

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mrs Sole - previous engagement

Present: Mr Barnes, Mr Buchanan, Ms Newland, Mr Sole, Mr Wheeler, Cllr Heather Williams, one member of public and the Clerk.

Minutes: of the April meeting were agreed and signed.

Councillors:

Election of Officers: Mr Wheeler proposed Mr Buchanan for the post of Chairman and this was seconded by Mr Barnes. All were in favour and Mr Buchanan took the chair.

Mr Barnes was proposed as Vice Chairman by Mr Sole, and this was seconded by Mr Buchanan. All were in favour.

Mr Wheeler was resigning from Council after many years service, for which all councillors and the Clerk were very grateful. His resignation letter is below:-

"I am writing to formally tender my resignation from the Parish Council, as I have decided to retire from my role as Chairman. This will coincide with my retirement from Tesco, after a 47 year career, to pursue some new interests and have a rest.

I have served as Chairman for two periods of time and also as a Parish Councillor, I'm not sure how many years that actually is!

It has been a great honour to serve on the Council and to work with such a dedicated group of people. We have certainly had some interesting meetings and it was always my intention to serve the wishes of the community. I very much hope I have achieved that. I am sure Council will be relieved to know that they will be released as a captive audience from my occasional jokes and puns. I hope Council can continue in a similar relaxed but diligent way.

Many thanks to all the Parish Councillors who give up their free time to volunteer for the Parish Council. It is a valuable interface with many other bodies, not least the District Council and the County Council. I feel we have always sought positive outcomes for the village and been successful in doing so. Thank you too, to our current serving District and County Councillors who have always made a valiant effort to attend our meetings, and for the work they do to serve their parishes.

I would like to say that I have always appreciated Marian's efficiency and quiet guidance in the smooth running of the Council. I couldn't have done it without her expert support.

Lastly, thank you to all the Parishioners who work hard to ensure that Croydon remains the special place that it is.

I wish the council and the community all the best for the future."

The clerk will make the relevant announcements, and contact Miranda Leland at SCDC as required following a resignation.

Declarations of Interest: None

Members Interests forms: Councillors present checked their forms and there were no alterations required. Councillors not present at the meeting will be asked to check their forms at the next meeting.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Community Reports: None

Footpath Map: Clerk had found a village map with footpaths marked in the paperwork she is sorting for archiving. Unfortunately it is not the map that was required.

Website: Website operatives have access to a trial page and can "practice" alterations, which are not published. Clerk noticed that the carousels on this page had been amended to a list of months for each year - much easier on the eye and probably for a screen reader. Mr Buchanan couldn't remember doing this and said he would speak to a website colleague, who may have been trying out different styles of showing minutes and agendas.

Notice Board: Councillors had been looking at the selection of notice board websites suggested by the Clerk, but had been unable to reach a decision. It was felt that the best option for longevity and the environment would be a plastic wood effect notice board, as the other two boards in the village are already. This is, unfortunately, the most expensive to purchase and Mr Buchanan offered to obtain the best options for the June meeting, when a decision will be made.

Woodland Trust: The Trust is offering between 15 and 420 free trees to communities. One of the Tree Wardens was keen to pursue this, but it is not clear if the offer was taken up.

Public Speaking/Disruptive Behaviour at meetings: The proposed policy for public speaking and disruptive behaviour at Parish Council meetings was discussed. There were some slight amendments made and the amended proposal will be circulated to councillors before adoption at the next meeting.

Parish Council Insurance Quotations: Council has decided to change its insurer to Zurich, as it does cater for Councils with a precept of under £30,000, which Croydon definitely is. The cost will be £509-61 and this will hold for the three years that Croydon has decided to stay with them. It was proposed by Mr Wheeler and seconded by Ms Newland that Council accepts the Zurich quotation and that Council agrees to the three year term of insurance. All were in favour. The previous insurer has a Parish Council insurance policy which covered playgrounds, skateparks etc, none of which Croydon has, and none of which could be removed from their standard policy. Their annual quotation was £702-42.

Potential Clerk: Following enquiries, there is a possibility that a clerk to replace the retiring clerk has been found. Clerk explained the information from the correspondence she has already had with the lady, and councillors felt it would be right to meet with her informally, outside of a Parish Council meeting. Clerk will approach her to see if she would still be interested, and let councillors know.

District Councillor's verbal report to the meeting

4 day week: The full council is finally going to get a vote on the 4 day week, three years after its implementation. Cllr Williams has been asking for a full council vote for months and finally all councillors will get their say.

No 26: There is a further delay in completing the refurbishment of the property as it was reported that water has been discovered in the cavity wall.

County Council Elections: Cllr Williams stood in the recent election and was hoping to replace Cllr Kindersley. She lost by 7 votes to James Stuart, representing the Lib-Dems. She thanked council for their support.

Potholes: Cllr Williams continues to report potholes - she has reported over 500 so far and received a call from Highways asking why she has reported so many. She told them that it is because they are there. Highways will meet with her to discuss her reporting. Councillors informed her of a large pothole locally, which she intended to report on her way home.

Permitted Development: Mr Buchanan discovered that an application for Permitted Development at Valley Farm on Lower Road for a caravan and campsite was made in January 2025 and signed off in March. He asked Cllr Williams why the Parish Council had not been notified, although it was a permitted development. She said that Council should have been, and Croydon was not the first to complain about lack of notification. She will look into it for council.

District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC - May 2025

Annual Council

The Council had its AGM on 22 May and I'm pleased to say I was re-elected as Leader of the Opposition by my group.

As we enter this new municipal year, I delivered my annual statement as Leader of the Opposition to reflect on this past year. It is a proud moment to reflect on our achievements as a council, which have included supporting residents with the cost of living, protecting ancient trees like those in Coton Orchard and committing to supporting rural communities, farmers and businesses.

However, I also felt it was important to call out how negative things have become in South Cambridgeshire, with toxicity and hatred running rife and flying in the face of everyone's hopes for a tolerant society and the council's own commitment to 'debate not hate'. It is important to scrutinise as I have done my best to do - such as with the council's 4-day week, including the public consultation which I did not feel gave people a fair say on how their money continues to be spent on this experiment - but I do feel it is important to scrutinise policy without hating another point of view.

Regarding local government reorganisation, I called for unity to ensure we get the best possible outcome for residents. While one large council instead of multiple smaller ones as we have now will have more

resources to tackle problems like adult social care and special educational needs and disabilities, I fear we may lose local representation with fewer councillors representing thousands more people. I am continuing to ask for the same access to information as the council's administration to ensure all residents can be properly represented in this huge change to local democracy.

May Elections 2025

Some of you may know I ran for County Councillor in the Gamlingay Division which covers much of The Mordens ward in May's local elections. While it was disappointing to miss out by just 7 votes, I congratulate those who gained or retained their seats and hope to work productively with them in the near future. I would also like to congratulate Paul Bristow on being elected Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Meeting with Highways

I recently met with officers from the Highways team at Cambridgeshire County Council to show them the state of our roads here in The Mordens ward and to speed up fixing our roads. We covered a lot of ground, marking up potholes to be repaired as we went. It was useful to discuss how we can continue to work together effectively to get our roads sorted out and I hope to meet again with the officers on a regular basis.

I am very grateful to the officers for coming out and about with me in our area. We will continue to work together to fix local roads. If you are aware of any potholes near you, please do report it via the County Council's online system using the link in the next section of my report below.

Pothole Patrols

Staying on the topic of roads, many of you will have seen I am continuing to run regular pothole patrols in our area to ensure we get our roads fixed as soon as possible. Please do visit the reporting page on my website [Reporting](#) and follow the link to report potholes near you to the County Council, or please do get in touch and I can report it for you.

From my own reporting, I have already received countless emails confirming repairs will be done – so this is working. Together, we can work to get our roads fixed as I truly believe we in rural areas deserve as much investment in our roads as busier roads get in the City.

£100,000 Allotment Improvement Grant

It is pleasing to see the council is supporting local communities' growing projects with the £100,000 Allotment Improvement Grant fund. I would encourage anyone involved in an allotment to take a look at the [council's webpage](#) for more information.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/100000-available-to-help-south-cambridgeshire-allotments-thrive>

The grant can be used to improve water access, install pest control measures or improve facilities. Please do feel free to get in touch if you would like any further information or assistance and I will help in any way I can.

Planning application notifications

Some people have raised that there have been issues with notifications coming through for planning applications. We have made officers aware of this and it is being looked into. If there are any applications you are aware of where you do not feel the appropriate consultation process has taken place then please do let me know.

Street name plates

If there are any broken or missing street name plates, please do let me know and I can get these ordered. I have done this recently in Tadlow in Swan Lane and we have been told this should be in place soon.

Grants for community groups and parish councils

If you are from a local community group or parish council, I am encouraging you to make the most of the council's available grant schemes. The GrantGrabber service helps you search for available grants – all in one place. [Home | Support Cambridgeshire 4 Community](#)

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

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Correspondence:

Electoral Register: None received.

Circulated to Councillors:-

3C Building Controls quarterly newsletter
NHS survey
Status of Croydon Planning applications
CPRE update
Local Plan update
TMC Road works and events
Clerks E Bulletin - SCDC
ACRE newsletter
County Lines - PACE
Zero Carbon newsletter
Surface dressing
Cambs and Peterborough NHS newsletter

Subsequent receipts:

Roadworks Information: A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order is in place for works on Lower Road in the area of Lower Manor Farm from 20th to 22nd May. This has already been completed.

Biodiversity Duty: From SCDC:- We're excited to be hosting a webinar for South Cambridgeshire's parish and town councils, all about responding to the [Biodiversity Duty](#). The introduction of the Duty is a great opportunity to rethink how we manage land, and how we can work for the benefit of nature. Join us on **Wednesday 28th May, 5-6:30pm**. The session will include:

- A briefing on the requirements of the Duty
- Practical tips to get started, examples and signposting to resources
- A case study from Duxford Parish Council on the development of their Biodiversity Strategy and their work to help nature thrive in the village
- Time to ask questions and discuss

As Croydon does not have any land it was not felt necessary to attend. Council is supporting the efforts of the parishioners who are working towards a Silver Award for the churchyard. Recently, a younger member of the parish has come forward to help and is doing very well.

Greater Cambridge Planning Forum: This is to be held on the same day as the Biodiversity meeting, and at almost the same time. The agenda for this meeting does not contain anything relevant to Croydon.

East-West Rail: Yet another survey, this time on feedback of the East-West Rail newsletter. the survey will be open until 16 June and the link is:- <https://shorturl.at/iU28N>

Local Projects: Clerk has received notification that the aim for allocation of funding to be notified is 14 October 2025. Last year it got extremely delayed. If Croydon's application is a complex one, there is a chance to present to a Panel on 18 July why Croydon's should be chosen. The amount of funding available to each district is by population, so towns and larger villages will receive the lion's share of the funding. This will be the second year that this scheme has been proposed.

Archives: The Clerk has contacted Ely Archives with a view to archiving a lot of the minutes and accounts currently held at her residence. Ely is happy to take them, but an interim agreement has to be made. This is quite a complex agreement and will not be able to be completed until the Clerk has finished collating all the paperwork she holds.

Finance:

Precept: The precept of £8390-00 for this financial year has been received.

Bank Statement: The balance of the current account at the end of April is £13468-17, which includes the precept payment.

Payments: The following invoices were presented for payment:-

Reading Room rental to March 2026	£112 - 00
Zurich insurance	£509 - 61
Churchyard maintenance grant	£500 - 00
Clerk's salary, IT allowance and out of pocket expenses	£1903 - 58

It was proposed by Mr Wheeler and seconded by Mr Sole that cheques for these amounts should be raised. All in favour. The cheques were signed and the Clerk will distribute them as required.

There will have to be a mandate change to take Mr Wheeler off as a cheque signatory and add Mr Buchanan as the third signatory. This change will also need to be made with NS & I. Changing the bank mandate is not the easiest thing to do, taking over 40 minutes on the phone last time it happened.

Items for next agenda: None put forward.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 June 2025 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Signed

Date

DRAFT