

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 9th February 2023

Present:

Denise Dear; Chair

Jane Goody

Charlotte Boast

Clerk: Anne Charteris

2 members of the public

	<p>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</p> <p>2302/01 To receive and approve apologies for absence : Damon Stanwell-Smith, Richard Bandy , Cllr Peter McDonald and Chris Chapman (BRC)</p> <p>2302/02 To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda: None</p> <p>2302/03 To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 12th January 2023: approved by all and signed off</p> <p>2302/04 Exclusion of the public To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded.</p> <p>2302/05 Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald Cllr McDonald had sent in his report beforehand, this is available on the website but in brief:</p> <p><u>Budgeting & Council Tax</u></p> <p>The proposal is to approve an increase in the District element of the Council Tax of £5 per annum, giving an average Band D Council Tax of £165.31, plus the relevant amounts required by the precepts of the Parish Councils, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, and the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority.</p> <p><u>Key Amnesty for Council Houses</u> Anyone misusing Council properties is being offered a one-off opportunity to return their keys without facing criminal proceedings during a month-long crackdown by South Cambridgeshire District Council. A Key Amnesty campaign called #DoTheRightThing is taking place across the district during February to give tenants the opportunity to voluntarily hand in their keys, for a limited time, with the promise of no further action being taken.</p> <p><u>Good news on Funding for Housing</u> The Council has been awarded £4.5 million as part of the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund. The funding, which will run over this financial year and into 2023-24 is to help the Council to acquire 30 additional homes. These will initially be used to accommodate refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan, but when they are no longer needed for this purpose the homes will be available through the housing waiting list (as council houses)</p>
--	--

2302/06

More frequent battery recycling collections

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire households can now conveniently recycle used, small batteries weekly, thanks to changes to waste collections. Adjustments to bin lorries mean that small plastic bags containing used batteries can now simply be left on top of green, black or blue bins for collection by crews on their usual rounds.

New funding for defibrillators

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has announced £1 million of funding to increase the number of automated external defibrillators in communities – providing an estimated 1,000 new defibrillators in community spaces in England

Homes for Ukraine: Hosts still needed for guests already in South Cambridgeshire

Hosts are still desperately needed across South Cambridgeshire to support families who have already arrived from Ukraine, with hosts eligible to receive up to £500 a month as a thank you payment. Around 770 people from Ukraine have already arrived in South Cambridgeshire and with the war continuing - and it not being safe for many families to return - there is an ongoing demand to provide them with a safe place to stay.

New “Energy Bills Discount Scheme” for businesses announced

On 9 January the government announced a new energy scheme for businesses, charities, and the public sector, ahead of the current scheme ending in March. The scheme will mean that all eligible UK businesses and other non-domestic energy users will receive a discount on high energy bills until 31 March 2024.

Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors Brian Milnes and Maria King

The report was sent in beforehand, this is available on the website but in brief:

Council Tax changes

Cambridgeshire County Council	+ 4.99 % (£1.72 per week Band D)
South Cambridgeshire District Council	+£5 per annum at Band D
Fire Authority	+ £4.95 per annum at Band D
Police & Crime Commissioner	+ 5.8% (£0.29 per week Band D)

As reported last month, the Government announced its ‘financial settlement’ for councils just before Christmas, and proposed that Cambridgeshire County Council’s ‘core spending power’ (the overall revenue funding available for council services) should increase by 9.5 per cent, less than the current rate of inflation. Half of that 9.5 per cent is from the council’s power to raise council tax—in other words, the Government expects local council tax payers to shoulder a lot of the extra costs.

Making Connections Consultation

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Making Connections 2022 consultation closed on 23 December.

This was about proposals for public transport improvements, better cycling and walking options, and a Cambridge congestion charge. Around 23,000 responses were received, and the Greater Cambridge Partnership expects to publish a final report on the consultation outcomes and next steps for consideration by its Board in June 2023.

Mayoral precept to support existing bus routes

A precept from the Mayoral Combined Authority of £12 per year per Band D property has been agreed, to ensure continued subsidy for bus services restored following the

	<p>Stagecoach cuts last year. The Combined Authority was able to step in before Christmas to provide a 6-month subsidy for a large number of threatened rural service (including replacing 915, axed by Stagecoach, with 26 run by Centerbus) but this was from financial reserves and it was always known that a longer term solution would be required. The effort now needs to go into improving bus ridership so that in the longer-term large subsidies will not be required.</p> <p>Potholes</p> <p>Potholes have worsened dramatically following the December freeze and continuing wet weather, unsurprisingly given the effects of freezing temperatures and water on long neglected infrastructure resulting from decades of underfunding and a policy of ‘managed decline.’ Last summer’s drought has had an additional impact on soil beneath road structures, causing further problems.</p> <p>We have been working closely with our Local Highways Officer to log potholes for action and we would encourage everyone to please check on the ‘Cambridgeshire Report a Fault’ webpage (just google those words to find it) to find out whether potholes you are concerned about have already been logged. If not, please do log the pothole and note the reference number. If there is a problem with the reporting page do let us know. Please note that currently, when the subcontractors go out to fill potholes, they can only address what has been logged on the system, though the council is looking at whether this can be changed.</p> <p>You’ll be interested to know that in one week in January 5586 potholes were reported – 2.5 times the normal. The dragon patchers (of which there are two) can do 100 every day, with manned teams able to do only 20 a day. We fixed more than 45,000 last year. Over 500 claims are made for compensation for vehicle damage every year of which the County Council settle approximately 85.</p> <p>Looking forward, the County Council plans to fit street lighting with energy-efficient LEDs. The council spends £3.3M a year on energy for street lights, and investment in a programme of LED replacement would pay back in under six years. The Council is also proposing to recycle materials from road works, from asphalt and tar to gully water, with an estimated saving of around £250,000 a year.</p> <p>Strikes in schools</p> <p>The National Education Union has announced further strike dates affecting Cambridgeshire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 1 March (East of England) • Wednesday 15 March (national) • Thursday 16 March (national) <p>The County Council’s education team has been providing advice and information to schools, and the Director of Education has met with the Trade Unions. The most up to date and relevant information about strikes affecting particular schools will be on the schools’ own websites.</p> <p>However a list will also be maintained at https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-andfamilies/schools-learning/school-term-dates-closures/school-closures</p>
2302/07	<p>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative. No report received.</p>
2302/08	<p>Cheveley Park Development Plans- nothing to report</p>
2302/09	<p>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) CSET had confirmed that they would attend the Feb 9th meeting, however they were yet again unable to attend. Clerk to contact them as the plans are due to be decided later this</p>

	<p>month and it was not thought right that a decision would be made without consulting the Parish Council beforehand.</p>
2302/10	Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed
2302/11	<p>Forest Garden Project.</p> <p>The local heritage fruit trees (on order from last year) have been delivered and the second-year shrubs are also ready for planting.</p> <p>Rabbit proof fencing will be erected at the end nearest to the Church.</p> <p>There is a new teacher at Babraham School who has started a Gardening Club, they will be planting some trees. The raised beds will be moved and the protective matting will now not be needed and the money returned to the PC.</p> <p>Governance structure- a smaller number of people may be needed, consisting of people from the BRC, BPC, Project Manager and the Community. Hannah will continue as PM for year 2 and will try to find a grant to fund year 3/ There is a Friends of Forest Garden group and it is hoped that there will be enough people to maintain the Forest Garden. Hannah will also write up the plan for the next 3 years and present at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that any underspend from this year will be rolled over to the next year.</p>
2302/12	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The NP Group are putting together items for a forthcoming exhibition which will be held in the school or the George- venue to be decided. The group are working with the BRC on the design plan for the Close. There will be approx. 45 houses with 100 flats, total around 160 and maximum 3 storeys high. There are plans for a shop and playground, plus a new nursery. The exhibition will be towards the end of March, the village will be asked a series of questions, this will then go back to the design guide. A second exhibition showing the results will be then held and followed by a formal referendum around September.</p>
2302/13	<p>General Village Matters and new items for discussion</p> <p>To discuss any other village matters.</p> <p>Kings Coronation: to discuss if the PC could offer a donation for events.eg. there is a proposed funfair at The George on the BH Monday and the church are serving cream teas and streaming the event on the Saturday. An amount of £500 suggested as this was the donation to the Jubilee. This will be discussed further at the next meeting when all Councillors should be present. Ideas and more information needed, eg Mugs and coins?</p> <p>Better Than Busway: Distribution of Better Busways flyers - Stephen Partridge-Hicks has given Chair about 200 of these and need to discuss how best to distribute these amongst the PC for delivery around the parish.</p> <p>FINANCE</p>
2302/14	<p>Receipts (as of 2nd Feb 2023)</p> <p>Interest from Camb Building Soc Acc: £322.79</p>
2302/15	Payments (as of 2nd Feb 2023)

2302/16	<p>Paid</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Salary/Tax/Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£530</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>Hannah Thomas</td> <td>Forest Garden</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KWA Architects</td> <td>Design fees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£836.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAPALC</td> <td>Councillor Training</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£72.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East England Apples</td> <td>Trees</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£160.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drax</td> <td>Street Lighting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£11.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alison Farmer</td> <td>Landscape Appraisal</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4020.00</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full list of payments was circulated and approved at the meeting. 	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses	£530	Hugo Fox	Website provider	£35.99	Ionos	Email subs	£22.80	Hannah Thomas	Forest Garden	£1000.00	KWA Architects	Design fees	£836.24	CAPALC	Councillor Training	£72.00	East England Apples	Trees	£160.00	Drax	Street Lighting	£11.50	Alison Farmer	Landscape Appraisal	£4020.00
Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses	£530																										
Hugo Fox	Website provider	£35.99																										
Ionos	Email subs	£22.80																										
Hannah Thomas	Forest Garden	£1000.00																										
KWA Architects	Design fees	£836.24																										
CAPALC	Councillor Training	£72.00																										
East England Apples	Trees	£160.00																										
Drax	Street Lighting	£11.50																										
Alison Farmer	Landscape Appraisal	£4020.00																										
2302/17	<p>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 6th Jan 2023</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Unity Current A/C balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,610.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Savings A/C balance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£51,579.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Building Society</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£80,038.58</td> </tr> </table> <p>PLANNING</p>	Unity Current A/C balance	£5,610.51	Unity Savings A/C balance	£51,579.33	Cambridge Building Society	£80,038.58																					
Unity Current A/C balance	£5,610.51																											
Unity Savings A/C balance	£51,579.33																											
Cambridge Building Society	£80,038.58																											
2302/18	<p>Applications Received:</p> <p>Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council Proposal: Submission of details required by conditions 8 (materials) and 13 (lighting design strategy) of planning permission 21/03607/FUL Site address: Land At Babraham Research Campus High Street Babraham Reference: 21/03607/CONDD</p> <p>Public Access link: https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/21/03607/CONDD</p>																											
2302/19	Planning decisions: None																											
2302/20	Correspondence.																											
2302/21	<p>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 9th March 2023 at 7:30pm</p>																											
2302/22	<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> 15th Feb 2023 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>																											