

Minutes of a Meeting of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held in The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**Present:** Councillor Drage (Chairman), and Councillors Brown, Cone, (and District) Hinton, Johnson, Lacey, Lockwood, Newell, Smith, Thorn, Ward, the Clerk and 1 parishioner.

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>There will be a <u>PLANNING MEETING</u> of the Council commencing at <u>7pm</u> prior to Full Council.</b></p> <p><b>Present:</b> Councillor Smith (Chairman) and Councillors Drage, Gaskell, Hinton and Johnson.</p> <p><b>To consider planning applications:</b> Minutes of meetings held on 06/11/2018.</p> <p><b>New Applications:</b> S/4036/18/FL, 51 Cow Lane – First floor side extension including half-dormer windows to rear, covered porch and replacement windows; S/4056/18/FL, 23 Apthorpe Street – Retrospective application for part first floor rear, part single storey side and rear extension and monopitch roof.</p> <p><b>77 To accept apologies for absence.</b> County &amp; District Councillor Williams and lateness from Councillor Thorn.</p> <p>Item 79 was taken next as Councillor Daunton was due at Little Wilbraham PC.</p> <p><b>79 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.</b></p> <p>79.1 District Councillor Williams and District Councillor Daunton issued the attached report. In addition Cllr Daunton reported on other matters which are also attached at the end of their original report. Cllr Daunton added from the District Council's Brexit Working Group, she would keep the Parish Council updated. <i>Cllr Daunton left the meeting at this point.</i></p> <p>79.2 District Councillor Cone issued the attached report which he briefly went through. <i>Cllr Thorn arrived at this point.</i></p> <p><b>78 To notify the clerk of any declarations of interest that will be declared by members for any item to be discussed.</b></p> <p><b><u>Public &amp; Press</u> - You are invited to attend the whole meeting and are welcome to speak at our Open Forum at the beginning of the meeting.</b> There were no questions from the floor.</p> <p><b>79 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.</b> See above.</p> <p><b>80 To approve the minutes of the last meeting.</b> The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p><b>81 Matters arising from the last meeting.</b></p> <p>81.1 <b>Cemetery entrance.</b> Cllr Smith met a resident regarding improvements to the entrance and will produce a plan for Council and all neighbouring properties to look at. This would involve moving the barrier further to the cemetery and would need to be included in next year's precept if the PC went ahead with the change. Issues on land ownership and finances would need to be looked into carefully.</p> <p>81.2 <b>Street lamps.</b> Council had precepted for replacing its lamps, so agreed to proceed with one in Cow Lane once costs from UK Power Networks to complete the connection was known.</p> <p>81.3 <b>Mobile Speeding Device.</b> The next location will be Hinton Road. School Lane and Birdfarm Road are the next roads on the list.</p> <p>81.4 <b>Oak Tree.</b> Council has been contacted by numerous parishioners including an arborist</p>	<p><b>Precept 2019/20</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>GC</b></p>

<p>saying the Oak Tree planted opposite the War Memorial in Manor Walk is in the wrong place. This type of tree requires a lot of light and if left, will grow asymmetrically. We have been advised it is not too late to replant it a few yards from its current position. Council agreed to write to the Gardening Society with this information.</p>	<p><b>1365</b> <b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>81.5 Fly tipping.</b> Cllr Cone has made enquiries about Officers from SCDC visiting the primary school to give a talk to the children on recycling and the environment adding there was a waiting list.</p>	
<p><b>81.6 Beechwoods Estate.</b> Cllrs Smith and Johnson went on a walk of the estate and found it to be very neat and tidy. The grass was well maintained and could not see any tree work required at present. They did see the Councillors list on the notice board needs updating and a tree is blocking the footpath along Fulbourn Old Drift. The Clerk has a contact so will get this matter reported.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>81.7 Townley Trust AGM.</b> Cllr Brown attended advising the Trustees would still like to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the car park.</p>	
<p><b>82 Neighbourhood Plan.</b> The attached notes were accepted by the Council.</p>	
<p><b>83 Village Community Assets.</b> Following discussion, it was agreed to set up a Working Party to compile a list of Assets for consideration which will then be referred to the Village Design Statement Group. Cllrs Drage, Cone, Hinton and Johnson agreed to form the Working Party.</p>	
<p><b>84 Tree works:</b> The Bourns – Sycamore, crown reduce by 1 – 1.5m and crown lift. No comment; S/3944/18/TC, - Dogget Lane, Remove T1 Walnut; T2 Holly; T3 Plum; T4 Birch and T5 Birch then replace with 1 Wingnut and 1 London Plane. No comment; S/4030/18/TC, Home End – Remove Holly as part of thinning planting; S/4080/18/TC, Dogget Lane – Reduce Ash to clear clearance to building. S/4228/18/TP, The Haven – Remove as branches continue to fall, dominates the garden and blocks the light. Disclaimer: Fulbourn Parish Council Tree Officer and the Parish Council accept no liability for the advice given above.</p>	
<p><b>85 Correspondence.</b></p>	
<p><b>85.1 SCDC – Physical Activity Co-ordinator</b> from the initiative Let’s Get Moving, asking for ideas for activities residents might enjoy. Members suggested a Walking Group with varying lengths of distance and if it met centrally in the village, perhaps at The Swifts, this might encourage anyone who is lonely to join in and have refreshments afterwards. Cllrs Ward and Brown offered to have an initial meeting with SCDC.</p>	<p><b>GW&amp; DB</b></p>
<p><b>85.2 M Fox – Asking</b> if the Parish Council would consider selling land in Cherry Orchard to the rear of properties 37 – 40. Members unanimously declined this request as this land was part of the S106 Agreement when the development was handed over to the Parish Council and is a public open space for the residents of Cherry Orchard. It would also set a precedent for others to apply purchasing other pockets of land around the parish.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>85.3 Highways England – Latest A14C2H newsletter.</b></p>	
<p><b>85.4a Greater Cambridge Partnership – Waterbeach, Fulbourn and Comberton Greenways</b> consultation on newly proposed cycle, walking and equestrian routes linking local village to Cambridge. Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 4pm – 7pm at The Fulbourn Centre.</p>	
<p><b>85.4b Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) – Update</b> that as part of the Greenways Project, GCP will be upgrading some paths with new Solar Studs making walking and cycling safer in the dark.</p>	
<p><b>85.5 Co-operative Stores – They</b> will be providing a defibrillator in-store so request we move the 24/7 access one by the end of 2018. Cllr Gaskell has spoken to Ms Clarke who is</p>	

<p>happy for Council to approach the pharmacist with a view to having this outside the chemist. Cllr Smith will need to do an electrical assessment. We understand the Co-op has already notified the British Heart Foundation who granted this vital equipment to the Council and the emergency services. Members asked the Clerk ascertains that the services understand the defibrillator is still active at present.</p>	<p><b>1366</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p>85.6 <b>NHS Cambs &amp; Peterborough</b> – CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) News, Autumn 2018.</p>	
<p>85.7 <b>SCDC</b> – Tree Wardens newsletter.</p>	
<p>85.8 <b>CAPALC</b> – October 2018 Bulletin.</p>	
<p>85.9 <b>Fulbourn Forum</b> – Latest news and list of future planned events.</p>	
<p>85.10 <b>Fulbourn Arts</b> – List of “What’s On” and contacts for the various events.</p>	
<p>85.11 <b>SCDC</b> – Tree Warden network event on 26/11/18 at Whittlesford.</p>	
<p>85.12 <b>Royal Papworth Hospital</b> – Donation request; The Clerk has replied advising Councillors as individuals may donate and indeed do, but it is against Council’s Policy to make donations from the public precept.</p>	
<p>85.13 <b>CCC, Passenger Transport</b> – Traffic Commission has accepted Whippet Coaches re-registration of their X3 service so this till continue running to current timetable and route. For more information see <a href="http://www.go-whippet.co.uk">www.go-whippet.co.uk</a></p>	
<p>85.14 <b>CCVS</b> (Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service) – November 2018 newsletter; Annual Conference and AGM on 19/11/18.</p>	
<p>85.15 <b>War Memorials Trust</b> – November 2018 newsletter.</p>	
<p>85.16 <b>Clerks &amp; Councils Direct</b> – November 2018 magazine.</p>	
<p>85.17 <b>CCC</b> – Temporary Traffic Order Application form (TTRO), footpath closure along Yarrow Road from 7-10 January 2019 to enable resurfacing works following construction of new shared use footway/cycleway.</p>	
<p>85.18 <b>CCC, Highways</b> – IHMC (Integrated Highways Management Centre) responded to 122 incidents on the road network in Cambridgeshire during October 2018. Details and breakdown of incidents received.</p>	
<p>85.19 <b>S Danischewsky</b> – Complaint about Landmark School use of recreation ground. This has come up before and Council previously sought advice from its Local Council Association who confirmed it is open to the public 24/7 so we need to refer the parishioner to our Public Access and Amenity Policy.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p>85.20 <b>SCDC &amp; Cambridge City Council</b> – Confirmation Cambridge City Council adopted the Cambridge Local Plan 2018 on 18/10/2018.</p>	
<p>85.21 <b>B Parker</b> – Asking if tree could be trimmed outside his property as it is blocking the light. The Clerk explained a Tree Surgeon has looked at the tree and said nothing needs doing yet, but we can allow for the work in next year’s precept.</p>	<p><b>Precept 2019/20</b></p>
<p>85.22 <b>L Bernardelli Berzuini</b> – Requesting a meeting to discuss a proposed planning application following a fire which destroyed their property and to discuss boundary issues. Council suggested they speak to SCDC Planning Department as the Parish Council could not make any comment as this would compromise its decision when an application is submitted. They would need to discuss the boundary with FISSC whose land is adjacent.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>86 To resolve the accounts for the month.</b></p>	
<p>Camb Water: Cemetery rates.....19.92 Camb Water: Swifts rates.....37.14 Barton PC: Cllr training.....50.00R B’s Travel: Shopper bus.....220.00R Wave: Swifts sewerage charge.....82.54R HM Customs: Tax &amp; NI.....596.67R BT: Internet services.....175.08R Cam Alarms: Swifts service.....81.60R</p>	<p>Camb Water: Recreation ground rates.....57.28 Barclays: Monthly fees.....21.40R Clear court: MUGA maintenance.....876.00 Daisy: Phone line rental.....15.00R Rec. Ground sewerage.....344.61R Ridgeons:Supplies.....58.44R ESPO: Supplies.....90.40R Falcon: Village Pump.....515.00</p>

LDS: Pump delivery.....174.90 e-on: Swifts electricity.....300.52 S Danischewsky: Fees.....720.00 Replay: Maintenance.....495.00 Cllr Newell proposed accepting the accounts, proposal seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed.	Working Turf: Maintenance.....900.00 e-on: Pavilion electricity.....338.10 Murfitt: New build.....88,414.76	<b>1367</b>
<b>87 Council Committees.</b> <u>Communications Committee.</u> Minutes of a meeting held on 16/10/18 were issued. As there have been problems with delivery of The Village Pump, it was agreed to seek an alternative delivery company.		<b>MD</b>
<b>88 To receive items for inclusion on the next Agenda for decision and/or action.</b>  There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.30pm		

Additional reports:

Minutes of a Planning Meeting of Fulbourn Parish Council to be held on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at **7.00pm** in The Meeting Room at the Fulbourn Centre.

**Present:** Councillor Smith (Chairman) and Councillors Drage, Hinton, Johnson, Newell, Thorn and Ward.

**Apologies:** Councillors Brown and Cone.

Permission:

S/3198/18/FL

Location: 18 Home End

Proposal: Removal of existing asbestos garage roof and replace with pitched roof in tile and 2 velux roof lights.

**New Applications:**

S/2713/18/FL

Location: Worsted Lodge, London Road, Balsham

Proposal: Demolition of garage and outbuilding; Erection of car port and storage; External alterations to fenestration; Erection of fence, wall and oil tank enclosure.

Recommendation approve.

S/3315/18/FL

Location: 4 Rushden Close

Proposal: Conservatory to the rear. Recommendation approve.

S/3562/18/FL

Location: 18 Station Road

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and first floor dormer windows.

This application is not in keeping with adjoining properties and would set a precedent.  
Objects.

S/3580/18/PO

Location: Properties in Swifts Corner, Grandridge Close, Haggis Gap, Cambridge Road, Farmers Row, Dunmowe Way and Windmill Lane, Fulbourn.

Proposal: Modifications of planning obligations contained within Section 106 agreement dated 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008 (as amended by the deed of variation dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011).

S106 & Deed of Variation to be viewed before giving consideration to this.

S/3836/18/FL

Location: 6 Stackyard Court

Proposal: Single storey rear and side extension and perimeter garden wall.

Recommendation approve.

S/3892/18/FL

Location: Private Road off Fulbourn Old Drift

Proposal: The proposed development is for the allocation and demarcation of 14 car parking spaces (6.1m long and 2.2m wide) with white line marking along the private road which adjoins Fulbourn Old Drift.

Recommendation approve.

## **Item 79.1**

### **Report of District Councillors John Williams and Claire Daunton to Fulbourn Parish Council, November 2018**

**This is a report, as noted above. It is intended to provide factual information which we hope will prove useful and interesting to the Parish Council. We are happy to follow up any comments or queries.**

#### **Topical Issues**

##### **Brexit**

We noted in a report earlier in the year that, from May the District had set up a Brexit Working Group. This is chaired by our colleague, Councillor Geoff Harvey (Balsham Ward), who has worked in research in the technology sector for many years. It brings together expertise from the business world as well as Councillors from District and City across the political spectrum. The purpose of this innovative working group is to look at the potential impact of Brexit on businesses and on the wider community of our district. Having been working on a broad canvas over the past several months, the Working Group is to move on to look at the sectoral aspects of Brexit., particularly in pharmaceutical and technology industries which currently provide jobs and wider economic benefits to our area. We will keep you up to date on the activities and research of the Working Group.

##### **Housing**

The lifting of the government's borrowing cap for local authorities is already effecting changes on housing policy. See below for details.

#### **Housing**

Two aspects of general housing policy have been considered recently at South Cambs: the development of a new strategy and the medium term financial strategies for the Housing Revenue Account. Some comments on both:

##### **Housing Strategy**

The new administration is developing its housing strategy alongside the demands of the Local Plan. It is taking account of housing and jobs growth; affordability; homelessness; ageing population; provision for travelling people. But it is also looking at different ways to build homes, namely custom build; self build; increase in council-led building. A further strand of the strategy will be to look at the natural, organic development of village communities. The development of Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements will allow villages to think ahead, with the District, about appropriate housing developments. The District will be working alongside the GCP and Combined Authority to formulate transport plans that allow for infrastructure to support village development where desired, through the use of exception sites, whilst preserving the village character which is so distinctive of the District. There should be scope for self-build and custom build houses on the sites of Waterbeach, Bourn Airfield, North Stowe and the Cambridge Airport sites. The Council is also looking to increase its own stock by taking advantage of the lifting of the government borrowing cap on local authorities and will be seeking sites to allow it to do so. It is also looking at what constitutes affordable housing in relation to travel times, available jobs, and established communities. We will report again on the development of the housing strategy as it takes more definite shape in the coming four/five months.

#### 1. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The HRA is a ring-fenced area of the Council's activity and represents the landlord activity which the authority carries out as a stock-retaining authority. South Cambs HRA currently owns and/or manages the following properties:

Housing Category	Actual Stock nos at 1/4/2018	Estimated Stock nos at 1/4/2019
General Housing	4,169	4,182
Shared Housing	1,056	1,056
Sheltered Housing (equity share)	78	78
Misc leased dwellings	11	11
Shared ownership	57	57
<b>TOTAL DWELLINGS</b>	<b>5371</b>	<b>5390</b>

Revenue comes from rent and other sources. Rent collection performance remains good with over 99% of the value of the rent due collected. Rent debt has shown a slight increase over the last year from 1.14 % to 1.42 %. But the position is likely to become more challenging as Universal Credit is rolled out. Some of this lost rent is due to properties being void. Whilst there are always some intentional voids as properties are due for reconfiguration or a site is awaiting development, the Council always aims to keep voids to a minimum.

In a recent report to the Council's Scrutiny and Overview Committee, the Lead Member for Housing, Councillor Hazel Smith, noted two national developments that would affect the HRA: the introduction of universal credit and the governments scrapping of the borrowing cap for Councils.

In respect of Universal Credit, there are likely to be some problems with regard to housing but the Council is keeping in close contact with tenants most likely to experience problems and hopes by this means to mitigate problems. However, there is expected to be some adjustment to housing revenue as a result of UC in the next six months and this has been built into the HRA budgeting.

In respect of the lifting of the borrowing cap, as noted above, this will allow the Council to borrow to purchase land, where favourable prices can be negotiated and to enter into conversations with some of the smaller well-regarded developers with the intention of building more council-owned property. Such property would be energy efficient, take account of regard for natural capital, and

be in places where infrastructure made it suitable for housing development. Such a significant change would have a major impact on the HRA.

Another significant aspect of the HRA is Section 106 funding. IF the Council receives commuted sum payments, often time limited, where approval has been granted as part of the planning decision to receive payment in lieu of affordable housing, the default position is that the HRA utilizes the resource to invest in affordable housing. The Council currently holds £3.93m in commuted sums for affordable housing, on a time-limited basis. With £3.428 of resource still to be committed and appropriately re-invested, and a commitment to invest the sum in new HRA (Council) homes wherever possible, further expenditure of £500,000 per annum, and associated Section 106 match-funding has been retained in the Housing Capital Plan for the 5 years from April 2019.

### **Local Plan: Area Action Plan for Cambridge Northern Fringe East (CNFE)**

Here below are some details from one of the many documents issued regarding this area of proposed development. Both the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans have indicated the two Councils will jointly prepare an Area Action Plan (AAP) for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East (CNFE), namely the area around Cambridge North Station, south of the A14 and bordering the Science Park. The policies indicate the AAP will cover the amount and types of development, site capacity, viability, timescales and phasing of development. We now need to consider the planning framework to ensure we take every opportunity to improve the area.

These opportunities include:

- Regenerating the largest brownfield area in Cambridge and South Cambs.
- Maximising the benefits of the proposed new railway station on the Chesterton Rail Sidings and the extension to the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway as a catalyst for new investment in the area;
- Look at options for new employment development which meets the growing needs of the Cambridge economy and provides jobs for the community;
- Providing more homes to meet the pressing needs of the local community;
- Utilising and enhancing Cambridge's only rail freight head;
- Making more of existing environmental features including the First Public Drain;
- Improving vehicular access off Milton Road and make the area more friendly for all road users especially pedestrians and cyclists;
- Giving careful consideration to the amount of new development that will take place in the area. Generally speaking, if we increase the amount of investment that goes into the core area, by building more homes, shops and business space, more funding will be generated to improve public spaces and parks, pedestrian and cycle links, the road network and community facilities in the wider area.



Once adopted the CNFE AAP will:

- guide the regeneration and future development of the Cambridge Northern Fringe East area;
- set out a vision which describes the kind of place that Cambridge Northern Fringe East will be;
- provide clear objectives and a series of principles and concepts to guide development that will help the community, land owners and developers work with the Councils and their partners to deliver the vision by 2031;
- show how CNFE will become a joined up part of Cambridge;
- create a balanced approach to regeneration that will deliver a significant number of additional jobs, through the provision of space for existing and new businesses to grow and thrive, as well as housing, open space and community uses;
- set the planning policy and high level master-planning framework for its redevelopment including policies for employment, homes, transport, open space and a wide range of community and infrastructure development;
- protect areas particularly sensitive to change e.g. nature conservation;
- identify opportunities to deliver new development, growth and regeneration, and propose sites within the AAP boundary for certain uses;
- co-ordinate transport and public realm proposals in the area;
- set out a strategy for its development and regeneration, including how the opportunities presented by the development can be used to ensure that existing and nearby neighbouring communities benefit from the changes;
- set out the strategy and timetable for the implementation of its proposals including phasing and identify short, medium and long term actions to promote and manage growth and change.



**At an initial meeting of senior councillors, it was noted that the AAP has gone through one round of consultation including 4 options on different sizes of Waste Water Treatment (WWT) plant. The new AAP will be developed in parallel with the Housing Infrastructure Fund bid for at least £193 million, which is now being worked up in consultation with government officers. The two processes dovetail together, and there seems to be an assumption that the HIF bid will be successful, provided the viability work does not turn up anything unforeseen. The new location for the WWT works will lie in a huge area of search from Cottenham across to Honey Hill. The next process would be a Development Consent Order for the move.**

### **Police and Crime Issues**

Councillors Anna Bradnam (Milton and Waterbeach Ward) and Councillor Daunton (Fen Ditton and Fulbourn) are the SCDC representatives on the South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. This is a group which includes senior local police officers, fire and rescue officers, representatives of County and District with special responsibility for safe communities and safeguarding. At a recent meeting discussions covered: modern slavery and human trafficking, children at risk, domestic abuse, rural crime (theft from farms and hare-coursing), drug abuse, anti-social behaviour and gang crime.

As reported previously, we were left in no doubt that with reduced resources, the police would be concentrating on aspects of behaviour where there they judged was the greatest threat, risk and harm. They also placed great emphasis on ‘community resilience’ meaning that they want communities to develop effective networks of self-help and that they are prepared to help develop these networks.

They gave examples of where they have broken up serious crime rings and where they are containing the effectiveness of ‘County Lines’ drug rings. On modern slavery they have worked on car washing rings and know they can do more on this and related types of work.

### **Greenways: Message from the GCP**

**This autumn, the Greater Cambridge Partnership is launching a consultation on newly proposed cycle, walking and equestrian routes linking Cambridge to local villages, the Waterbeach, Fulbourn and Comberton Greenways.**

The Waterbeach and Fulbourn consultations will begin on 15 October 2018 and will run until 03 December 2018. The Comberton consultation will begin on 29 October 2018 and run until 17 December 2018. Leaflets and questionnaires will be delivered to local residents on the week beginning of the consultations.

An online consultation platform containing scheme details and questionnaires which will go live on the start dates can be found through the following

link: <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/greenwaysconsultation/>

You can request paper copies of the leaflets by getting in touch with us at [consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk](mailto:consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk)

We will be holding a set of events near the proposed routes for stakeholders to find out more information from officers on the proposed routes. Details can be found below.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Cherry Hinton Leisure - Village Colville Rd, Cambridge CB1 9EJ	Tuesday 06 November	5:00pm - 7:00pm
Waterbeach Salvation Army - 7 Station Rd, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9HT	Monday 12 November	5:00pm - 7:00pm

Comberton Village Hall - Hines Ln, Comberton, Cambridge CB23 7BZ	Wednesday 14 November	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Fulbourn Centre - 31 Home End, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5BS	Tuesday 20 November	4:00pm - 7:00pm
Coton Village Hall - 56 High St, Cambridge CB23 7PL	Wednesday 21 November	6:30pm - 8:30pm

## Bus Services

### 1. Saving the X3

When Whippet Bus Company announced the intention to withdraw the X3 service, which connects Cambridge, Cambourne, Papworth, St Ives and Huntingdon, SCDC Deputy Leader, Cllr Van der Weyer and Mayor Palmer agreed to act together to save the service. With subsidies in place the service has now been taken over by Stagecoach, pending the outcome of the Mayor's bus review. The results of the review are to be made public in December.

### 2. CABU

Councillors Bradnam and Daunton were amongst those attending the meeting of the Cambridge Area Bus Users (CABU) group on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, along with parish councillor, Frances Amrani. Reports were given on meetings held by CABU officers with the managers of Stagecoach and Whippet and with the Mayor. It was noted that, having previously been opposed to franchising, the Mayor was not now ruling it out and he seemed to be more receptive to the concerns and suggestions of the group. Whilst all the rural areas surrounding Cambridge City have been hit by reduced services, it does seem that the eastern edge, namely this Ward, seems to have been hit hardest. It appears that the Mayor accepts that there will be need for bus subsidies. It was noted that the group now had 70 paying members and that the reach of the group in the City and the villages was much wider via an active social media presence and press reporting.

## Issues local to Fulbourn

1. We took part in one of evening sessions on the Village Design Statement held at the primary school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. We were pleased to be able to comment on the progress of the Design committee's work. A number of issues were raised including: local jobs, traffic, connecting the different elements of the village, the potential impact of new housing developments and the importance of integrating them, the importance of maintaining and improving green spaces, to name only some.
2. We have been watching closely the work on the extension of the path along Yarrow Road. Councillor Williams, as both County and District Councillor, has a particular interest in this. Further discussions on this will follow.
3. We are currently following up on an issue concerning landscaping/ pathways in one area of the village.
4. Councillor Daunton is a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and has supported members of the committee in their interactions with the District.
5. Closure of Station Road: Councillor Williams continues to raise concerns about this with the relevant authorities. He will report at the meeting on the outcome of the latest discussions .

CD/JW

9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Additional report given at meeting by Cllr Daunton: -

### **Fee for extra green bin collections approved**

South Cambridgeshire residents will have to pay a small annual fee to have more than one green bin collected in future – which Councillors have described as being fairer for all.

The District Council's Cabinet on 7 November backed a report which stated that 95% of Councils nationally that offer a garden waste collection service already charge to pick-up additional green bins.

The collection of the first green bin will remain free. Currently, around 2,300 households in South Cambridgeshire have more than one green bin, out of around 66,000 households in total.

### **New toolkit to tackle loneliness**

A new toolkit that aims to give practical help to communities that is working to tackle loneliness and social isolation has been published by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

According to the Campaign to End Loneliness, there are nine million lonely people in the UK and four million of them are older people. Furthermore, according to Age UK, half a million older people go at least five or six days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone.

Now, South Cambridgeshire District Council has published an online reference guide containing tangible advice on how local groups can set up projects like community cafes, mobile warden schemes and mental health and wellbeing groups.

Crucially, it sets-out how communities can access funding from a variety of sources to get their ideas off the ground. This could include applying to the Council's Community Chest scheme, which provides funding for grass-roots projects, especially those that work to reach people who are lonely or socially isolated. It gives pointers for staying on the right side of health and safety rules, advice on publicity to spread the word about a new project and outlines how groups can measure whether their efforts are working and making a difference.

The toolkit for tackling social isolation and loneliness can be found here:

[www.scambs.gov.uk/community/a-toolkit-for-tackling-social-isolation-and-loneliness/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community/a-toolkit-for-tackling-social-isolation-and-loneliness/)

South Cambs Let's Get Moving co-ordinator, Ellen Bridges, would like to set up new physical activity groups in Fen Ditton & Fulbourn.

Ellen has been doing a great job setting up groups such as walking netball, walking football, New Age Kurling (great for elderly and/or disabled) and buggy bootcamps for mums and babies. She provides set up funding and sorts out equipment, venue, insurance, publicity and a leader/trainer where necessary. Once the group is up and running sustainably she moves on. She has some spare capacity as some of her groups have recently fledged and don't need her any more.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in a particular group then please let her know. Alternatively, if you could put the word around that she is able to help in this way that would be helpful. There is some information at <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/leisure/lets-get-moving-cambridgeshire/activities/>

### **Item 79.2**

District Councillor report to Parish Council November 2018

## The Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap will be lifted

I believe this to be a fairly important announcement which could potentially have a positive impact for SCDC and more importantly its residents. Firstly, I think it is important to explain what the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is. The HRA is a ringfenced budget which kind of operates as a business all on its own separate to the Council's other operations. The HRA gets its income from tenants in the form of rents and service charges and the money it spends is for maintaining existing housing stock and increasing that stock (i.e. building more homes). Currently councils are limited to how much they are allowed to borrow which is far tighter than the value of their assets (e.g. the housing stock). These limits or cap on borrowing were originally introduced as a means to control public borrowing levels however many councils and councillors such as myself have argued that the cap has greatly reduced some councils from building up their own much needed housing stock.

Theresa May's announcement that borrowing caps on housing investment will be lifted within weeks of me writing this report are in my opinion a big step in the right direction for councils being able to drive their own council house developments. Clearly councillors and councils will need to exercise caution when borrowing money to invest in the HRA with a clear business plan and vision of what is to be achieved that is manageable within the HRA in the long term. I believe that this change by the Government to allow councils to borrow could have a huge impact in getting some councils increasing their own stock again. I hope the Government makes the details of this policy clear and this measure is taken advantage of by the new administration at SCDC. We are lucky in SCDC that over the past few years we have continued to build council houses despite the cap due to good management of the HRA but I would hope this announcement gives the council far larger opportunities in terms of the rate at which council houses can be built.

This policy announcement is designed to increase council house building across the country and although I was one of the ones calling for this change there are drawbacks to the policy. Firstly, the policy assumes that all councils want to build more homes. There are some councils in cities that are keen to build large amounts of homes in high demand areas and other councils that have no intention of doing so for a range of reasons. Given the additional freedoms the lifting of the borrowing cap will give, there is no guarantee that councils will want to build more homes or build out planned sites at a faster rate. Another pressure is that the Government has forced councils to cut their rents by 1% a year since April 2016. This is planned to continue till 2020. Although this policy is popular nationally and amongst our council house tenants, I have always thought it is the wrong thing to do, not because I am cold hearted and want to see council tenants pay more for their rents but because I believe that this political decision has severely decreased HRAs funds which has a huge impact on building further council houses and updating the existing stock. If the reverse of this policy had been true and we were increasing our rents by 1% rather than decreasing them I believe this would have been for the greater good of council tenants and more people on waiting lists currently would not be on them. I understand that many people disagree with me on this issue and clearly many of those are in my own party but this is my opinion which I will not shy away from giving.

### Scrutiny of the HRA

As a member of the Scrutiny committee I have been scrutinising the medium term financial strategies for the HRA. My question to the cabinet member for housing was "How will she look at getting her housing team to be more integrated with our planning team?" There has been an incidence in the Fulbourn and Fen Ditton ward where council homes have been empty for a long period of time with a view that they are knocked down and replaced with a larger number of homes. Following a number of conversations with housing officers it is clear that they are frustrated with how long and un-joined up the process of getting plans through to get much needed housing built. Remember this is SCDC housing department trying to get plans through SCDC planning

department in the same building. I have called on the new administration to get this process more joined up in the future.

### Brexit committee

I attended the Brexit committee at SCDC talking to a number of small local businesses regarding help and advice they feel they will need moving towards Brexit. It is very difficult for the council, MPs and consultants to give businesses advice on Brexit as we don't know what the final deal on Brexit will be and exactly how the negotiations will pan out. I found it very interesting to see that businesses were not only thinking about potential negatives but potential benefits to their business following the outcome of the negotiations. It was evident that business does not like uncertainty but also evident that there was not a big cry for more uncertainty caused by a second referendum. Many of the businesses I spoke to really just wanted the Government to get on with Brexit and get the best deal possible for the UK meaning they will know where they stand.

### Review of the draft statement of the gambling act 2005 policy

As a member of the Licensing committee over the past few months we have been working with officers to review the Council's local policy on gambling. It is a statutory duty of the Council to have a new policy in place no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The Licensing committee has put out a draft statement for consultation and I was pleased to say that we had engagement from Parish Councils, one of which was from the Fulbourn and Fen Ditton ward. The policy can be reviewed at any time but has to be reviewed every 3 years. I would like to thank residents and Parish Councils for their engagement during this process.

The reason the policy can be reviewed at any time reflects the changing nature of the gambling industry, Government initiatives, ensuring safety needs of residents and the needs of local businesses. This document can be viewed on the SCDC website but in short is there to prevent gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, ensure gambling is conducted in a fair and open way and to protect children and vulnerable persons from being exploited by gambling. Its only when you start looking at policies surrounding gambling that you realise to what extent gambling plays in many of our residents' lives. There are many examples in our communities where gambling is seemingly harmless i.e. charitable raffles or community bingo clubs preventing social isolation. Equally many of us will have seen the damage that gambling can do to members of our community. Having worked in a number of arcades I have witnessed first hand mainly harmless fun and sometimes the misery that the gambling industry can inflict on peoples lives thus the need for good regulation. Even in the last 10 years the gambling industry has changed dramatically with much of the industry moving online. I think this is a huge worry and something MPs should be keeping a close eye on.

*Thank you for taking the time to read my report; if you have any questions or want to discuss any of the issues raised email me on [graham.cone@councillor.online](mailto:graham.cone@councillor.online) or ring 07595361285 (please leave a voice mail if I am unavailable)*

***Councillor Graham Cone***

### Item 87

## **FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held on  
Tuesday 16 October 2018 at 11.30am at the Parish Office

Present: Cllrs Drage (Chair), Thorn, Cone and the Clerk

**1 Apologies**

Cllr Brown

**2 Minutes of last meeting**

Agreed

**3 Matters arising**

Item 3 – new Data Protection Regulations. The Clerk has put in place all the necessary procedures and protocol required under the new regulations.

**4 Draft October Pump**

Following discussion and some tweaks the October edition of the Pump was approved and will be sent to the printers.

**5 British Legion WW1 events**

Cllr Drage reported on the meeting held on 15 October.

The last flyer outlining the events planned for Fulbourn to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 would go out with the October Pump.

The tree seat has been ordered and will be fitted once it arrives.

**6 New Web Site**

Cllr Drage reported on initial discussion held with the new proposed provider. After discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Thorn and Cone would be delegated to prepare an outline of what should be on a new PC web site and discuss it further with the company before reporting back.

**7 Village Guide**

The draft Village Guide would be updated and sent to the printers for a printer's draft. It is hoped to have this ready to be delivered with the January 2019 edition of the Pump.

**8 Any other business**

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45pm.