

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 12th Oct 2023

Present:

Denise Dear: Chair

Stuart Laurie

Jane Goody

Richard Bandy

Charlotte Boast

Anne Charteris: Clerk

The Meeting had to be held at Cllr Bandy's house as the PC were not able to access the school due to the locks being changed and this had not been conveyed to the PC. A note was left at the School advising of this change of venue.

	<p>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</p>
2310/01	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence: Cllr P McDonald, Chris Chapman and Brian Milnes had sent their apologies.</p>
2310/02	<p>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda: No declarations of interest given.</p>
2310/03	<p>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 14th Sept 2023. These were agreed by all and signed off.</p>
2305/04	<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>
2310/05	<p>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald. The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief:</p> <p>Carbon Literate certification South Cambridgeshire District Council has been accredited as a Carbon Literate Organisation by the national charity, The Carbon Literacy Trust. The District Council has achieved Bronze accreditation as part of its continuing efforts to tackle the climate emergency in South Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Free electric blanket initiative More than 500 residents are being offered a free electric blanket in a scheme to provide further help for people in need as we anticipate another winter of high heating bills. Residents have been selected if they claim Council Tax Support and one of a set of additional allowances. Qualifying residents will receive a letter in the coming weeks from the Council telling them they are eligible and how to claim their free blanket. Only people who receive a letter will be able to claim a free blanket.</p> <p>Four-day week trial We are now half-way through the extended trial of the four-day working week at South Cambs, which began as a 3-month trial in January and was extended for a year in March after the initial trial proved successful. This is a trial of working practice that has demonstrated greater productivity in the private sector, with the aim of bringing similar gains in productivity to South Cambs, to save money for taxpayers and improve services.</p> <p>GCP decision on Sustainable Travel Zone</p>

2310/06	<p>At a Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board meeting on 28 September it was decided not to progress plans for a Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) in Cambridge, which included the much-discussed congestion charge.</p> <p>Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief:</p> <p>CSET Busway update Phase two of the Cambridge South East Transport project – a new dedicated busway, travel hub and active travel route connecting Cambridge with communities to the south-east of the city – has been formally paused following a decision at the GCP meeting on 28 September.</p> <p>Foxton travel hub update GCP has also recommended to members to consider whether the Foxton Travel Hub project should be paused. If members take the decision to pause the projects the GCP would develop them to a point where they are ‘planning ready’ whilst we seek alternative sources of funding to enable them to be delivered in future.</p> <p>Bus services contracts The long-awaited revision of the Combined Authority’s Local Transport & Connectivity Plan for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough was vetoed at the September meeting of the Combined Authority Board. Meanwhile, the Board decided to approve the extension of 51 bus service contracts to March 2025 including routes 15 and 26. Services recommended for further review include 7A and 31.</p> <p>Sustainable Farming Incentive 2023 fund Applications are now open for the Sustainable Farming Incentive. The SFI pays farmers for taking actions that support food production, farm productivity and resilience, whilst protecting the environment. More information at https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-applicationdates-for-sustainable-farming-incentive-2023</p> <p>Help to insulate your home If your home has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D to G, and if you are in council tax band A-D (in England) you may qualify for cheaper (or even free) insulation. The government has launched a £1 billion scheme to help some families insulate their homes. Families in lower council tax bands with less energy-efficient homes will be offered upgrades such as roof, loft or cavity wall insulation. The grant provides energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating to households in England. https://www.gov.uk/apply-home-upgrade-grant If you use the online checkers you will then be referred to either your energy supplier, for support from the Energy Company Obligation programme and Great British Insulation Scheme, or your council for the Home Upgrade Grant.</p> <p>Smart street lamps Cambridgeshire is one of six areas to be granted funding to test smart street lamps that can house EV charging hubs and boost wireless coverage including 5G. The County Council has been awarded £220,000 to install ‘smart poles’ on which to host various smart city infrastructure.</p> <p>Weeds and street sweeping At the County Council’s Highways & Transport Committee meeting on 3 October the issue of the relationship between weeds and street sweeping was discussed. Residents have complained about debris from unswept streets (district council) being caught up in weeds from uncleared gutters and gulleys (county council). Subsequently the reassurance was provided that county council officers were entering into discussions with district council officers about how better to align management of our streets, kerbs, gulleys and gutters.</p>
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	<p>More 20MPH schemes get the green light</p> <p>Twenty more 20MPH schemes across South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire have been given the go-ahead in the latest round of funding from the County Council.</p> <p>Either a 20mph limit or a 20mph zone will be installed depending on the specific location. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or a small number of streets and requires signs only, whereas 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings.</p> <p>To find out more about 20mph schemes, and to submit an application visit: https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/20mph-funding</p> <p>Free vehicle checks</p> <p>A series of free vehicle checking events is being organised around the county throughout October, in support of the national campaign for safer vehicles.</p> <p>Members of the public are invited to attend a free vehicle check session, where they will be taught how to conduct a simple check on their own vehicle and spot potentially dangerous problems. The check consists of examining tyre condition and tread depth, ensuring correctly working external lights and correct washer fluid levels. To assist members of the public, a free top-up of screen wash will be offered to every participating vehicle, as well as free resources to help with subsequent checking.</p> <p>More information on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambsRoadSafety</p>
2310/07	<p>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative</p> <p>No report received</p>
2310/08	<p>Cheveley Park Development Plans</p> <p>Nothing new to report.</p>
2310/09	<p>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Cambridge South East Transport (CSET)</p> <p>Flyers from the Better Busway Group have been sent round to residents.</p> <p>One question was whether the scheme was future proof for the increase in numbers which will occur due to the increase in people attending Addenbrookes, both patients and workers.</p> <p>The village, on the whole, is opposed to the busway and the Park and ride, and it is agreed that it is in the wrong place.</p>
2310/10	<p>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed</p> <p>No public present.</p>
2310/11	<p>Forest Garden Project.</p> <p>From Hannah Thomas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest Garden Steering Group The Steering Group held its inaugural meeting on 6th October. Denise Dear attended as the PC representative after Jane Goody stepped down. We discussed the priority to agree an appropriate governance structure for the Forest Garden, and Terms of Reference to reflect the group's remit. Next meeting will be held in November. 2. Forest garden gate The 5-bar gate lock has been fixed, as the gate posts had warped in the heat and the fixings no longer met. 3. Engagement with the Babraham Institute and Research Campus I attended the Sustainable Babraham event hosted by Babraham Institute on 11th October, where the Forest Garden was mentioned as a sustainability initiative that many people from the Institute and companies from the Research Campus had contributed to through attending planting events. I put up the Forest Garden poster that was designed especially for last year's award ceremony (attended by Denise Dear) and spoke to several

	<p>people about how to get greater engagement from the BRC community. There was lots of enthusiasm for the Forest Garden and several ideas to take forward next year. Denise Dear reported that she had attended the steering group meeting.</p> <p>Questions asked by residents and Councillors: when will the Garden will be open to the public? Why hasn't more of the grass been cut and areas of wild flowers sown? Is there a signed lease for the land to protect its use over the following years? The garden has cut off a lot of the riverside walk. What would happen if the river authority needed access to the river- would the fences be taken down?</p>
2310/12	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The new grant has now arrived and the NP group asked for the PC to approve the delegation of payments by the Clerk to Hannah Thomas on approval from R Bandy and P Axon, up to £1000. To be paid from the grant money. This was proposed by R Bandy and all Councillors in agreement.</p>
2310/13	<p>Gritting Scheme:</p> <p>It was agreed to join this scheme, the main areas to be gritted were near the Alms-houses and Brick Row. Clerk to contact the Council and find out the next steps.</p>
2310/14	<p>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</p> <p>Parking outside Babraham School. A letter was received regarding the parking problems outside the school. This was discussed as to what could be done: Better signage Weeds cut down- SL agreed to do this. Double yellow lines extended especially opposite the Old Vicarage Clerk to contact Highways. Ask school if they could extend the drop off time from 10 to 20 minutes to maybe spread out the times cars arrive. It was noted that during Covid, teachers waited outside the school to escort children in, thereby cutting the time that cars had to wait. Clerk to write to the Police (cc School Head) and see if they could drop in on random days to speak to parents and possibly book those breaking the law.</p> <p>Lockable bike positions in Sawston. Cllr Laurie said that there were very few lockable positions for bikes in Sawston- could more be provided to encourage cyclists? Clerk to contact Sawston Parish Council.</p> <p>Cycle path to Granta Park, Abington. This path is getting very worn, tarmac needs replacing. Need to find out who is responsible for this and contact them.</p> <p>Ivy on the walls. This is still a problem and needs cutting right back. SL to contact Chris Chapman.</p> <p>Facebook page. There were two facebook pages for the Parish Council, Clerk reported that one had been deleted and that she now had Admin rights to post on here. It was noted that an ex-Councillor still had admin rights, so they would be contacted and advised that their name would be removed.</p>
2310/15	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>Receipts and Transfers (as of 5th Oct 2023 Precept £7000 Bank Interest£212.21</p>
^w 2310/16	<p>Payments (as of 5th Oct 2023)</p>

2310/17	<p>Paid</p> <table> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary/Tax/Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£426.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox</td> <td>Website provider</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£35.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ionos</td> <td>Email subs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£22.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SLCC</td> <td>Subscription</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£72.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drax</td> <td>Street Lighting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£11.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACRE</td> <td>Subscription</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SLCC</td> <td>Subscription</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£72.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust</td> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£21.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brookfield</td> <td>Bins/grass x 2 months</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£647.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PKF Littlejohn</td> <td>External Audit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£378.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Poppy wreath</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£25.00</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full list of payments was circulated, reviewed and signed off at the meeting 	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses	£426.00	Hugo Fox	Website provider	£35.99	Ionos	Email subs	£22.80	SLCC	Subscription	£72.00	Drax	Street Lighting	£11.50	ACRE	Subscription	£60.00	SLCC	Subscription	£72.00	Unity Trust	Bank Charges	£21.75	Brookfield	Bins/grass x 2 months	£647.01	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£378.00	Clerk	Poppy wreath	£25.00
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2310/18	<p>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 5th Oct 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Unity Current A/C balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£19053.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Savings A/C balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£30,251.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Building Society</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£80,361.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£129,666.46</td> </tr> </table> <p>PLANNING</p>	Unity Current A/C balance	£19053.89	Unity Savings A/C balance	£30,251.20	Cambridge Building Society	£80,361.37	TOTAL	£129,666.46																									
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2310/19	None.																																	
2310/20	Planning decisions: None																																	
2310/21	Correspondence.																																	
2310/22	<p>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Thursday November 9th at 7:30pm</p>																																	
2310/23	<p>Part II: Confidential Information</p> <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> 19th Oct 2023 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>																																	