

Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 14th March 2024

Present:

Denise Dear: Chair

Stuart Laurie

Jane Goody

Charlotte Boast

Richard Bandy

Chris Chapman (BRC)

Cllr P McDonald

Anne Charteris: Clerk

Members of the Public: 7

	<p>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</p>
2403/01	<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence No apologies received.</p>
2403/02	<p>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda None declared</p>
2403/03	<p>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 8th Feb 2024 The Minutes were approved by all and signed off as correct.</p>
2403/04	<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>
2403/05	<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>Budget</u> The plans retain the Council as one of the lowest taxing authorities in the country, with a £5 per year increase for the average band D home, equivalent to a below inflation rise of around 3%. In addition, a budget of £519,000 has been agreed as part of the Council's continued Digital Transformation work – which aims to make services even more accessible to residents in a way that works for them. This will fund the software and staffing costs needed to make it easier for customers to get the help they need. position in the lowest 25% of taxing District Councils in the country. To deliver 75 new Council homes for rent and shared ownership – the Council has around 5,600 homes for rent. Over £1million to be spent on improving the insulation and heating for existing Council housing. More than £500,000 to be spent on services to prevent homelessness. To maintain the Council's housing stock to a high standard, and to build more Council houses, Council rents are having to raise by 7.7%. The Council cannot subsidise its housing from Council Tax income.</p> <p><u>Support for Ukraine update</u></p> <p>Grants totalling more than £13,000 have been awarded for activities to help Ukraine guests settle into South Cambridgeshire and forge friendships. In addition, more than £102,000 has been given to support English tuition to help Ukrainian guests develop</p>

2403/06	<p>communication skills.</p> <p><u>Half Term Vouchers</u></p> <p>More than 23,000 supermarket vouchers were distributed during the February half term to eligible families in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council has continued to run the existing scheme using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions.</p> <p>Eligible families were automatically sent a £15 voucher for the week via email or text at the beginning of the half term holiday, with the voucher being valid at a choice of 11 supermarkets. A total of 23,288 were distributed.</p> <p><u>Free data SIM cards for low income households</u></p> <p>A reminder that Cambridgeshire Libraries are part of Good Things Foundation's National Databank, O2 and Vodaphone scheme, which makes free data SIM cards or vouchers available to anyone aged 18+ from a low-income household. Recipients can self-declare as eligible, and the support is available for a maximum period of twelve months. The data can be used with any SIM-enabled device. This offer is available at a range of libraries.</p> <p><u>The Busway</u></p> <p>Safety works are under way on the Guided Busway to allow the busway to return to full, two-way operation. Since February 2022, a section of the Guided Busway in one direction has been closed between Cambridge Railway Station and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. A temporary fence was installed whilst an independent safety review was in progress, and following ongoing communications with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and as part of continuous safety reviews on the busway.</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>Walk-in vaccine clinics available across the County</p> <p>The Vaccinators are back! To encourage everyone to be up-to-date with essential vaccines such as MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), HPV, meningitis we are running walk-in, no appointment requires clinics. The easiest way to discover the next clinic date and venue is via the Cambridgeshire County Council X account: https://x.com/CambsCC/status/1768630688108961920?s=20</p> <p>These are for anyone over the age of one year who is not up to date with their MMR vaccinations. More information at https://www.cpics.org.uk/measles</p> <p>Have your say on creating Healthy Places</p> <p>Cambridgeshire's public health team is inviting residents to have their say on how new and existing communities can be healthy, supportive and inclusive.</p> <p>Work is currently under way to develop the Healthy Places Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To inform this, the team has launched a survey asking for views on access to healthcare services, inclusive and accessible green spaces, opportunities for active travel and healthy play and leisure, and the provision of affordable healthy food options.</p> <p>The survey is at https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WNC1CB/ and is open until Monday 15 April at 5:00PM. It will take around 10-15 minutes to fill in and may be completed on behalf of yourself or someone you care for. If you would prefer to complete a paper copy, you can pick one up from your local library.</p> <p>If you have any questions about the survey or the Healthy Places Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, please email healthinallpolicies@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>
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	<p>More pupils get first choice of secondary school A greater percentage of Cambridgeshire students will be going to their first choice secondary school this September. A total of 87.9 per cent have been offered a place at their first choice school—up slightly from 87.1 per cent last year. The proportion offered a place at their first, second or third preference school has also risen, from 95.4 per cent in 2023 to 95.8 per cent this year. The total number of places offered this year was fewer than last – 7,220 compared with 7,413.</p> <p>Reporting flooding If you are in Cambridgeshire and have experienced flooding, please do report it, even if it is not internal flooding, and even if the immediate danger has passed. In the event of a flood, if there is a threat to life call 999. To report a non-life-threatening flood emergency to the police, please call 101. Outside of those events, the County Council’s flood reporting page provides options to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report a flooding problem on roads and pavements • Report flooding in a property, home or garden • Report flooding from water pipes or sewers • Report flooding from surface water, groundwater or ordinary watercourses • Report flooding from a main river or the sea as well as information on how to prepare for flooding, and flood emergency contacts.
2403/07	<p>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative The Annual Schools day was held recently, when Pupils taking GCSE and A levels are able to work in the labs, this was well attended and reported in the local papers. The Wild Trout Trust along with Environmental Agency will be coming to do work on the river: increasing flow, clearing growth etc. The “dog slide” which had been dealt with, has now been damaged in recent floods. This will be repaired. Trees have been placed across the river at certain points to collect debris and prevent it going downstream. Some pollarding work needs to be done; cuttings are being taken from these trees to be replanted when big enough. Soe paths will be closed for maintenance work, bark will be put where needed.</p>
2403/08	<p>Village Hall Nothing to report</p>
2403/09	<p>Cambridge South East Transport scheme. The recent announcement means the GCP can resume work on the project and take it to the next phase of development after it was paused last year due to rising inflation and construction costs. A paper will be presented to the board in June where members will be formally asked to set out the next steps for the project, which would create a public transport scheme and walking and cycling route from a new travel hub at the A11 to provide more reliable journeys to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and the city. £7 million pound has been given for assessment.</p>
2403/10	<p>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed Problems still with fly tipping in several areas in the village, this can be reported on the South Cambs District Councils webpage: https://forms.scambs.gov.uk/REPORTENVIROCRIMEWASTEINYOURAREA/launch</p> <p>Babraham Village Community: there was a discussion re Community engagement on the Village, events are held on the Pub, the Church and the School but there is usually the</p>

<p>2403/11</p>	<p>same people attending and organising these events. It seems that the village is losing its community spirit, how can this be changed? Maybe a Welcome pack for new residents? How can we advertise to get more people interested? If these events are not supported then there is a real chance that they can be lost along with the venues, this is particularly relevant to the Church, it would be a terrible loss If this had to close due to lack of support.</p> <p>Forest Garden Project. Members of steering group to discuss with the PC future Governance and development of the Forest Garden. Hannah Thomas gave a very interesting report on the history of the Forest Garden, how it developed and what would be happening in the future. Some questions were asked at the end: Why weren't bigger plants bought? There is a better chance of survival if smaller plants are put in. How many of the original plants have survived? A large proportion have survived despite the extremes of weather that occurred, the hedge did not do well, these were planted as a windbreak, but now not thought to be necessary, so these will not be replaced. The fence needed to be put in at an early stage to prevent plants being eaten by deer and rabbits. Why can't dogs go in there? It is nor right to let dogs foul where edible plants are growing. Can signs be put up? Yes, we are looking at putting up more information boards. How much longer is funding needed? The garden should be quite low maintenance once planting is finished, mainly watering and weed control where needed.</p>
<p>2403/12</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plan The plan has all come together now, it sets out clear objectives such as where is development OK and where is not suitable, it also shows protected areas. The Plan is now ready to be presented to the Parish Council. There will then be a public consultation, revisions can then be made if required and then handed over and submitted. There is a lot to be looked at, the document is substantial and there will probably be a lot of questions and details to go over so it was suggested that an extra meeting with the PC is arranged to look at this Plan. A date to be agreed on but would be before the next PC normal meeting.</p>
<p>2403/13</p>	<p>Review Policies: Standing Orders Equality and Diversity Financial Regs Freedom of information Risk Register Health and Safety Data Protection Publication Scheme Action Plan Complaints Procedure Lone Working Disciplinary and Grievance Clerk and Parish Councillors reviewed and approved.</p>
<p>2403/14</p>	<p>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potholes: many have been filled in but have reappeared due to the wet weather. More money has been designated to fill these as soon as possible, potholes can be reported on the Cambridge County website

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding some interest to Pocket Park for children eg wooden Trim Trail. We have some money set aside for Play equipment, so it was agreed to look into buying a Trim trail to add interest to the Pocket park. • Gritting: can anyone store the grit spreader, shovel and PPE until next winter? Clerk to look into getting a grit bin-where to site it? Stuart to look into finding somewhere to store the spreader. • Fly Tipping: several places have been used as fly tip sites, contact Council to see if these can be cleared away. 																		
	<p>FINANCE</p>																		
2403/15	<p>Receipts and Transfers (as of 8th March 2024) Cambridge Building Society Interest £1538.76</p>																		
2403/16	<p>Payments (as of 8th March 2024)</p>																		
2403/17	<p>Paid</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Salary/Tax/Expenses plus pay scale rises and 3 years backpay</td> <td>£3638</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox</td> <td>Website provider</td> <td>£35.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ionos</td> <td>Email subscription & Domain name</td> <td>£42.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brookfield</td> <td>Bins/grass</td> <td>£504.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HCR Hewitsons</td> <td>Solicitors fees Village Hall</td> <td>£570.00</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full list of payments was circulated, reviewed and approved at the meeting 		Salary/Tax/Expenses plus pay scale rises and 3 years backpay	£3638	Clerk			Hugo Fox	Website provider	£35.99	Ionos	Email subscription & Domain name	£42.00	Brookfield	Bins/grass	£504.00	HCR Hewitsons	Solicitors fees Village Hall	£570.00
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2403/18	<p>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 8th March 2024</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Unity Current A/C balance</td> <td>£5865.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Savings A/C balance</td> <td>£142,551.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge Building Society</td> <td>£81,900.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>£233,604.01</td> </tr> </table>	Unity Current A/C balance	£5865.66	Unity Savings A/C balance	£142,551.00	Cambridge Building Society	£81,900.13	TOTAL	£233,604.01										
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	<p>PLANNING</p>																		
2403/19	<p>Applications received</p>																		
2403/20	<p>Planning decisions:</p> <p>The South Cambridgeshire District Council (Public Footpath No. 12, Sawston (part) and Public Footpath No. 9, Babraham) Public Path Stopping Up Order 2023 confirmed 18 August 2023.</p> <p>On 12 February 2024 the Highway Authority Cambridgeshire County Council certified that the works required under Part 2 of the above Order have been carried out to a satisfactory standard. The order therefore became operative on 12 February 2024. The following public rights of way have been created and made available as replacement for the stopped-up public footpaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alternative public bridleway commencing at a junction with Church Lane at TL 4913 4945 and proceeds along Public Footpath No. 14, Sawston generally east for approx. 460m to a gap in the hedge-line at TL 4959 4947. The Public Bridleway then continues north north-east, to the west of a hedge-line for approx. 349m to a point at the southern boundary of a field at TL 4965 4981. The Public Bridleway then continues generally east-south-east along a field edge for approx. 59m to TL 4970 4980. The Public Bridleway then 																		

	<p>continues generally north-north-east for approx. 173m to TL 4975 4996. The Public Bridleway then continues generally north-west for approx. 144m to a junction with Babraham Road (public road) at TL 4962 5003.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alternative public footpath commencing at a junction with the alternative public bridleway at TL 4962 4968 generally east for approx. 13m to a junction with Public Footpath No. 2, Pampisford at TL 4963 4968. • An alternative public footpath commencing at a junction with the alternative public bridleway at TL 4974 4990 generally east- south-east for approx. 14m to a junction with Public Footpath No. 1, Pampisford at TL 4975 4989.
<p>2403/21</p>	<p>Correspondence. Subject: Review of Highways Operational Standards in Relation to Weed Management</p> <p>I am writing to provide you with an update on the recent review of the Highways Operational Standards (HOS) in relation to weed management in Cambridgeshire. The review aimed to assess the impact of changes implemented in April 2023 and gather stakeholders' feedback to inform further improvements.</p> <p>The review identified the need for revisions to the HOS and recommended their approval for consultation with local stakeholders. This aims to improve environmental performance, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance road user safety through proactive weed management.</p> <p>In January the Highways and Transport committee decided to reinstate the use of chemical weed control across the county, the report findings confirmed that the use of chemical weed control remains to be the most effective method for weed control as well as being the most financially viable option.</p> <p>The paper submitted to the committee can be found here.</p> <p>Additionally, we would like to inform you that a one off non-chemical weed removal program will be implemented to cleanse all areas affected by weeds. This program will serve as a deep clean measure before the cyclical chemical weed treatment program, which will take place twice per annum, is reinstated in May 2024.</p>
<p>2403/22</p>	<p>Items for inclusion in the next meeting Trim Trail Fly Tipping</p> <p>Date of next meetings: Thursday April 11th 2024 7.30pm Thursday 9th May 6.30pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm</p>
<p>2403/23</p>	<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 March 2024 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827</p>