

Minutes of a Full Meeting of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held in The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn on Wednesday, 13th February 2019.

Present: Councillor Thorn (Chairman), and Councillors Brown, Cone, Dawson, Gaskell, Johnson, Lacey, Lockwood, Newell, Smith, and Ward; County & District Councillor Williams, District Councillor Daunton, Mr Chalfen (until Item 125.2) and the Clerk.

	Action
<p>Minutes of a Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 13th February 2019 at 7pm. Present: Councillor Smith (Chairman) and Councillors Gaskell, Johnson, Lacey, Newell, Thorn and Ward.</p> <p>Planning permissions: S/4557/18/FL & S/4484/18/FL, 5 Dogget Lane. Information: S/0241/19/NM, Land off Fulbourn Old Drift – Non material amendment of planning permission S/3404/17/FL. S/0418/19/DC, Land South of Balsham Road – Discharge of conditions 12 and 22. S/0495/19/DL – Certificate of lawful development for a proposed conservatory.</p> <p>New applications: S/0439/18/FL, 24 The Croft – Single storey front and rear extensions and two storey side extension to existing semi-detached property. Recommendation supports. S/0346/19/FL, 18 Station Road – Demolition of the existing and replacement dwelling. The above application was discussed at the parish meeting on 13/2/19. We would like to make you aware that the existing building has already been demolished and would like to know whether you have been informed of this. The Parish Councillors were concerned that any future changes to this development might not be applied for before proceeding with the works. No recommendation. S/0478/19/FL, 1A Impett’s Lane – Refurbishment of bungalow following fire to include two storey extension and single storey extensions. The Parish Council has the following concerns: a) the lack of parking at the property, the road leading to the property is very narrow and already congested; b) the layout and density has increased from the original property size; c) the design of the property now shows a first floor and partial flat roofing, the property was originally single storey with a pitched roof; d) the first floor window, if approved, will overlook the public tennis courts and the children’s play area; e) access by the fire brigade to the original property was hampered due to the narrow access arrangements. Objects.</p> <p>116 To accept apologies for absence. Councillors Drage and Hinton.</p> <p>117 To notify the clerk of any declarations of interest that will be declared by members for any item to be discussed. Councillor Ward, Personal – Item 122 and Councillor Lockwood, Personal – Item 127.13.</p> <p><u>Public & 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. Mr Joel Chalfen, Chairman of the Steiner School Project, confirmed a visit to the school by Parish Councillors had been arranged. He reiterated the school’s offer in its willingness to co-operate with the provision of Early Learning at the Ida Darwin site. Mr Chalfen went on, if the Parish Council take the preferred option that the developers deliver Early Years, he recommended the Parish Council is involved so the provision meets the required needs. He went on about road safety and requested consideration be given to erecting a barrier on the corner of Hinton Road/Fulbourn Old Drift to protect pedestrians. There have been some collisions in the past with the road sign being damaged. Mr Chalfen had contacted the CCC and was advised support from the Parish Council would be required. Cllr Thorn said the Council had already submitted an application under the Local Highways Improvement Scheme so could not do another for at least 12 months. Other options to deal with the problem would need to be discussed.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Clerk</p>

<p>118 To receive reports from County and District Councillors. 118.1 County Councillor Williams issued the attached report. Parish Councillors said there were various Highways concerns around the village. Cllr Williams suggested arranging a meeting with a few Parish Councillors and a CCC Highways Officer to discuss these further. 118.2 District Councillor Williams and Daunton issued a joint report which Cllr Daunton briefly went through. The Councillors were told by the Parish Council that they felt they were being failed by Planning in Fulbourn by SCDC. Cllr Daunton will ask for a Planner to address the Parish Council in this regard. 118.3 District Councillor Cone issued the attached report. All reports accepted.</p>	<p>1376 Clerk CD</p>
<p>119 Ida Darwin – Community Facility for Resolution. Cllr Thorn said he and the Clerk had met with Officers from SCDC including S106, Planning and Legal plus an Education Officer from CCC. Following an impasse between SCDC and Homes England (HE), HE has now agreed to move forward on SCDC’s terms. It would make sense for the Parish Council not to be a signatory to the S106 Agreement as it is not normal practice for Parish Council to be signatories. According to James Fisher, SCDC S106 Officer, there have only been 2 instances of this happening in the past. Before development commences the Developer would offer the Community Building Land to the PC. The PC may wish to decline, if so, once the facility has been built the PC would again be offered to take transfer of the Community Building and enter into a lease with CCC re Early Years. If the PC declines this second offer, then the Developer would implement a marketing scheme and appoint an operator. Cllr Thorn said it would be 12 months before the PC needs to make any decision. A quotation for annual maintenance of the Green Wedge had been obtained by the PC. With this in mind, HE offered a lump sum to cover the next 10 years. Cllr Thorn and the Clerk raised concerns about tree maintenance. SCDC will ask their Tree Officer to survey the site. Following discussion, Cllr Smith proposed that the Parish Council is no longer a party to the S106 Agreement, proposal seconded by Cllr Johnson and agreed by the Council. Cllr Cone proposed accepting the commuted sum of £150K for maintenance of the Green Wedge subject to a tree survey being completed and any required tree work is undertaken, proposal seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by the Council.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>120 Metropolitan Housing Association. Cllrs Ward and Gaskell met with an Officer from Metropolitan and a resident to walk round the estate. Cllr Ward said it was in an appalling condition; the Officer wasn’t aware of a dog bin which had not been emptied for over 18 months; everywhere was badly overgrown with trees obscuring street lights making the path very dark. The Public Art is also obscured with overgrown shrubs. One resident came home to find their roof off their property as work had started on repairs without any notification being given. The ditches are also overgrown and Cllr Ward suggested they contact SCDC to get these cleared. Another meeting has been arranged for June.</p>	<p>APlan June</p>
<p>121 The Swifts Estate. The Parish Council had been asked to meet a company appointed by Accent Group with a view to transferring the Public Open Spaces to the PC. The PC had asked for a definitive map of the areas which was not forthcoming. Cllrs Ward and Gaskell found the Play Area was in a poor condition with cats messing in the bark chippings.</p>	
<p>122 Neighbourhood Plan. A report for the February 2019 Council Meeting were issued and accepted.</p>	
<p>123 Village Design Statement. Cllr Gaskell provided Members with a draft document saying unique features need to be highlighted. The VDS will be a Supplementary Planning Document so will have to be taken into consideration in future planning applications. The draft picks up the importance of trees, boundaries and green spaces in the village. Consideration should be given to planting more trees. It is important to keep our rural views and ensure that any new development fits in with the village. Cllr Gaskell would appreciate any views Members have regarding the draft VDS.</p>	<p>All PC’s</p>

<p>124 To approve the minutes of the last meeting. The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	<p>1377 Clerk</p>
<p>125 Matters arising from the last meeting. 125.1 <u>Tree bench</u>. This is still outstanding so the Clerk will speak to the contractor. 125.2 <u>Recreation Ground security</u>. There was an incident on Monday, 11th Feb where a vehicle broke through fencing along Stonebridge Lane driving round the ground including over the cricket wicket area before crashing into another fence onto the car park. Nothing would appear to have been taken. All areas have been secured and the Police notified. The Police did come to inspect on Tuesday, 12/2/19. 125.3 <u>Recreation Ground copse</u>. Tree works in this area has been completed. 125.4 <u>Village Pump</u>. We have used another delivery company. It would appear properties in Station Road, Town Close and Swifts Corner were missed out. The Clerk will speak to the company. 125.5 <u>Bikeability</u>. The PC is no longer required to make a donation towards this scheme. 125.6 <u>Defibrillator</u>. Cllr Smith is still making enquires about its relocation.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>DS</p>
<p>126 Tree works. S/0443/19/TC, Home End – Remove Holly for vehicular access and remove Conifer to be replaced by 3 standard Silver Birches. No objection to the removal of the Holly Tree. However, the Conifer Tree would appear to be a healthy specimen and part of the established street scene. Despite being replaced by 3 Silver Birch trees it would be a shame to lose this and we see no reason for its removal. Disclaimer: Fulbourn Parish Council Tree Officer and the Parish Council accept no liability for the advice given above.</p>	
<p>127 Correspondence. 127.1 CCC – Notification that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) will be removed near 77 Cambridge Road as it is unserviceable. 127.2 CCC – IHMC (Integrated Highways Management Centre) Incident report for December 2018. 127.3 NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough – CCG News, Winter 2018 (Clinical Commissioning Group). 127.4 Fulbourn Arts – List of future events. 127.5 A14C2H (Cambridge to Huntingdon) – January 2019 newsletter. 127.6 CCC – Cambridgeshire Matters, January 2019 newsletter. 127.7 CCVS (Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services) – January 2019 update plus a Funding Alert for January 2019; Equality and Diversity Forum are holding workshops to introduce its Equality and Human Rights Toolkit. 11/2/19 & 4/3/19 at Arbury Court. 127.8 CAPALC – January 2019 E bulletin. 127.9 SCDC – January 2019 Parish e-bulletin and details of a Community Resilience Event at Cambourne on 9/3/19 commencing at 9am. 127.10 Fulbourn Forum – Details of future events and activities for the upcoming months. 127.11 Greater Cambridge Shared Planning–Planning Policy Monthly update, Feb 19. 127.12 East West Rail Co – Public consultation until 11/3/19 regarding five different route options for the Bedford to Cambridge railway line. 127.13 I Still – Enquiring about listing the recreation ground to prevent risk of future development for housing. The Clerk has replied that this has already been considered as a Community Asset and should be included when the Working Party meets. 127.14 Steiner School – Request support in having a barrier erected on the corner of Hinton Road/Fulbourn Old Drift as a safety measure due to accidents that have occurred there in recent years. Having contacted the CCC, it was suggested the PC applies via the Local Highway Improvement Scheme. See Public and Press. As a Road Safety issue, this could be discussed when a meeting is arranged with CCC Highways Officer. 127.15 I Harrison – Asking for an update regarding the request for speed restrictions entering the village over the windmill hill. If traffic is held up at the traffic calming and oncoming vehicles are not aware, they have to brake suddenly and there have been some near misses. Cllr Williams suggested as this is a Road Safety issue, a 40 m.p.h. buffer might be</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

appropriate and to liaise with CCC, Highways for advice.
127.16 **Annual Quiz** – Saturday, 27th April 2019.

1378

128 To resolve the accounts for the month.

CJ Murfitt: New building.....98,284.38R	The Mill: Swifts advertisement.....60.00R
SP Landscapes: Tree works.....1,440.00R	HP: Ink supplies.....3.49
Barclays: Monthly fees.....16.14R	Dor2Dor: Pump delivery.....264.13R
B's Travel: Shopper bus.....220.00R	Falcon Print: Village Pump.....375.00R
Daisy: Phone line rental.....15.00	CJ Murfitt: New building.....154,522.43
S Danischewsky: Fees.....1,071.00	e-on: Pavilion electricity.....410.77
e-on: Swifts electricity.....641.96	APC: Pest control.....200.00

Cllr Brown proposed accepting the accounts, seconded by Cllr Newell and agreed by Council.

129 Council Committees.

Precept meeting. Minutes of a meeting held on 9th January 2019 were issued and accepted.

130 To receive items for inclusion on the next Agenda for decision and/or action.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Attached reports:

Item 118.1

County Councillor Report to Fulbourn Parish Council

1. The Mayor's bus review has been published. It recommends a transport authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Direct Transport Response services for villages and recommends that the Combined Authority develops a Business Case comparison of alternative delivery models, including both Enhanced Partnership and Franchising (perhaps just for rural services, in compliance with the requirements of the Bus Services Act 2017). The Mayor has now set up a working group to bring forward a business case to report back in 2021. I've been meeting county officers to be reassured that the 18 bus service will continue running in the new financial year. The Mayor is providing the county council with £2m for rural bus services in the coming financial year but the Leader of the County Council confirmed that "a framework" is to be applied (yet to be determined) on how the funding will be distributed, so there is no guarantee that the 18 will continue beyond the expiry of the contract in September.

2. Following a meeting with the District Highways Officer a highways inspector is to visit Fulbourn village this month to identify road and footpath repairs that can be carried out under the county council's intervention criteria, this will include Geoffrey Bishop Avenue. However can I remind you that you should report defects to the county council website as they are then automatically logged and inspected and you will be notified of subsequent action or otherwise. Officers and councillors have to do this too so there's no advantage in reporting them any other way. It also provides a reference number for following up complaints.

3. You'll see that the cycle/pedestrian path in Yarrow Road has been completed along with standing areas for two new bus stops to serve the Beechwoods. I'm told work will now commence on the western end of Fulbourn Road including the addition of "floating" bus stops at the Robin Hood (these are where cyclists go around the bus stop not the bus).

4. The County Council is increasing its part of the Council Tax demand by 4.99% or an extra £62 for a band D property. All preceptors taken together, this could cause an increase of over £70 for most D band council tax payers and of course much more for

those in higher bands which is predominately the case in Fulbourn. All political parties on the county council proposed this maximum increase because of the serious state of the county council's finances and the reduced funding from Government. The county has General Reserves of just 2.7% of its total spend which I consider to be dangerously low given the uncertainties facing us. In contrast in South Cambs I've set a base minimum of 15%.

5. And a couple of late items for the District Report. It has been reported to me today that with the Trust drawing on its £2.2m loan from South Cambs the Ice Rink is on budget and on course to open this summer; while work has started on getting a better health centre for Fulbourn village. Possible alternative sites are being considered should it not be possible to work with the NHS to use the existing site.

John Williams
12 February 2019

Item 118.2

Report to Fulbourn Parish Council, February 2019

from District Councillors Claire Daunton and John Williams

Cllr.Daunton@scambs.gov.uk, John.Williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

This report will cover: East West Rail Link; Customer Portal; Planning Consultation; Business Plan District Council Budget; Police and Crime Issues; Teversham issues. We present factual information we hope in sufficient detail but without making the report too lengthy.

TRAVEL

1. East West Rail Link

The East West Railway Company has revealed five route options for the new rail line between Bedford and Cambridge. All five route options reduce travel times in the area and support the potential for housing growth. The ambitious new line will reduce travel costs and create new connections for thousands of people. The consultation runs for six weeks, until Monday 11 March

The new line will create a direct connection between Bedford and Cambridge. It has the potential to reduce journey times and transport costs for thousands of people across the area, as well as supporting housing growth and boosting the local economy. It is expected to be built by the mid-2020s, marking the completion of the link between Oxford to Cambridge and the next phase of the East West Rail link, connecting Cambridge to Ipswich.

Of the five options offered for consultation, three take a broadly southern route through South Cambridgeshire via Bassingbourn and two take a broadly northern route via Cambourne. The consultation also reveals options for potential new stations in Cambourne, St Neots, Sandy, Tempsford and Bassingbourn. For more information, including dates of public meetings and how to take part in the consultation process go to:

<https://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/2019/01/28/consultation-underway-on-new-rail-line-between-bedford-and-cambridge/>

2. New Busway

Although not in our Ward, residents and councilors of Fulbourn who use public transport across the wider South Cambs area might be interested to know of the eight-week consultation period concerning a proposed busway between Cambourne and Cambridge. Three options have been put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership for a segregated busway route to allow for public transport to bypass congestion. It is hoped that this will encourage more people to travel by public transport than by car. The consultation will examine two on-road routes and one off-road. The busway will be using new technology. It will not look like the existing busway: there will be less concrete and less visual impact, and electric vehicles will be used. For more information <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambourne-to-cambridge/>

BUSINESS PLAN CONSULTATION

Continuing with the theme of transport, it was one of the main issues amongst responses to the Business Plan consultation. In recent weeks the Council has consulted on its Business Plan for the next four years. We gave details of the Plan in our last report to the parish council and Parish councillors and others across the District were encouraged to respond. There were 178 responses. Although this is a very small number in relation to the total number of residents – ca. 0.1% - it is encouragingly higher than the last such consultation on a business plan. The consultation also achieved feedback from a good spread of age groups. The breakdown was: 18 to 35 – 18% , 36 to 50 – 29% , 51 to 64 – 36% 65+ 13%

The areas covered in the Plan included: Housing, Economic Development, Energy efficiency and environmental issues; customer service and responsiveness to residents.

Unsurprisingly, the topics addressed most frequently by respondents were: affordability of housing and transport. Help for small businesses, ly-tipping and contacting the Council were also addressed. Transport was the topic most commented on. Whilst it is true that the District Council is not the prime mover in relation to transport (the chief responsibility lies with the GCP and the Combined Authority), the District has a significant voice on both bodies and can change the direction of the discussion. We know there needs to be a change of pace, an increase in urgency, in dealing with congestion, in seeking the best solution for bus services, and on connectivity. The District is speaking up and pressing hard. The Mayor's report on buses has been delayed twice. We know it is looking at franchising and that this is a complex matter. The District itself is looking at what can be done more effectively, and across all parts of our area, with community transport.

Other comments: residents asked for more help with business rates and in the provision of workshop space. Both these elements are being looked at actively. Investing in green energy and especially in technologies that improve energy use in homes and in transport, were recommended and the Council is very active in this area, having a committee dedicated to climate change and the

environment which is bringing forward a number of suggestions to be acted on. Fly tipping continues to be a source of concern. The Council's Waste Management and Enforcement services are working together on a number of new measures to combat it. A programme of intervention, with a publicity campaign to highlight this, will be made public in the near future.

MYSOUTHCAMBS: customer portal

SCDC has launched a new way of accessing information, of engaging with the Council and of processing claims and applications. It is a customer portal called mysouthcambs and it can be found by looking on the Council's website. There is an icon on the top right of the home page.

Registration only takes a few minutes and can be done even more quickly via other platforms. Once in residents will be able to create a personal account with the Council which shows (and tracks) all online transactions with Council services. We have put all our existing forms on the portal, and integrated the revenue and benefits functions, making it much easier for residents to provide information and complete forms. In due course other services will come online: the Planning service is scheduled for summer 2019. Please have a look and send in comments on the experience of using this new portal. It is hoped that it will help deal with queries more quickly and efficiently. It will not remove the possibility of talking to the Council either in person or over the phone where personal contact is helpful.

EMPTY HOMES

Plans to increase the amount of Council Tax charged on empty homes in South Cambridgeshire have taken a step forward, with leading Councillors saying that doing so would encourage more properties back into use. Currently the owners of homes that are left empty and substantially unfurnished for more than two years must pay an extra 50% on top of the regular bill. South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet Decided to increase that premium, subject to approval at a full Council meeting later this month. All members of South Cambridgeshire District Council will vote on the proposed new charging arrangements at a Full Council meeting on Thursday 21 February.

If full Council approval is given, the 50% premium will be replaced by the following arrangements:

- From 1 April 2019, there will be an additional 100% premium on homes that are empty for two years or more
- From 1 April 2020, there will also be an additional 200% premium on homes that are empty for five years or more
- From 1 April 2021, there will also be an additional 300% premium on homes that are empty for ten years or more

Currently across South Cambridgeshire, there are 100 properties that have been empty for between two years and five years. There are 41 homes that have been empty for between five and ten years. There are 39 properties that have been empty for more than ten years.

Despite these figures, in relative terms, South Cambridgeshire doesn't have very high numbers of long-term empty properties - especially in comparison to more urban areas. Around 1% of all the homes in the district have been empty for six months or more.

During a recent public consultation that asked for views on these proposals, almost two in three people who responded were in favour of the increased empty homes premium.

Leading Councillors hope that by increasing the Council Tax due on long-term empty homes, their owners will be incentivised to bring them back into use. They are also reminding homeowners that Council housing officers can provide information and support.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

South Cambridgeshire District Council with nearly 60,000 households and 8,000 businesses has one of the lowest council tax rates in England and Wales and for 2019/20 it will be £145.31 for a band D property. With such a low council tax base, Council Tax and Retained Business Rates account for about three quarters of the income needed to support the General Fund budget of £21m, so the Council has to look for income from other sources. Moreover, it is expected that the Government's Fair Funding Review will impact negatively on future income from Retained Business Rates and New Homes Bonus, more than off-setting increases in Council Tax income. So the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy looks to generate a quarter of Council income from commercial investments within five years.

Before the change of political control last May the Council was cautious in its investments, relying mainly on the interest from loans to its Housing Company which lets property at open market rents. The new Liberal Democrat administration recognizing the risks from this has embarked upon diversifying its portfolio, aligned with the Council's new Business Plan which puts economic development, homes that are affordable and social capital at its heart - including the District being carbon neutral by 2050.

The Council has started to talk to potential private and public sector partners in providing space for start-up businesses, which is in short supply in the Greater Cambridge Region, green energy, homes that are energy efficient and affordable to live in, including ones for social rent, and social capital such as community facilities. The 2019/20 General Fund budget lays the foundation for this five year journey by not only delivering funds for investment but also for employing people with the right experience and achievements to make it sustainable.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN PLANNING

A joint consultation document 'Statement of Community Involvement' is due for release imminently by the City and South Cambs in relation to planning. Parish Councils are encouraged to consider and respond to the document. As soon as it is released (early/mid February) we will send a further note concerning the dates for the consultation.

The introduction states that the document ‘sets out how we will consult and engage with you in relation to the majority of our planning functions, with the overarching aim of engaging with communities in an effective, efficient and meaningful way both now and in the future. We would encourage you, as residents and stakeholders, to use this Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the protocols set within it, to hold the Authorities to account and ensure that all local people have sufficient opportunities to have their say.’

The reasons for the document are: significant changes in development management and planning policy procedures since the last SCI, including new town and country planning regulations (Act of 2017) and the Localism Act of 2011 which introduced the opportunities of Neighbourhood Plans. The consultation covers a number of important areas to which parish councils will want to respond.

POLICE AND CRIME ISSUES

At a recent meeting of the Police and Crime Panel, members were told that an additional 50 officers would be recruited during the coming year. It was hoped that the focus of their work would be on community policing, broadly defined, though not necessarily walking or driving round our streets. More effort is being put into empowering local groups, working with parish councils and neighbourhood groups. There are newly appointed senior coordinators for Speedwatch and Neighbourhood Watch and renewed emphasis on road casualty reduction. Road casualty figures remain stubbornly high for our area. It was indicated that some progress had been made with specifically rural crime. We were also told that some headway had been made with breaking up drug dealing routes, but we know that much more needs to be done in this area. We were also told that a burglary ring was broken up at a large amount of stolen goods retrieved.

The new Chief Constable has been holding area meetings and we hope that there will be more of these and that issues brought up will be followed through. In Cambridge city for example, there are now repeated requests for more police presence, particularly as a result of aggressive begging.

FULBOURN: Accent Housing

1. **Lighting.** It is hoped that the issue concerning lighting in parts of the Windmill estate that has been raised with Councillor Daunton will soon be resolved. This goes hand in hand with the work that Councillor Cone, along with parish Councillor Jobson has been doing. A number of people have been in contact with different departments at Accent and we hope that this pressure will bear fruit very soon. We understand that Accent are finally working to resolve the matter, and speedily. They have made contact again with the contractors who are supposed to carry out the work
2. **Balsham Road Housing.** Hill, the developer, hopes to start on site in April, subject to agreement with South Cambs on the pre-commencement conditions.

Item 118.3

District Councillor report to Parish Council February 2019

Scrutiny of business plan 2019-2024 consultation outcomes

The council is embarking on developing a new business plan for 2019-2024. The aim of a business plan is to set out SCDC's over-arching priorities to be carried out up until 2024. The plan is used to give guidance to officers and councillors to ensure that officer time is focused on the Council's priorities and likewise resources are directed at tackling the Council's priorities. A public consultation was launched over a 6 week period seeking views in four priority areas:

- Economic development
- Homes that are affordable for everyone to live in
- Climate and the environment
- The 21st Century Council

The role of the scrutiny and overview committee was to scrutinise the consultation responses and offer further feedback where required. The outcomes of the survey are all viewable on the SCDC website along with the questions asked but essentially each of the four priorities had the same three questions in the questionnaire. I have used priority 1 as an example.

QA) Do you think that economic development should be a priority for us?

QB) What are your views on the things we plan to focus on as part of the economic development priority?

QC) Are there any other things you think we should focus as part of our economic development priority?

I don't believe any of the four priorities to be overly controversial. Having knocked on thousands of doors over the last few years it is clear to me that peoples priorities are more often than not good quality jobs, affordable homes, incorporating green energies and making sure the council deliver good customer service so I was unsurprised to see that around 80% of people agreed that these should be the priorities (remember they were not given other options so 8 out of 10 is what I would expect). What was more important in this consultation was questions B and C which were more open and gave the consultee more opportunity to express their priorities and concerns. Some of the main issues to come out of these more open questions were around transport, first time buyers being able to get a foot on the property ladder, demand for social housing, alternative transport methods to that of car usage and making the Council more accessible, i.e. being able to contact the right person. The detailed responses can be viewed on the website.

I did have some concerns that I raised with the leader of the council regarding the consultation document that was presented. The document makes reference to percentages all the way through it, i.e. 79% of people support X or 27% of people said such and such. I was worried that this could be somewhat misleading given that when you drill down into the figures and add up the different responses means the total number of responses was 168. In the Scrutiny meeting I said " I myself filled in this questionnaire as I know a number of other councillors have sitting in this room so given that the total number of responses was 168 a number of which will have come from councillors, this is an incredibly small pool of the public that have been consulted within our district. In 2018 the population of our district was around 156,000 so based on this figure responses to the consultation amount to 0.107% of the population".

I accept that often it is hard to get people to respond in any form of consultation but I have urged the administration to reach out further when they engage in this sort of exercise in the future. Remember based on these figures, if 50% of people say they support something in this document, what that really means is 84 people within our district support X. I believe health and wellbeing has taken a back seat in terms of priorities and the conservative group raised this at the meeting.

General fund and housing revenue account budgets 2019-2020

On the 21st February there will be a full council meeting held to vote on the administration's financial strategy going forward. As a member of the Conservative opposition group I will be looking very carefully at the finance package that is being put forward by the administration and over the forthcoming weeks I will decide whether I broadly support or oppose the strategy being put forward and will vote accordingly. The main areas that I will be basing my decision on will be are there any clear black holes in the budget? Do I think the finances are being directed predominantly in the right areas? Are there any areas where the money could be better spent? Do I have enough information on proposed investments? Is the budget a realistic estimate of where we will be in three years time? Does the budget maintain the principles of Ermine Street Housing which has been so successful for the Council in the past and today and most importantly, does the budget protect frontline services and keep enough in reserve for unforeseen events?

In my next report I will go into more detail as to what bits of the budget I supported an opposed and why but I think it would be wrong to do this until I have thoroughly scrutinised the proposals and taken necessary advice as I am not an accountant or an economist.

Cambridge to Oxford rail link

A consultation has opened so that communities can have their say on the proposed routes of a new railway line between Cambridge and Oxford. The consultation looks at five routes that could be taken across South Cambridgeshire. The consultation is open until the 11th March. This project is still several years away from the building work starting but it is important that views from South Cambridgeshire are noted as the line will pass through our district. The consultation is not a statutory consultation so there will be an opportunity in the future to help shape the project through the formal stages of planning. The hope is that this new rail link will connect communities, make it faster, easier and cheaper to travel to surrounding areas as well as opening up job opportunities, support local business and help the economy to grow. The section of rail between Bedford and Cambridge will need to be built from scratch as a new rail line so it is important that the route with the most benefits is selected. The rest of the route between Bedford and Oxford will be constructed by reinstating old rail lines so in South Cambridgeshire we are in a nice position that we have no pre-determined route so hopefully we can pick a route that is best for our communities. There will always be positives and negatives for each route which will range from cost of delivering, potential new stations, connecting existing communities, journey times, potential to build new communities, compulsory purchase issues and effect on landscape etc. please visit the East West rail website to complete the consultation survey and get more information. There are also a number of consultation and information events which I have copied below.

St Neots: Monday 11 February, 3:30pm - 7:30pm

The Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots PE19 2BH

Bedford: Friday 15 February, 3.30pm - 7.30pm

Scott Hall, Barford Avenue, Bedford MK42 0DS

Bassingbourn: Saturday 16 February, 10am - 2pm

Bassingbourn Community Primary School, Brook Road,
Bassingbourn SG8 5NP

Potton: Tuesday 19 February, 3.30pm - 7.30pm

Potton and District Club 34 Station Road, Potton, Sandy SG19 2PZ

Cambridge: Friday 22 February, 3.30pm – 7.30pm

The University Centre, Granta Place, Cambridge CB2 1RU

Orwell: Tuesday 26 February, 2pm – 6pm

Orwell Village Hall, 32-66 High St, Orwell, Royston SG8 5QN

Sandy: Friday 1 March, 3:30pm – 7:30pm

Sandy Village Hall, Medusa Way, Sandy SG19 1BN

Cambourne: Saturday 2 March, 10:00pm – 2:00pm

Cambridge Belfry, Back Lane, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6BW

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 or ring 07595361285 (please leave a voice mail if I am unavailable)

Councillor Graham Cone

Item 122

Fulbourn Neighbourhood Plan

Please find below our report for February 2019:

1 Another full team meeting was held on 7th January and the notes have been circulated.

2 A draft progress leaflet for circulation with your April Pump to all houses is now being drafted and will be finalised shortly.

Our thanks to the Clerk for offering to have the final draft printed with the Pump and then circulated.

3 Social Issues Group.

A meeting has been arranged with the Primary School to begin discussion on Education within the village.

Arts contacts are being followed up.

4 Economics Group.

A questionnaire has been drafted regarding Businesses within the village to seek their input. It is in the process of being distributed and replies are already being received.

5 Environment Group.

Good progress is being made regarding scope of work. Questions have been forwarded to yourselves particularly regarding Community Assets.

6 Overall progress remains on schedule and you will have seen from our councillors' report that we must maintain progress as work is commencing on the next Local Plan. It is important that our plan is in place to influence any potential impact on Fulbourn of the new Local Plan.

7 We have successfully obtained a grant of £1000 towards our costs up to 31st March 2019. We will need to seek more support when they open up for grants for 2019/20. This money will be lodged within the PC bank shortly.

8 We have approached two experienced NP Plan consulting firms to establish how we could have the needed technical input. One proposal has been received and will be considered.

9 It will be disappointing if the draft 106 agreement for the Ida Darwin site cannot be amended to meet priorities now being identified.

The next meeting of the full team is scheduled for Wednesday 6th March 7.30 at the Centre; all welcome.

Ron Ward

Item 129

Minutes of a Precept Meeting of Fulbourn Parish Council held on Wednesday, 9th January 2019 at The Fulbourn Centre, Home End, Fulbourn.

Present: Councillor Drage (Chairman). Councillors Cone, Gaskell, Johnson, Newell, Smith, Thorn and Ward. The R.F.O. T Fretwell, the Clerk and parishioner, Mr D Cottee.

Apologises: Councillors Dawson and Lacey.

Mr Fretwell had prepared a Precept Assumption sheet for 2019/20 which he went through. March to April 2019 will be the critical period for cash flow with building costs and the next tranche of the loan will be due. *Cllr Smith arrived at this point.*

We also have to make VAT payments in advance then reclaim so Council needs to be careful what it spends. After May 2019 it should be a normal expenditure year.

Mr Fretwell said there would be part retention in April 2019 of the building contract costs with a final amount in April 2020.

Mr Fretwell then went through proposed Capital Projects and Cost Centres for 2019/20 then explained the Precept Comparisons for the previous 4 years. Taking into account all this information, the recommendation is for Council to keep the Precept at £176,000.00. *Mr Cottee arrived at this point.*

General costs for 2019/20 expect to be similar as the previous financial year. Capital Expenditure will be minimal for 2019/20. A request for funds towards setting up the Neighbourhood Plan had been received, but more as a back-up and unlikely to be required until the end of March 2020 when actual costs will be known.

Councillor Newell proposed the Precept remains at £176,000 for 2019/20; proposal seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed the Parish Council.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7pm.