in the finance section of the meeting.

Six Free Trees: SCDC requested photos of the free trees which Council obtained for the village. One of the Tree Wardens kindly obliged with these, which the Clerk has forwarded.

Litter pick signs: A pro-forma invoice has been received from the company which produces the "cone" litter pick signs. The cost for two signs will be £68-34including delivery and VAT. Councillors agreed to purchase these and a cheque will be raised in the finance section of the meeting.

Lower Road report: Clerk has obtained a report from the Local Highways Officer.

"The accident you refer to took place on the 15/10/22. Whilst the accident report cannot be shared with the public (you would need to contact the police if you wanted to see a copy of this), there were no recommendations made to lower the speed limit on this road and the County Council has no plans to do this at the current time.

Whilst not deemed to have contributed to the accident, some minor undulations were noted on the road surface and recommendations were made to address these. Following the accident, the road was submitted as a site for resurfacing works and as far as I'm aware this is now proposed to be completed during the 2025/26 financial year. The existing uneven road signs will remain in place until this work has been completed."

Council did feel that "minor undulations" was not quite correct, but at least something will be done before too long.

LHMI Panel: The Panel met on Wednesday 8th May. No-one was available to attend, so the Clerk prepared a submission and photos for the proposal. This was read to the Panel by one of the Highways Officers in attendance, who was also able to answer any questions that the Panel might have. There is a limited budget available, and the Panel will decide on the most deserving proposal. Council will receive notification of the Panel's decision in due course.

Follow Up Information:

Gmail address

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: There were several alterations, and Councillors were made aware of these. **Uberto Columbo:** The email copied below was sent to the Clerk, and many other local Clerks and Councillors.

"I would like, if possible, to receive illustrated postcards (personal collection use) or cultural historical information of your territory.

Excuse me for the trouble, send my best regards.

Uberto Colombo Viale Europa 12 23848 Oggiono (Lc) Italy"

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the best way forward was for the Clerk to send the gentleman the village website details.

Adoption of GC Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2024: A very lengthy document which can be accessed at the link below.

Link: www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/statement-of-community-involvement/

Parish Forum Meeting: 28 March 2024: Recording link and documents available. The recording is on You Tube - https://youtu.be/Cd17UBJbcUE?si=yBhFl4uiVW2rwH1h If you would like any of the documents, please ask the Clerk to forward them to you.

SCDC Parish Liaison meeting 17 June: This was sent to Clerks and Chairpersons - "We are very pleased to invite you to the next South Cambs Cabinet/Parish Liaison meeting, on Monday 17 June at 6pm. Things we would like to cover on the agenda are as follows:

- Cambridge 2050
- · Communicating with you and how we can improve
- Four-day week update
- Q&A"

The Clerk is intending to go as the Four Day week has been a discussion item at many meetings. If anyone else would like to attend, please let me know as soon as possible, as I have to return a form.

Information circulated to Councillors:

SCDC Parish weekly agendas/e-bulletin
Anthony Browne's weekly updates
Antony Browne - pothole survey
ZCC spring newsletter
Cambridgeshire Matters
Cambs ACRE - Staying in Touch
EWR - Cambridge Approaches
Arthur's Shed - Cambridge
CPRE spring newsletter
Road safety - Way to Go
ICS Newsletter

Any subsequent receipts

Communities Services SCDC: Dementia Week is on 18 - 25 May. Histon and Impington have booked the Living with Dementia virtual experience" tour bus. If you would like to book a slot on the tour so the link:- https://www.hifriends.org.uk/community-events/histon-impington-dementia-week/

Dementia Grants: Not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants of up to £3,000 to deliver projects that provide relief, respite and support for full-time unpaid carers who are caring for a loved one with dementia. The funding, which is made available through the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's Dementia Carers Fund, will support charitable projects across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that:

- give support to unpaid carers who need to attend appointments of their own (e.g. haircuts, doctors)
- encourage unpaid carers to recharge and stay healthy themselves by supporting them to take self- care breaks
- support volunteer befriender initiatives

The next closing date for applications is the 1st August 2024.

Useful Links: https://www.cambscf.org.uk/funds/dementia-carers-fund/

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Link to the "How Are You" website https://haysouthcambs.co.uk **Passenger Transport:** Councils are being asked to help with promoting the Department for Transport's campaign aimed at increasing the number of bus journeys taken by concessionary bus pass holders across the country. To achieve this aim the DoT has produced a number of promotional materials with the aim of creating awareness of the different types of journey a concessionary bus pass holder could use their pass for. The Clerk has added two of the posters to the parish notice board. Bus operators and libraries will also be displaying these posters to help create awareness of the campaign and help encourage those with passes to use them more.

Four Day Week: The Government has issued a further six month long Best Value Notice to South Cambs District Council. It wants to see additional details on the impacts of the four-day week on

individual employee activity. Cllr Smith stated that "the performance data collected during the trail is being analysed, and Councillors will also review this data at a full Council meeting in July".

Envirocrime: From Rachel Mallender at SCDC:-. I'm writing to simply introduce the newly expanded Envirocrime Team at SCDC. We now have three enforcement officers in the area as well as an assistant, increased from just one enforcement officer and assistant prior to March 2024.

We have made good progress over the last few months and are now looking to commence proactive work across South Cambs in order to try and tackle fly tipping with a zero tolerance approach. If you have any issues with fly tipping (or abandoned cars) within your Parish and would like to meet with one of our team to discuss these specific issues or hotspots then please feel free to contact me by email and we can arrange for one of the team to visit your Parish at a mutually convenient time and date".

War Memorial: The quotation for re-lettering has been unearthed, and the Clerk will remind the person involved that Council would still like it to be done.

Cllr Kindersley's report South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council - May 2024

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!

Gamlingay First School Site: The annual Parish Meeting heard a presentation from County Council officers about the plans for the First School site. You will remember that the Department of Education (DOE) has agreed to fund, plan and build a new Special School on site. Planning officers are currently considering the demolition plans for the modern extensions of the school as well as protection of the listed building which is likely to come forward for residential use. Three Academy Trusts have bid to take on the school; and we expect an announcement during the summer (although potentially not before October!) with a planning application shortly thereafter. The Montessori, Scouts, footballers and others who use the site will be unaffected except for a small reduction in the outside space at the Montessori.

Do you vape? Vape recycling has been introduced at Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres with new bins that offer a safe and environmentally friendly way for you to dispose of single use and reusable vapes. Disposable vapes contain lithium-ion batteries which can catch fire if damaged. Three million vapes are currently thrown away each week across the UK, and research by Material Focus shows that electrical items including vapes disposed of in the wrong bin cause more than 600 fires in refuse collection vehicles and at waste sites every year.

Cambridge 2050: Michael Gove announced his plans for 'Cambridge 2040' in July 2023. Since then, we have had little clarity from the government. The figure of 250,000 homes has been revised down to 150,000 homes and 2040 has been pushed back to 2050. In March 2024 a 'development company' was announced, which will direct a lot of the initial work. South Cambs had hoped that as the local planning authority it would have a seat on the board of this to try and direct the new development. Unfortunately, local authorities will only sit on an advisory council alongside businesses and industry partners, meaning no vote nor decision-making powers. There is a lot we still don't know about Cambridge 2050, and we will keep you informed as we learn more. We are clear about the importance of having local voices involved in local planning decisions, as well as the need for new transport, new schools and new health services; as well as the issue of the environment and water scarcity. This is why we have seen movement from the government to help us unlock developments such as at Bourn Airfield, Waterbeach and the Cancer Research Hospital. This has been a good first few steps but significantly more work on water scarcity will be needed to realise the scale of growth within our own local plan let alone Michael Gove's plans.

It is perfectly obvious that Michael Gove's plans is going to involve Green Belt release and it is disappointing that 6 months on from the original announcement that we know no more about what sites the government has its eye on. What we do know is that the bulk of the proposed development will be close to Cambridge but that there may be additional growth supported by the government outside of the City and it is not unreasonable to assume that Tempsford might be one of these due to its critical location at the intersection of the A14, A1, London Peterborough Rail and the future East West Rail link. The big worry us is that the government's ambition for housing growth could undermine our own, evidence led local plan if it supports sites that we have, for very good reason, rejected as unsuitable for development. The Council has already supported small releases of green belt land around Addenbrookes to allow for development of the bio medical campus because that is national significant and justifiable. The chances of us knowing much more this side of a general election are thin.

Affordable Housing: South Cambs is working hard to ensure that housing is truly affordable for all essential to giving residents the freedom to live their life how they want. We recognise that everyone deserves a high-quality, safe, and affordable place to live and our plans are ambitious and will make sure that the South Cambridgeshire continues to be a leader when it comes to building homes.

We have a proven track record of delivery - delivering more and more affordable housing (more than the city each year) since we've taken control of the administration.

There have been over 1000 housing completions every year in South Cambs since 2018, up to 1,500 completions in the most recent year we have data for (2022/23). Each year (except for a slight dip in 2020) we have increased the number of affordable homes being built in the district. This is part of our work to address the skyrocketing house prices at the root cause of the problem.

We are working to ensure housing across the district is built to the highest possible standards of energy efficiency and are working to bring existing housing up to scratch. This will help our residents who are facing rising energy costs and is part of our work to combat the devastating impacts of climate change. It has been brilliant to see new 'council' houses in Gamlingay as well as Barrington.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant: This South Cambs District Council grant aims to empower community groups and parish councils to take local action on climate change. Applications are once again invited for projects under two themes: reducing carbon emissions or locking up carbon, and community engagement around climate change. Grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 are available to parish councils and community groups in South Cambridgeshire, with a total pot of £125,000 available.

Projects funded previously have included community building retrofits, food waste and climate-friendly cooking education, and e-bike rental schemes. You can find more past projects, case studies and the application form on the SCDC website: Zero Carbon Communities Grant - South Cambs District Council (scambs.gov.uk)

All applicants should review the updated application guidance and information documents. Please note especially, all solar PV projects are now asked to have received 3 quotes. Any questions, please contact zcc@scambs.gov.uk for support. Applications close Sunday 2 June at 5pm.

Funding for councils to introduce weekly food waste collections: In March the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that councils in England will be supported with up to £295 million in government funding to introduce weekly food waste collections by 31 March 2026. The funding will cover new food waste containers for homes and specialist collection vehicles, targeted at councils that have yet to fully put food waste service in place. We are waiting to hear details for South Cambs.

Home Adaptations: Last year the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency helped more than a hundred households in South Cambs, including Gamlingay, access grants such as Disabled Facilities Grants and Special Purpose Grants to undertake adaptations and repairs in their homes. Please feel free to get in touch with manager Frances Swann at frances.swann@cambshia.org or at 01954 713456 to know more.

Primary School place allocations: The proportion of Cambridgeshire children offered a place at their first choice primary school this September has risen again. A total of 95.9 per cent will be going to their preferred school - up from 94.8 per cent last year and the highest percentage since 2021. This year saw a slight fall in the total number of applications for a primary school place - from 6457 in 2023 to 6418 this year.

East West Rail: There is talk of EWR setting up a number of groups to create "Local Opportunity Plans' around the new stations, including Cambourne. We think these will be mini business cases for the wider benefits of the stations. We intend to set up local groups of those who could be affected in order to ensure that parish councils and residents have all the information they need and every opportunity to make their own views known.

4 Day Week: The 12 month trial of the desk based staff has now completed and the data is being independently analysed. Once this is complete a report will be prepared for Full Council to discuss. As previously reported we are not able to conduct any consultation until such time as we know what, if anything, the government intend to do to disincentivise the 4 day week model in local government. Fly Tipping: South Cambs has employed 2 more environmental crime officers to help with fly tipping. Even though we are not seeing an increase in fly tipping it is a real blight on the countryside. We always prosecute when we have evidence of who is responsible. If you see any suspicious behaviour from anyone looking as if they might be fly tipping please do note their car or van registration number and report it to the police or the council straight away. Also, always check that you are using legitimate licensed people to dispose of your waste or ask the council to dispose of it for you.

New Cancer Hospital: South Cambs and Cambridge City have approved a planning application for a new cancer hospital to be built on the Addenbrookes site. This was not an easy decision due to objections from the Environment Agency about the water supply but the committee judged the benefits to outweigh those concerns but did insist that a robust plan be put in place to mitigate for the water requirement as the new facility is built and once it is up and running.

Local Government Finance: The recent survey by an organisation supporting local government highlights that 51% of councils say that if nothing changes, in terms of central government funding, within the next 5 years they are likely to issue s114 notices - which essentially means they can't balance their books and are bankrupt. Only 4% (down from 14% last year) of councils say they have confidence in their funding. 77% of councils used reserves last year and 16% will not be able to deliver all the statutory services this coming year. 19 Councils received emergency financial support from government including 3 unitary councils, 2 of which were forced to become unitaries by government because of their financial circumstances.

Joint Air Quality Strategy: South Cambs and Cambridge City are on the verge of adopting a joint Air Quality Strategy. The policy went out to consultation earlier this year.

Preparing for adulthood: Young adults across Cambridgeshire with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), have helped design an event called Preparing for Adulthood, for 14 to 25-year-olds with SEND, as well as professionals, parents, and carers. The event will be an annual one, providing information and resources to empower young adults with SEND and their families and carers. Highlights include information sessions on job coaching advice, mental health and wellbeing, networking opportunities, and accessible information, as well as a range of fun activities.

Peat roads £5M programme under way: In February this year, the County Council's joint administration voted to invest £43 million in repairs to Cambridgeshire's roads in the next two years -t he biggest investment in over a decade. This includes £5 million specifically to deal with the worst of our 'soil affected roads' - peat and clay based roads which are deteriorating much more quickly than they used to. In the longer term, however, the County Council will need around £300 million to fully solve these problem roads - which means national investment and support from Cambridgeshire's MPs to get it.

Gulleys found!: The joint administration of the County Council continues to turn round the disastrous state of highways and this includes gulleys - a report to the council's Highways & Transport Committee on 30 April said, "through regular review of the road network, there [have] been a further 1,855 gulleys added to the programme which had not been previously plotted on the system" - quite a lot of which are in the Gamlingay Division.

Social Value Fund and Community Fund: The National Highways A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvement scheme is once again accepting applications to its Social Value Fund (£1.7m) and Community Fund (£250,000). The two funds are open to non-for-profit groups or organisations in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, including but not limited to local schools, charities, community groups, and environment groups. National Highways want to use this fund to maximise the wider benefits of the project for local communities, the environment, and the local economy.

https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet/social-value-fund-and-community-fund/

Ancient Tree Inventory: We are encouraging Parish Councils and residents to take part in the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory. Old trees are extraordinary. Some of them have lived for thousands of years, linking us with our history and culture. And they have astonishing ecological value too, supporting thousands of species. When it comes to these special trees, the UK is immensely important. We have a phenomenal number of ancient and veteran trees compared with the rest of Europe. There are thousands all across the UK, from the oldest churchyard yews to lone oaks standing in a field. They need protecting and caring for, but first the Woodland Trust need to find out where they are. You can read a guide to old trees and add a tree to the list if you have one in your patch.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. Please do not hesitate 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@scambs.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on Twitter: @Cllrbridget, @SebKindersley

District Councillor Williams' Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC May 2024

Best Value Notice extended

On 8 May 2024, the government extended the Best Value Notice for the council because there are still concerns residents are not getting value for money under the four-day week trial. Despite the trial

officially ending in March, council staff continues to work four days a week (now 32 hours instead of 30 hours) for full pay.

Councillors considered the Best Value Notice at the council's AGM on 23 May 2024. I proposed an amendment to stop the four-day week in June to ask for the Best Value Notice to be withdrawn. It was disappointing that Lib Dem councillors unanimously voted down this amendment, instead agreeing to continue providing weekly performance data to continue with the four-day week.

I am continuing to scrutinise the performance data and am continuing to fight for a consultation with South Cambs residents and for all councillors to get a vote on the four-day week.

New grants for community groups

I am encouraging community groups to apply for several new grants that have become available in order to help improve community cohesion in South Cambridgeshire.

Rural England Prosperity Fund – the council has been allocated almost £900,000 to support local businesses and community initiatives, such as volunteering opportunities and creating or diversifying jobs. You can apply for £10,000 to £100,000 of funding. Check if your area is eligible here. You can also Rural England Prosperity Fund interventions objectives outputs and outcomes list.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk) which includes examples of eligible projects.

- Community growing projects parish or town councils, community groups and schools are all
 eligible for grants of up to £500 to set up community gardens. For more information and how to
 apply, please visit Community Growing Grant South Cambs District Council (scambs.gov.uk)
- Northstowe Community Activation Fund £120,000 of grant funding is available to help promote
 community cohesion in Northstowe. Parish or town councils and non-profit organisations can
 apply please do visit the council's webpage https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/northstowe/northstowe-community-activation-fund/ for more information.

General Election and the council

Due to the ongoing General Election campaign, the council will not be making any announcements that appear to endorse any political party. This means public statements from councillors will not be included in the council's communications.

Please do rest assured, however, that I as your councillor am still here to help you if you need it. I can be contacted by email or phone as in my details below.

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@scambs.gov.uk

Twitter: @Cllr_H_Williams

Facebook Page: Cllr Heather Williams Website: www.cllrheatherwilliams.co.uk

Finance:

Precept: Because Croydon has a precept requirement of less than £25,000, it has received the precept for the financial year 2024-25 in one deposit of £6755-00 instead of the customary April and September 50% deposits. Consequently, the bank balance does appear to be very healthy, but it has to last until April next year.

Bank Statement: The balance at the end of April 2024 was £10655.26.

Cheques: Invoices for payment were presented to Council. The payment to the PCC is a grant.

Visual Graphix £68 - 34
 Reading Room (Café) £72 - 00
 Clear Insurance £562 - 86
 Clerk's salary etc £1789 - 47
 Croydon PCC £500 - 00

Ms J Newland £60 - 00 Match funding for the Big Lunch

It was proposed by Mr Wheeler and seconded by Mr Buchanan that cheques for these amounts should be signed. All in favour. The Clerk will distribute the village cheques and post out the others.

Confirmation of signatories: The missing mandate form has not yet been located.

Community Chest: The Tree Wardens had approached the Council regarding the purchase of a battery mower for use in the churchyard, in a bid to obtain the Silver award in line with Arrington. The

Council was happy for the Clerk to apply for a Community Chest grant to cover the purchase of a mower and a secure container in which to keep it. The Clerk had made a start on completing the application form, but has subsequently been informed that a local resident is prepared to lend a petrol mower for cutting the required area of the churchyard and so it would not be necessary to apply for the grant! There would need to be a small payment (£25 - £50) made to the resident for the loan of the mower, but the Tree Warden was not sure where that would be coming from. Council discussed this change and Mr Buchanan felt that the Community Chest option should still be pursued and will liaise further with one of the wardens.

Clerk's Mandate: On 19th March this year the Clerk took mandate forms to the Huntingdon branch of Barclays Bank after Council agreed that she should be able to talk to the bank about the PC account. The mandate forms had to be signed and the minutes extract certified by the current signatories to the bank account. The bank official was very helpful and faxed the forms through to wherever they had to go, stating that the Clerk should hear back in 10 -14 days. The Clerk finally telephoned the bank on 13th May as she had not received any communication from them. Apparently this had been approved but no confirmation letter has been sent. If the Chairman's mandate forms cannot be found, at least the Clerk may request new forms now.

Planning:

Plans for both applications were displayed for Councillors (and any Public present) to peruse.

Site address: Uplands Croydon Hill Croydon

Proposal: Conversion of workshop into residential annexe, minor alterations to fenestration.

Reference: 24/01396/FUL

Public Access Link: https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-

applications/PLAN/24/01396/FUL

Site address: Low Farm, Acacia Farmhouse Lower Road Croydon

Proposal: S73 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 23/00663/HFUL (Two storey

extension to side) to lift up the eaves level.

Reference: 24/01395/S73

Public Access Link: https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-

applications/PLAN/24/01395/S73

Following the discussions of the proposals the decisions were made as below:-

Uplands: The Council has no objections to this application

Proposed Mr Buchanan and seconded by Mr Sole. All in favour.

Low Farm: The Council has no objections to this application

Proposed Mr Wheeler and seconded by Ms Newland. All in favour.

The Clerk will add these comments to the Planning website.

The application to remove a tree which is causing damage to a neighbouring property in the village has been refused due to a delay in providing technical data. The data (takes time to compile) is expected to be provided when available.

Cllr Kindersley arrived and gave a brief verbal report:-

School: The new Special School on the old First School site in Gamlingay will belong to the Meridian Trust and be called the Greensands Academy.

Highways Officer: Croydon's local highways officer has moved on from the job, mainly due to the public's treatment of him and his crews over the state of the roads. He is still working within the County Council in a different department, and does not have a public facing role. A great shame as he always tried to do his best with the budget available.

Items for the next agenda:

- Consider producing guidance to encourage considerate residential on-street parking along the High Street to minimise inconvenience to residents.
- Any updates on a community group, vehicle or trust investigating land purchase within the village for community benefit.
- Discussion on how the PC could assist a community group, for instance supporting or contributing to a pre-planning application for housing for community benefit.

It was commented that there is a law on high hedges. If of interest to any residents, the guidance from South Cambs regarding high hedges is if a hedge is "adversely affecting the complainant's reasonable enjoyment of their property" is as follows:

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/nature-and-biodiversity/trees-and-hedgerows/high-hedges-complaints-guidance-notes

As there was no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.44pm.

Date of next meetings: Wednesday 19th June 2024 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Signed	Date