

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of meeting held 9th Nov 2023

Present:

Denise Dear: Chair

Stuart Laurie

Jane Goody

Charlotte Boast

Anne Charteris: Clerk

	<p>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</p>
2311/01	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence Richard Bandy, Peter McDonald</p>
2311/02	<p>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda None declared</p>
2311/03	<p>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 13th Oct 2023 The Minutes were approved and signed by all present</p>
2311/04	<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>
2311/05	<p>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald The report can be found in full on the website, but in brief:</p> <p><u>Planning Application queries</u> The Greater Cambridge Planning authority processes well over 3000 planning applications every year, and most of these applications run smoothly. However, occasionally there are problems with the handling of planning applications. Concerns about the planning application process should initially be referred to the application case officer, whose name is listed on the application and whose contact details can be found here https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/contact-us/development-management-area-teams/ (we are in Area Team East).</p> <p><u>Council Financial Health</u> Councils across the UK are facing a collective budget gap of over £3 billion, according to recent research by the Local Government Association and Unison. This is affecting most of the 50 councils across the East of England, 29 of which face budget shortfalls of over £1 million, and 41 of which face a budget shortfall of some kind, which is likely to lead to a cut in service provision. South Cambridgeshire District Council is one of only 9 councils in the region that has no shortfall, with a balanced budget for the forthcoming financial year, thanks to our administration's careful financial management and well-designed investment strategy.</p> <p><u>Youth engagement workshops</u> As part of the council's youth engagement programme, planning officers have been running workshops in local schools introducing children to some of the design challenges and career options in development and planning</p>

2311/06	<p>Homes for Ukraine update The war in Ukraine may no longer be on the front pages of our newspapers but the crisis continues for those families who have been displaced by ongoing hostilities. The council has recently launched a Homes for Ukraine Landlord Incentive Scheme, designed to make more options available to guests who are moving on after their initial stay with a host. Landlords who are able to provide properties in South Cambridgeshire to Homes for Ukraine guests resident in the district will qualify for a financial incentive. The incentives differ depending on the size of the property, and whether the property is provided at market rent or at local housing allowance rate. The landlord must also provide a minimum tenancy of 6 months from the outset. To express interest, please sign up here, email HFULiaison@Scambs.gov.uk or call the Home for Ukraine team on 01954 71341</p> <p>Continuous Improvement and Key Performance Indicators The District Council regularly monitors its performance across all services as part of a philosophy of continuous improvement. Performance is tracked by a set of 31 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are examined quarterly along with the other members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee. In the last assessment we examined the council's performance for the period April–June 2023, including scrutinising the KPIs and performance against the business plan for the year. Overall, the council is maintaining excellent performance levels when compared with other councils, with most KPIs showing steady good performance or gradual overall improvement.</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>LHI Scheme window open The LHI application window has now reopened. The window will remain open until Friday 12th January at 5pm.</p> <p>Flooding Storm Babet and Storm Cieran hit Cambridgeshire on 20 October, leaving some households with external or even internal flooding to their homes, or without flushing toilets, as well as seeing a number of roads closed. County Council highways officers have been working through the various incidents logged, and the Flood & Water team is pulling together an overall picture of events. If you were affected by flooding, and have not yet reported it to the County Council, please do so, as it is really important to build up a full picture of what happened.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can report flood issues affecting your home or property at cambridgeshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Flood_reporting (This is not the place to report flooding in an emergency.) • You can report highways-related flooding (blocked road drains, sewers, gullies, for example) at highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk <p>East West Rail The National Audit Office has agreed to Cambridge Approaches' and local MPs' requests to review the EWR business case – such as it is. This investigation will examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the context for the East West Rail project has changed over time • the Department for Transport's assessments of the economic and strategic case for the East West Rail project • the cross-government working to plan and deliver the intended outcomes <p>Supermarket vouchers continue The supermarket voucher scheme will continue to operate for all eligible families in Cambridgeshire with Cambridgeshire County Council running the scheme until the</p>
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2311/07	<p>February 2024 half term using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work & Pensions and additional funding provided by the Council. Eligible families get a £15 voucher via email or text to be used at a choice of ten supermarkets</p> <p>Care quality initiative</p> <p>A new initiative to improve the quality of care and support for Cambridgeshire residents has been approved by the council's Adults and Health Committee and is to be launched by the County Council. The new initiative for the adult social care workforce, supported by investment of over £1M, seeks to address problems of recruitment and retention in the sector, support skills development, and drive up the quality of services.</p> <p>Next stage approval for Children's Hospital</p> <p>Cambridge Children's Hospital, which will be the first specialist children's hospital for the East of England, has been given the green light to proceed to the final stage of its business case development. The hospital, which was awarded planning permission in March 2022, is being built on the Biomedical Campus, and will care for children and young people across the whole of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. It will be the first hospital designed to truly provide mental and physical health care together, delivered by staff who are trained in both. While the hospital will be built in Cambridge it will act as a central hub, working with services all over the East of England to provide care and support for children who may never visit the hospital itself.</p> <p>Healthwatch Primary Care access survey – please share</p> <p>Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is launching a survey on 1st November 2023 to gather people's experiences of accessing Primary Care services, such as GP services. This survey, which will remain open until 17th December 2023, is being conducted independently by Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with the support of NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.</p> <p>NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough understand how important local access to health services are, such as your GP Practice, and are keen to hear your experiences, feedback and thoughts on ways in which you currently access local GP services and how these could be improved.</p> <p>https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/form/primary-care-access-survey</p> <p>Climate scorecard</p> <p>Campaigning organisation Climate Emergency UK once again published a 'scorecard' for each council to measure how it was responding to climate change. As the methodology changes every year it is not possible to compare present against past scores. Cambridgeshire was ranked fifth out of all county councils on this year's scorecard, with a gold star for our work on decarbonising buildings and heating.</p> <p>County Council budget gap</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council's estimated budget gap for 2024/25 has increased from a predicted £16M to more than £23M—largely due to increases in demand for services and inflationary pressure. Without action being taken this gap will grow, and is predicted to be more than £20M in the following year, and a further £19M and more the year after that. Cambridgeshire is not alone.</p> <p>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative, Chris Chapman.</p> <p>The ivy on the walls has now been cut back from Pocket Park to Rowley Lane. Some old Leylandii near the sheep pens in Rowley Lane are to be cut down to allow other species to grow.</p> <p>Further tree work for safety reasons will be carried out along the river, this will entail temporarily closing some paths when the work is in progress.</p> <p>Wood chips to be laid on the paths.</p>
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	<p>Some may have seen a smoke plume near the back gates, this is the exhaust from a charcoal burner, producing Biochar.</p> <p>We have been supporting the Church, including advertising the Carol Service on the 14th Dec where there will be mince pies served afterwards. We intend to increase our support of the Church next year.</p> <p>A Campus wide open day is planned for next summer- 14th June.</p> <p>Security update: Rowley Lane gates were off their hinges recently, this was to allow an extra large piece of equipment through.</p> <p>The new building is expected to be finished on time. All units are now let, some to existing tenants who have outgrown their buildings.</p> <p>Questions for CC: Parish Council raised the point that the verges and hedges in Church Lane are in a state and need cutting back, Chris to contact the estate manager to see who is responsible for these.</p> <p>The Weir has been very blocked with weed etc from upstream There is a place where dogs enter the water and a post has been put in, this was considered dangerous as if an animal or person went in, they may have difficulty getting out, this area needs fencing off.</p> <p>Question re Pocket Park: is there a lease? Answer was yes, it as run out but the PC still have the lease.</p> <p>New cycle path: are children allowed to climb on the wooden structure "Stonehenge" Yes, this is part of the public art and represents a hive-people working together, children are welcome to climb on it.</p>
2311/08	<p>Cheveley Park Development Plans</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
2311/09	<p>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Cambridge South East Transport (CSET)</p> <p>Nothing to report</p>
2311/10	<p>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed</p> <p>No public present at this part of the meeting</p>
2311/11	<p>Forest Garden Project. To hear and comment on updates.</p> <p>DD attended the steering Group meeting.</p> <p>There has been some talk about the project with residents.</p> <p>It was agreed to put together a list of what would be liked to happen at the Garden.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <p>When will it be open for residents to use?</p> <p>Will grass be cut more often?</p> <p>Do Environment Agency have access to the river/weir/pump house</p> <p>Can a sign be put up saying what is being done and plan for future?</p> <p>Gates are not opening properly-padlocked but fittings not functional</p> <p>Section round the edge would be nice trimmed and planted with wild flowers</p> <p>Needs proper log piles for insects and small animals</p> <p>Bulbs planted</p> <p>Grass trimmed from bottom of trees to stop competition</p> <p>Lime tree growing through fence- needs attention</p>
2311/12	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>No report received.</p>
2311/13	<p>Precept- using Budget, set Precept for 2023/2024</p> <p>Councillors agreed unanimously that the Precept would remain the same as last year- £14,000</p>

2311/14	<p>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</p> <p>Parking outside Babraham School. Clerk had contacted the Police re the parking problems outside the school, it was reported that Police had attended a couple of times recently, however they are stretched for time and numbers so may not happen that often. The weeds have been trimmed to make it easier for children to walk along the paths. Brian Milnes said that the new Civil Parking Enforcement plan would be starting soon, as soon as this starts they will look at hotspots. Warnings will be given first, then penalties served with fines between £70 and £100</p> <p>Local Highways Improvement Applications- due in by 12th Jan. It was agreed to apply for this to repair/replace the pavement between the pub and Home Farm turn.</p> <p>FINANCE</p>																					
2311/15	Receipts and Transfers (as of 3rd Nov 2023)																					
2311/16	Payments (as of 3rd Nov 2023)																					
2311/17	<p>Paid</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary/Tax/Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£520.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox</td> <td>Website provider x 2 months</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£71.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ionos</td> <td>Email subs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£22.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drax</td> <td>Street Lighting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£11.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hannah Thomas</td> <td>Neighbourhood Plan</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£970.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brookfield</td> <td>Bins/grass</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£396.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Poppy wreath</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£24.00</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full list of payments was circulated, approved and signed off at the meeting 	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses	£520.00	Hugo Fox	Website provider x 2 months	£71.98	Ionos	Email subs	£22.80	Drax	Street Lighting	£11.10	Hannah Thomas	Neighbourhood Plan	£970.20	Brookfield	Bins/grass	£396.00	Clerk	Poppy wreath	£24.00
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2311/18	<p>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 3rd Nov 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Unity Current A/C balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£16,344.80</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;">£126,957.37</td> </tr> </table> <p>PLANNING</p>	Unity Current A/C balance	£16,344.80	Unity Savings A/C balance	£30,251.20	Cambridge Building Society	£80,361.37	TOTAL	£126,957.37													
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2311/19	None.																					
2311/20	Planning decisions: None																					
2311/21	Correspondence.																					
2311/22	<p>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Thursday Jan 11th 2024</p>																					

2311/23	<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> 3rd Nov 2023 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>
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