

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of meeting held 12th June 2025

Stuart Laurie: Chair

Denise Dear: Vice Chair

Rob Attwood

Anne Charteris: Clerk

County Cllr Peter Fane

Members of the Public: 0

	<p>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</p>
2506/01	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence Tim Jones, Cllr Peter McDonald, Chris Chapman</p>
2506/02	<p>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda None</p>
2506/03	<p>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 1st May 2025 Minutes were approved and signed</p>
2506/04	<p>Exclusion of the public To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded</p>
2506/05	<p>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald Available in full on the BPC website, but in brief:</p> <p>Home Accessibility Disabled residents and people with long-term health conditions can now access more support to live independently at home. Increased funding is available from the District Council through the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency, a shared service operated with Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council.</p> <p>Low-income Family Tracker update The Council's innovative Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software identifies households likely to be eligible for benefits but not claiming them. They are then sent a letter or text encouraging them to apply – with follow-up phone calls also made. A report to be discussed at the upcoming Scrutiny and Overview Committee outlines how hundreds of South Cambridgeshire residents are now getting extra money as a direct result of the Council's support and advice. For example, the Council has helped over 110 households who were eligible for Pension Credit but weren't claiming it. Pension Credit is a benefit for people over State Pension age (currently 66) with low incomes. It provides extra money for living costs and can lead to other support. If they remain eligible for the rest of their lives, these households will receive up to £3.2 million in Pension Credit between them. Meanwhile, South Cambridgeshire has seen the biggest increase in NHS Healthy Start claims in the country, following a similarly targeted approach by the Council using LIFT. This scheme provides eligible parents with free food and milk. The Council's recent intervention is projected to distribute nearly £60,000 of previously unclaimed funds to people eligible but not claiming. The next areas of focus for the Council's Data Team – using the LIFT software – will include encouraging more eligible residents to claim grants to retrofit their home with</p>

2506/06

energy efficiency measures. There will also be a campaign to raise awareness of Cambridge Water's 'Assure Tariff' – which offers discounts on water bills for those eligible.

Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors

Available in full on the BPC website, but in brief:

Following the election, the make-up of the 61-seat council is:

Liberal Democrat	31	Labour	5
Conservative	10	Green	3
Reform UK	10	Independent	2

ANNUAL MEETING 20 May 2025

The meeting appointed Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees. Cllr Peter McDonald is the new chair of Council, Lucy Nethsingha continues as Leader with Lorna Dupre as Deputy Leader.

Laurence Damary-Homan is vice-chair of Communities and Social Inclusion committee, which meets 5th June. Peter Fane is vice-chair of the Audit and Accounts committee.

ADULTS AND HEALTH

NHS England has published what has been described as a 'draft blueprint of the future model of ICBs' (local Integrated Care Board) which are responsible for planning, funding, and commissioning NHS services for their local populations. Spending per head by ICBs, which varies across the country from £20 to £50, is to be cut to £18.76 per head. Plans on how ICBs will meet this new and demanding target have yet to be submitted.

Adult learning services – good and outstanding

Ofsted found that learners and apprentices studying through Cambridgeshire County Council's adult learning services thrive due to the warm, nurturing and inclusive learning environment and substantial new knowledge and skills they learn.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

National inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published their report (May) on provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in the county.

The council has already invested £500,000 to manage the increased demand for Education Health & Care Plans and approved a further £920,000 annual investment in February this year.

The full report is at <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50276860>

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND INCLUSION

Cambridgeshire Libraries give access to Ancestry, the database where you can search millions of historical documents and genealogy resources, including the 1921 census. Ancestry is available at the County Council's 33 libraries and is free to access with your library card.

ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INVESTMENT

Disposable vapes - From 1 June it will be illegal to sell or supply disposable vapes. The government ban is being introduced to tackle the impact of these items on the environment.

2506/07	<p>It is also hoped the move will help cut the number of children and young people vaping. Retailers caught breaking the law in England face a minimum £200 fine, with a prison sentence of up to two years for repeat offences. Trading Standards will be able to seize any single-use vapes they find. It is estimated that almost five million single-use vapes a week are either littered or thrown away in general waste in the UK. It is regrettable that re-useable vapes are being manufactured to look almost indistinguishable for disposable vapes and at a similar price point; the fear is that re-useable vapes will be disposed of as disposable vapes were.</p> <p>Battery charging - safety reminder Charging batteries have caused six fires in homes across the county so far this year. Firefighters have been called to fires involving batteries being overcharged, resulting in thermal runaway from the lithium-ion contained in them and causing significant damage to people's homes. The fire service is urging residents to only use official charging cables and devices, avoid overcharging, and never buy cheap battery conversion kits that may not meet UK safety standards.</p> <p>HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT The Highways and transport committee meets on 17 June.</p> <p>A1307 (old A14) maintenance works continue Maintenance work continues on the A1307, with 40MPH speed limits expected to be lifted by the end of the summer. The County Council took over responsibility for this road from National Highways in 2024.</p> <p>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative A big thank you to everyone from the village and local community who attended and/or provided feedback for our public consultation exhibition for our future growth on the 22nd May. Once again it was a real success and heartening to see so many people join us at the campus. The feedback on the evening was very positive and we are currently collating the information received from the survey results returned. I hope that the ideas and plans we put forward will be of great benefit to the community as a whole, not least in the opening up of the campus to local residents. From this point we hope to submit an Outline planning application set around the principles of development we demonstrated at the exhibition. The expected timing of this will be a submission date around the end of July, which would see that go to determination in planning committee by the end of 2025.</p> <p>On the 11th June we held a campus open day for all, for which attendance was bookable on-line. There was a tour together with talks on both the science and the estate, together with a Summer Market in the Cambridge Building and food available for the duration of the event. Although I haven't had feedback yet I hope some of our local residents were able to visit us for some or part of the day.</p> <p>Our estate team continue to have firewood cut, dried and seasoned on the estate, for sale and if anyone would like to purchase it then please contact Matt Antrobus at matt.antrobus@babraham.co.uk</p> <p>There are further works to be undertaken along the river corridor and although I don't have dates yet I will release them when I do. As usual these are improvements to the river</p>
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	<p>(EA and CWC commissioned) and surrounding trees (woodland management – Forestry Commission sanctioned). The team will ensure that these are well sign-posted and any diversions are alerted in advance.</p> <p>Chris Chapman</p>
2506/08	<p>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed No public present</p>
2506/09	<p>CSET- update This has now gone to Public enquiry.</p>
2506/10	<p>Village Hall- update We have now been given the go-ahead with the development- after 43 years! Building has to start before the end of the year</p>
2506/11	<p>Forest Garden Project. Update No meeting of the steering group lately. The first organised work party from the campus has taken place. The end nearest Church has been cleared, mulch put down and also alpaca wool put down. Cllr Atwood asked that he be consulted before further work parties do any work so that it can be co-ordinated with work he is doing. The BRC have offered 2 places to site the container for storage, however neither are really practical for easy access o the Forest Garden. It was suggested that maybe it could be sited in the trees in the field near the school, Cllr Laurie to speak to Sally Punshon</p>
2506/12	<p>Neighbourhood Plan- update. Nothing to report, awaiting Local Plan</p>
2506/13	<p>Updates from last meeting. Highways problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed bumps problems – another mat has fallen apart and been removed. Cllr Peter Fane will look into this. We need to find out the named person responsible for the mats and ask for them to be replaced with more robust mats and bolts. A Teams meeting has been arranged to include members of the PC. • Church Breakfast . This was well attended, approx. 35 people there. All the sausages went and the weather wasn't too bad, although a bit overcast. Approx £100 was raised by the raffle, it is hoped to hold this event again in the Autumn.
2506/14	<p>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EV Charging points in the village- deferred until the next meeting. • Benches installed along cycle path within the campus- Chris Chapman to be consulted and asked if the campus would finance one seat and the PC the second. • Forest Garden Terms of reference- ready to be sent out.No news on information boards yet.
2506/15	<p>Report from the Internal Audit was circulated to Councillors and posted on website and noticeboard. Thanks given to the Clerk for her work on this.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINANCE</p>
2506/16	<p>Receipts and Transfers (as of 6th June 2025) None</p>
2506/17	<p>Payments (as of 6th June 2025)</p>

	<table> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary/Tax/Expenses-</td> <td>confidential</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox</td> <td>Website provider</td> <td>£35.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust bank</td> <td>Bank charges – 2 months</td> <td>£14.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Attwood</td> <td>Trailer and grass seed</td> <td>£159.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brookfield</td> <td>Grass and bins final payment</td> <td>£540.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gallagher</td> <td>Insurance</td> <td>£1145.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L & S Engineers</td> <td>Mower parts (R Attwood paid)</td> <td>£142.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amazon</td> <td>Water pump & pipes (R Attwood paid)</td> <td>£181.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr S Laurie</td> <td>Refreshments for APM</td> <td>£69.63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abington Mechanical</td> <td>Mower repairs (RA Paid)</td> <td>£110.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CGM</td> <td>Grass cutting and bins</td> <td>£440.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Auditing Solutions</td> <td>Internal Audit</td> <td>£348.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>A full list of payments was circulated and reviewed at the meeting, all approved and signed off.</p>	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses-	confidential	Hugo Fox	Website provider	£35.99	Unity Trust bank	Bank charges – 2 months	£14.65	Cllr Attwood	Trailer and grass seed	£159.30	Brookfield	Grass and bins final payment	£540.00	Gallagher	Insurance	£1145.24	L & S Engineers	Mower parts (R Attwood paid)	£142.20	Amazon	Water pump & pipes (R Attwood paid)	£181.02	Cllr S Laurie	Refreshments for APM	£69.63	Abington Mechanical	Mower repairs (RA Paid)	£110.00	CGM	Grass cutting and bins	£440.00	Auditing Solutions	Internal Audit	£348.00
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2506/19	<p>Applications received:</p> <p>Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council Proposal: Sycamore - Crown lift by 4m to improve access to high sided vehicles. Reduce lateral branches encroaching on phone wires by 2m. Site address: Shepherds Cottage Home Farm High Street Reference: 25/0522/TTCA Public Access link: https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/25/0522/TTCA</p> <p>Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council Proposal: Conversion of 1 No. Barn to residential use (Class C3) and new roof. Site address: Worsted Lodge London Road Old A11 Babraham Reference: 25/00615/FUL Public Access link: https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/25/00615/FUL</p>																																				
2506/20	Planning decisions: none																																				
2506/21	Correspondence.																																				

2506/22	<p>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</p> <p>Date of next meetings at 7.30pm : Thursday 10th July 2025 No meeting in August Thursday 11th Sept 2025</p> <p>Part II: Confidential Information</p>
2506/23	<p>Exclusion of the Press and the Public: To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.</p> <p>Signature: <i>Anne Charteris</i> 6th June 2025 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>