

Minutes of a Meeting of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday, 8th March 2023 in The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn.

Present: Councillor Drage (Chairman), and Councillors Bramwell, Butler, Cone, Gaskell, Howell, Johnson, Lacey, Lockwood, Roberts, Thorn and Ward; County & District Councillor Daunton, District Councillor Williams, the Clerk, and Messrs Cottee and Loughlan (until Item 126).

124 To accept apologies for absence. Cllrs Brown, Smith and District Councillor Hofman.

125 To notify the clerk of any declarations of interest that will be declared by members for any item to be discussed. Cllr Lockwood, Item 128.8

Public & Press - You are invited to attend the whole meeting and are welcome to speak at our Open Forum at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr Chris Loughlan said he lived in Teversham Road and wanted to speak to the PC regarding CCC funding to introduce 20 m.p.h. limits in villages and wondered if the PC supported this idea. Cllr Daunton explained bids opened on 27/02/23 and close on 13/04/23 however there is annual funding, so if too late this year, applications can be submitted in 2024 and beyond. PC's and/or Community Groups can bid to introduce 20 m.p.h. in either zones or the whole village. Applicants have to show there is community support for this initiative by providing evidence and evidence of need. Mr Loughlan referred to the Neighbourhood Plan Chapter on Village Aspirations that pointed to the need to review the current 30 mph default speed throughout the village and had support from both Fulbourn Forum and Fulbourn Primary School. Cllr Roberts remembered a CCC Highways Officer had hoped to explain the pros and cons of this scheme to PC's. Cllr Daunton said he had been busy dealing with LHI (Local Highway Improvement) bids that had just closed, but would see if a presentation could be arranged in the future. Cllr Cone had collated data from the mobile speeding device which would help with the bid adding Teversham Road recorded the third fastest speeds in the village. Cllr Williams said if there wasn't time to gather all the evidence by April, Fulbourn could see what others have done this time. After further discussion about reducing speeds from 60 mph to 20mph, whether clearly marked zones worked better than blanket areas and the need to look at all the approach roads, it was agreed to set up a Working Party. As Cllr Gaskell is on the PC's Highways Committee and Cllr Roberts on Environment, they will both join along with other like-minded parishioners. Mr Loughlan said if they did submit an application as a Community Group, would it have the PC's Support? Cllr Drage said to it would in principle. Messrs Loughlan and Cottee then left the meeting.

**20mph
WParty**

126 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

126.1 County Councillor Daunton issued the attached report adding the footpath in School Lane was scheduled for maintenance in April 2023 during the school holidays. Some pothole repairs have been done including Bird Farm Road and Teversham Road but many more still need work. The Fulbourn Greenways Consultation will be held between May and June 2023. Cllr Daunton also said many countywide contracts are being awarded locally. Cllr Daunton was advised of damage to the Yarrow Road/Cambridge Road roundabout where a vehicle had driven straight across causing signs to be knocked over; the Clerk will report this on the website.

Clerk

126.2 District Councillors Williams and Hofman issued the attached report. Cllr Williams chaired the recent Ida Darwin Liaison Meeting, and since then advised the NHS and Homes England had sorted out their contract issues, so Morris Homes had now taken control of the site. Works had been started to clear most of the trees and hedgerows prior to the bird nesting season. Cllr Drage added a Welcome Pack had been started; fencing will be renewed on the perimeter, new hoarding to be erected and bus stops to be upgraded. Cllr Williams said Stagecoach will only travel one-way so a new shelter will be erected by the Hat & Rabbit Public House for residents from the new development.

Cllr Williams said Castlefield had submitted a report about drainage issues under Condition 8 for Teversham Road and they have until June 2023 to commence work before the permission deadline. Until Officers are happy that the conditions have been met and that what Castlefield proposes are fit for purpose, it will not be approved.

Anglian Water has withdrawn its application for a Development Control Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State to permit it to build a new water treatment works at Honey Hill in order to provide additional work required by the Planning Inspectorate (PI). It will give notice in due course of its resubmission and the 28 days given for the PI to review the submission will start again from the new submission date. We still await the Traffic Management Report.

126.3 District Councillor Cone issued the attached report saying other points to add had already been covered.

127 To approve the minutes of the last meeting.

The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

128 Matters arising from the last meeting.

128.1 Fulbourn Hub. The FA4Y lease had now been signed by its Trustees countersigned by the PC’s Chair and Vice-Chair, Cllrs Drage and Thorn and returned to the PC’s solicitors.

GC

128.2 Mobile Speeding Device. Cllr Cone has parts on order then it will be erected in Wilbraham Road.

KJ/AB

128.3 Swifts Play Area. Cllrs Johnson and Bramwell have a site meeting with Accent on 20/03/2023, so will raise the various issues and report back to Council in April.

128.4 Recreation Ground Car Park. Cllr Lacey and his team have made a good start on filling some of the potholes but need gravel to carry on with the repairs. Cllr Drage had a quote for gravel from Mead at a reduced price of £580 per lorry load. Cllr Ward proposed accepting the offer of £1,160 for two lorry loads. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Lockwood and agreed by the Council. Richard Mead will be thanked by Council for this kind offer.

Clerk

128.5 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Redspire and Photinia planted in The Haven and Fulbourn Hub’s courtyard garden to commemorate this occasion have now been added to the nationwide virtual map.

128.6 Toddler Equipment. Having consulted parents, Cllrs Drage and Ward will now submit an application to the Wright’s Clock Charity for funding for this project. Cllr Drage also mentioned future works on the pavilion and was advised to submit an application when the PC is ready. Their next meeting is on 21/03/2023.

128.7 King’s Coronation. Cllr Cone attended the latest meeting where events are progressing including having a Fun Run on the recreation ground, a ladies football match and possibly planting a tree on the grassed area on the corner of Haggis Gap and Cambridge Road. This land belongs to SCDC, so Cllr Cone will speak to them to seek permission. Cllr Williams said although there are two trees there already, the land might be needed for housing in the future.

GC

Clerk

128.8 57th Scouts. Following a request from the Scouts for a meeting mainly to discuss the lease, Cllr Drage and the Clerk met with Mark Claydon, Tina Lockwood and a parent, Mr Cuckell. They also asked for copies of the PC’s building insurance and land certificates. From the draft lease Cllr Drage put their requests to Council for consideration:

Cause 5.3 in the Tenants Covenants - sleepovers. Council confirmed that it will not allow any residing or sleeping on the premises under any circumstances so this clause remains as set out in the draft Lease.

Clause 6.1 in the Tenants Covenants - as set out this clause does not allow for the Tenant making small improvements i.e.e. soundproofing so Council will go back to our solicitor on this clause to allow small improvements but only with the express

<p>written permission of the Landlord before any works can be started and only once the lease is in place.</p> <p>Clause 8.1 in the Tenants Covenants – Hiring out the Scout hall - Council confirmed that it will not allow the Tenant to assign, underlet, charge, part with or share possession or occupation of the whole or any part of the Premises, nor hold the Premises on trust for any other person under any circumstances so this clause remains as set out in the draft Lease.</p> <p>Permission for children to have unsupervised access to the Hub to work towards badges and certificates- Council will not allow children unsupervised access to the Scout Hall or Hub under any circumstances. They must be accompanied by a responsible adult. For the avoidance of doubt that is children under the age of 18.</p> <p>Request by a local school to the Scouts to use the scout hall – as set out at Clause 8.1 above this will not be allowed nor will requests from other clubs and organisations.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the Lease for Fulbourn Action for Youth has been signed by all parties and is now in place and contains exactly the same Tenants clauses.</p> <p>Having submitted an application to Wright’s Clock Charity for funding to demolish the old Scout Hut, Cllr Drage said the Scouts would need to liaise with the PC regarding the recreation ground entrance and whether the road would need closing for the works to be carried out safely. Cllr Lockwood said they also need to find out about the electricity and gas services. The Clerk will contact Murfitt’s who built Fulbourn Hub to ensure The Hub supplies are not affected when demolition commences.</p> <p>128.9 <u>Mobile Warden Scheme</u>. Despite figures showing savings can be made if Fulbourn and Teversham run a joint scheme, Cllr Thorn advised Cllr Kelleway from Teversham PC has said they wish to run separately. A meeting with AGE UK will be arranged.</p> <p>128.10 <u>Health Centre</u>. Cllr Gaskell is attending an area PPG (Patient Participation Group) meeting on 09/03/2023 so will report back at the next meeting to see if it is still worth contacting Granta Medical Practice about the current situation.</p> <p>129 Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Drage said the next stage following the successful Referendum was for the NP to go before SCDC Full Council, which will be held on 30/03/2023. Representatives may speak but would need to register, and Cllr Drage felt David Nobel and Ron Ward would be best placed to do so although she too will attend. Cllr Williams queried the date of the next meeting, so Cllr Drage will speak to SCDC in the morning.</p> <p>130 Minutes of a Planning Meeting held on 23rd February 2023.</p> <p>131 Tree works: 23/0140/TTCA, 92 Pierce Lane – T1 Zelkova, reduce tree by 2m (to below previous pruning points) and remove four lowest branches over drive. No objection. 23/0161/TTCA, 7 School Lane – Fell Rowan to ground and replant with a smaller tree. No objection. 23/0086/TTCA, Fulbourn Hospital, Burnet House – 741, Dead Bird Cherry – fell; 742, Bird Cherry – remove damaged branch, remove branch over building and remove branch on</p>	<p>1495</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>JG</p>
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northern side;

743, Dead Tree of Heaven – fell; 760,761 Prunus – Crown lift to 2.4m; 767,768, 769 Poplar – fell;

777, Poplar – remove failed limb; 798, False Acacia – remove limb with fork failure; 987, Lime – fell and 1009, Rowan – fell.

23/0217/TTCA, 40A Pierce Lane – Reduce Crown by removing 1m in height and 1m from lateral branches to maintain small fruit tree.

Cllr Ward had been advised trees were being felled in a Conservation Area. As the PC hadn't been consulted or received an application, the SCDC Tree Officer will be notified.

Disclaimer: Fulbourn Parish Council Tree Officer and the Parish Council accept no liability for the advice given above.

132 Correspondence.

132.1 **NHS, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough** – Details of a new NHS “Feel Brighter” campaign aimed at those aged 65 and over struggling with mental health issues; Information and advice where to seek help.

132.2 **SCDC** – Cambridge East Community Forum, next meeting 22/02/2023.

132.3 **Waterbeach Community Market** – Information regarding upcoming events and booking form with future diary dates.

132.4 **Fulbourn Forum** – Copy of correspondence to GCSP regarding reduced number of Swifts Bird boxes now to be installed on the Ida Darwin redevelopment. Cllr Cone is dealing with this.

132.5 **Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority** – Multiply Bus Roadshow; new initiative to boost people's confidence and maths skills to improve their daily lives. Venues include Ely, Wisbech, Huntingdon and Peterborough.

132.6 **War Memorials Trust** – February 2023 magazine.

132.7 **SCDC** – Homes for Ukraine update, newsletter 45.

132.8 **Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)** – Cambridge Eastern Access, Newmarket Road improvements and Park and Ride relocation consultation closes on 20/03/2023. An additional person drop in event has been arranged on Tuesday, 7th March 2023 at Anglia Ruskin University, East Road between 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

132.9 **GCP** – Have your say on the Swaffhams and Bottisham Greenways, survey open until 27/03/2023. <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/gcp-swaffham-bottisham-greenway>

132.10 **CCC** – Cambridgeshire Matters, February 2023 bulletin.

132.11 **Resident** – Proposal to introduce 20mph development policy and plans for the village having read the Neighbourhood Plan, aware funding is available from CCC and having gained support from village representatives including Fulbourn Forum and the Primary School.

132.12 **G Aslett** – Copy of correspondence to Cornford House and Fulbourn Medical Centre regarding article in The Mill and its proposals to move the surgery to a site between both practices.

132.13 **Clerks & Councils Direct** – March 2023 magazine.

132.14 **Fulbourn Forum** – March 2023 newsletter.

132.15 **CCC** – TMC (Traffic Management Centre), February 2023 Incident Report.

132.16 **SCDC** – Parish-based nature restoration/recovery; a mandate was introduced under the UK Governments' Environment Act (2021) to increase local biodiversity as part of planning and development. SCDC are interested to know how biodiversity net gain from any new development in the parish might be delivered.

132.17 **J Hudson** – Update on obtaining a Blue Plaque for George Brewster, the last chimney sweep who died in 1875 aged 12 at Fulbourn Hospital. The Clerk has thanked Ms Hudson for this positive update.

133 To resolve the accounts for the month.

e-on: Pavilion gas.....27.77 Barclays: Monthly fees.....10.24

DBS: Dehumidifiers hire.....1,108.66R Footprint: New signs.....357.24 Cleaner Windows: Swifts.....30.00R e-on: Pavilion gas.....26.69 e-on: Hub gas.....387.91 Cllr Lockwood proposed accepting the accounts, seconded by Cllr Cone and agreed by the Council.	C Dellar: Repairs & Maintenance.....522.33R Dor2Dor: Pump delivery.....264.13 TC Fretwell: R.F.O. fees.....500.00 N Power: Street lighting.....134.97 Sharp: Photocopies.....24.18	1497
<p>134 Quotation for Resolution: TH Tree: Reduce Horse Chestnut in Manor Walk close to ground level and grind out stump; £1,720.00. Cllr Ward, having sought advice from another arborist, suggested this work could wait for now, but will be regularly monitored. Agreed by Council.</p>		
<p>135 Council Committees and Remote Meetings. Ida Darwin Liaison Meeting. See Item 126.2.</p>		
<p>136 To receive items for inclusion on the next Agenda for decision and/or action. 20 m.p.h. Scheme. There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.05pm.</p>		

Attached reports:

Item 126.1

County Councillor Claire Daunton: Report to Parish Councils for March 2023

This report contains factual information which it is hoped will be of use and interest to the parish council and wider village community

FULBOURN ISSUES

1. Footpaths. The first-stage repair work on School Lane and St Vigor's – which will mean a road closure – is due to take place early next month
2. Lighting. The light on Balsham Road at the traffic-calming measure has been repaired
3. Potholes. County has six crews out repairing holes. Work has been done in Fulbourn but there is more to do. Please carry on reporting potholes, as soon as you see them, on the county's website. <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>
4. Gulleys. Gulley cleaning is done annually and was last done in Fulbourn in September 2022. Additional gulley cleaning was carried out in Shelford Road in January and I have requested further work on Station Road/Wilbraham Road

FULL COUNCIL

Budget: As with three quarters of all councils in the country this year, Cambridgeshire County Council was forced to increase its portion of the council tax by 4.99 per cent, the maximum permitted.

Our Joint Administration took on the financial challenge facing the county but without fairer funding aligned to population increase; we receive a much worse deal than many other councils. Where we have had to make savings, we have done so carefully.

Voter ID we have been working on ways in which the Council can support the effort to ensure the many people without the required photo ID apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate so that they are not denied their right to vote.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Waste contract: The County Council's long-term waste disposal PFI contract with Thalia at Waterbeach continues to be a major preoccupation of the Council. Work is continuing on options for the odour emission abatement required by the Environment Agency, and Government changes to food waste collection arrangements are proving challenging.

Farm tenants: there was a meeting of the Council's farm tenants on 14 February at Quy Mill, with a presentation on regenerative farming techniques.

Renewable energy: there continues to be ongoing media interest in the Swaffham Prior renewable energy project, including from the BBC1 morning magazine programme and the property section of the *Sunday Times*. The first homes in the village are already receiving heat from the new system.

Waste water treatment plant: Anglian Water have withdrawn their application for the move of the waste water treatment plant from North East Cambridge to Horningsea, which we expect to be revised and resubmitted.

Water industry consultations : A number of water industry consultations are in progress at the moment, including: Cambridge Water's Water Resources Management <https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/our-water-resources-management-plan>

And Anglian Water's storm overflow plan

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/services/sewers-and-drains/storm-overflows/improving-rivers-and-coastlines/>

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Road repairs: Crew continue to be out filling potholes. There are a number of places where requests have been made to repaint white lines. These requests have been carried forward into 2023-2024 budget. There is a similar situation with some footpath and road surface repairs: a carry-over into the new financial year due to the significant (18-20%) increase in the cost of materials.

20MPH schemes: as circulated to parish councils on 23rd February, details of the new annual fund available to communities to introduce areas of villages where the speed limit is 20mph, are available here. Further information on the process, funding available and application timeline is available on our website at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/20mph-funding> £150,000 is available this year for eight schemes, and there will be further funding through this channel in subsequent years. The bidding process requires communities to show evidence of need and evidence of support for the bid both from the local community and from the local county councillor. The closing date for online applications is 5.00pm on 30th

Greenways: consultation is underway on the Swaffham and Bottisham Greenways <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/active-travel-projects/greater-cambridge-greenways/bottisham-greenway>

You will be able to learn more and provide your views via the following options:

- An **online survey** will run from **midday Monday 27th February until midday Friday 24th March 2022.**
- **[The survey can be found by clicking this link](#)**
- On **Tuesday 14th March** we will host a drop-in event at Stow-Cum-Quy Village Hall
 - **Venue:** Stow-Cum-Quy Village Hall
 - **Time:** 16:00pm – 19:00pm
 - **Address:** Main St, Stow Cum Quy, Cambridge CB25 9AB
- On **Thursday 16th March** we will host a drop-in event at Swaffham Prior Village Hall
 - **Venue:** Swaffham Prior Village Hall
 - **Time:** 16:00pm – 19:00pm
 - **Address:** High St, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD
- An **online event** will take place on **Thursday 9th March** via Microsoft Teams.
 - **Time:** 18:30pm- 20:00pm
 - **[Please click here to register to attend the Teams meeting](#)**

Technical designs on the Fulbourn Greenway (4 miles with a .6 spur) between Fulbourn, Cherry Hinton and the city, have been completed. Detailed public consultation on the detailed design and route alignment will take place in May/June.

Active Travel: the government is releasing funding for active travel (walking and cycling) in different ‘packages’. Cambridgeshire has had funding over recent months for strengthening the team that is rolling out new schemes and has had funding in the past for a number of ‘quick win’ schemes across the county. A bid was submitted at the end of February for 14 schemes totalling just under £3m to provide greater rural connectivity. An announcement concerning this bid is expected in March. It is expected that there will be further funding rounds.

ADULTS AND HEALTH

Care Together – new care micro-enterprises, & survey: County Council officers promoting early work on an initiative called ‘Care Together,’ which seeks to encourage and develop more ways to support people living independently at home for longer, are in the process of writing to parish councils to ask if they would like a short presentation about this initiative. They are also circulating a survey, the link for which is below.

You may start to see communications being circulated online and among local publications in South Cambridgeshire about our Care Together programme. This is about transforming the way older people are cared for in Cambridgeshire, which is being led by CCC. We will work collaboratively with partners and local communities and the aim is to help people live independently in their own homes for longer.

This programme will result in a switch from social care based on county-wide contracts to one in which people living and working in their own communities (micro-providers) will be empowered to support older and vulnerable residents. This will help people remain living in their own homes for longer as well as adding extra capacity to the local care market. Work to date has focussed on a pilot scheme in East Cambridgeshire but we are now expanding Care Together across the county, with an officer working specifically on South Cambs.

To help make sure we get the programme right, we are inviting residents over the age of 55, or looking after a person over 55, to complete an online survey and are sharing some communications with South Cambridgeshire residents to encourage this. Please do help us share the survey, which can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/36MHL6/>

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Foster caring: Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to seek residents who would like to make a real difference to the lives of a child or young person by becoming a Foster Carer. Applicants must be over 21 years of age, have a spare bedroom, and be willing and able to provide a stable and loving environment in which a child or young person can thrive. Foster Carers can benefit from local training and development, generous pay and benefits, 24/7 support from a Supervising Social Worker, as well as local support groups and networking opportunities.

- Information www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-andfamilies/fostering-and-adoption
- Email fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk,
- Call 0800 052 0078
- Text FOSTERING to 60777

Item 126.2

Report of Councillor Carla Hofman and Councillor John Williams to Parish Councils for March 2023.

This report contains factual information which we hope will be of use and of interest to the parish council and to the wider community of the parish.

For queries please email us at cllr.williamsjg@scambs.gov.uk or cllr.hofman@scambs.gov.uk

Support for residents, businesses and the environment

Reducing fly-tipping, introducing civil parking enforcement, promoting a cleaner, greener future and supporting local residents and businesses in the Cost of Living crisis are among plans for the coming year in the South Cambs' 2023/24 Budget.

Also, the Council is well underway with an ambitious four-year transformation programme to improve the quality of services while making the most efficient use of funds as possible. The programme is forecast to deliver £2million in savings in the next three years.

A below inflation £5 per year 3.1% increase in Council Tax for the average band D home will ensure essential frontline services continue to be delivered effectively. This equates to £165.31 per year for a band D home - an increase of around 10p per week. The rise continues to maintain the Council's position in the lowest 25% of taxing District Councils in the country.

Even with this increase it is forecast that there will be a gap in its finances of nearly £4 million by 2027 and not putting up Council Tax would make this considerably worse as the loss of potential income is carried forward into later years. The 3.1% Council Tax rise should be viewed against a 10% rise in the cost of living and a 6% rise in wage inflation.

The Council agreed to change its Local Council Tax Support Scheme to enable it to support more residents struggling with their Council Tax payments. A large-scale Council Tax communications campaign is being proposed, to increase the number of eligible people who are aware of, and subsequently claim, financial help towards their Council Tax bill. Deprived areas will be targeted.

The Council also agreed the Budget for managing, repairing and improving the standard of its stock of over 5,600 Council homes and the building of new council housing. Called the

Housing Revenue Account, by law it is ring-fenced to finance the Council's Housing. As a result, rents have to pay for its expenditure. The Council is seeing its housing costs soar. So to avoid having to scale back on repairs, improvements and the building of new Council homes, the Council agreed to raise council rents by 7%, For tenants with the lowest incomes this increase will be paid by the Government through Housing Benefit.

Having successfully doubled the number of new Council homes built in South Cambridgeshire from 35 in 2019/20 to 70 in 2021/22, which has brought the Council stock back to where it was in 2012, the target is now for at least 75 new energy-efficient Council homes to be delivered every year. Moreover during the next two years, more than £2million has been allocated to continue work to retrofit the Council's existing housing stock, as part of ongoing carbon reduction efforts making it cheaper to live in a Council home.

Council proposes over £200,000 of further cost of living support

Plans for a further cost of living support package for residents, worth more than £200,000 include a roadshow of cost of living talks, support to transform some Warm Hubs into Community Wellbeing Hubs, increasing awareness of Council Tax support, more free energy saving appliances and the creation of a South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Food Network.

The ideas are outlined in a report published by the District Council and will be discussed at the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on the final day of the month, and then at Cabinet on 20 March.

The proposals build-on a package of almost £400,000 of support which was agreed by the Council in November last year. Just over half of that initial funding came from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS) to support community-based programmes tackling prevention and community engagement.

The ICS have indicated that they will provide further grant funding that the Council will bid for, to continue projects for the next financial year, which will continue to focus on prevention of poor health resulting from financial hardship and living in cold homes..

25 Warm Hubs have been running across South Cambridgeshire this winter, with more than 2,000 visits recorded up to the start of February. Run by Cambridgeshire ACRE, they are free cosy spaces which residents of all ages can visit to socialise, work, and catch up with friends. Some could evolve into Community Wellbeing Hubs, offering more services.

There are also plans to expand South Cambridgeshire District Council's scheme to provide free energy saving appliances to those residents who are only just about managing, next winter. So far this winter, more than 300 South Cambridgeshire residents have been provided with either a slow cooker, electric blanket, or both by the Council. A charitable giving fund, which residents who are able to can donate towards as part of this scheme, has raised nearly £2,000 and remains open.

Finally, funds are also being proposed to help create a South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Food Network. The idea would be to link-up all the existing foodbanks in the district, creating a network of support for each other – with the over-riding aim of distributing food that would otherwise end-up being thrown away. The network would also look to create links with local farmers to donate excess food that is not suitable for supermarkets, encourage communities to grow fresh vegetables for the most vulnerable, and promote

healthy eating and more plant-based diets. This network would be a key part of the emerging South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Food Strategy, which is being developed by the District Council and set to be discussed by its Climate and Environment Advisory Group in April.

Zero Tolerance

South Cambridgeshire Councillors have agreed to take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and intimidation of councillors and council staff as part of a national campaign.

The move comes amid local government figures which reveal that nationally seven in 10 councillors have experienced abuse and intimidation in the last 12 months and one in 10 experience abuse frequently.

The movement is spearheaded by the Local Government Association (LGA). Plans include:

- Writing to the Government asking them to work with the LGA to address abuse and intimidation of politicians.
- Regularly reviewing support available to councillors in relation to abuse, intimidation, and councillor safety.
- Working with the local police to ensure a clear mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families.
- Taking a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.
- Debate Not Hate is raising public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encouraging healthy debate and aims to improve the response to, and support for, local politicians facing abuse and intimidation.

Rural Bus Summit

Cllr John Williams as the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources attended a Rural Bus Summit for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough organised by the Campaign for Better Transport. Present were Directors of all the bus companies and community transport providers operating in the area, lead officers and councillors of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and all the District Councils (with the exception of East Cambridgeshire), the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the Combined Authority, the Bus and Coach Council, Transport Focus, Bus Users UK, the Department for Transport and the Department for Education and the NHS.

The purpose of the Summit was to implement the One Transport Need One Transport solution model in Cambridgeshire. This brings together the resources currently available to provide an integrated bus network in rural areas – such as using school transport and the NHS fleet of patient transport vehicles more effectively for everyone - to be co-ordinated by the Combined Authority.

John was able to get some time with Stagecoach's Group Commercial Director and Stephenson's Managing Director to lobby for the return of timetables on bus stops served by their buses. This was supported by Transport Focus which said that timetables and shelters at bus stops were in the top five concerns about travelling by bus in rural areas.. Conversely both A2B and Whippet supported this.

Carla & John

Item 126.3

District Councillor Report to Parish Council March 2023

Consultation on Bottisham and Swaffham's Greenway

I attended a briefing on the Bottisham and Swaffham Greenway which is one of the 12 cycle greenways on the spoke of a wheel that will enter Cambridge from outside villages. As you know I have been very disappointed with the slow progress of the cycle greenways projects which have been discussed since 2014, then got funding in 2016 and there seems to have been endless amounts of engagement resulting in very little benefit to the public over the last 8-9 years. There are three cycle greenways that impact the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn Ward, the Horningsea cycle greenway, the Fulbourn cycle greenway and the Bottisham and Swaffham Greenway which will benefit both Stow-cum-Quy, Fen Ditton and adjacent villages like Teversham and The Wilbraham's that are not directly on the route but would be accessible for cyclists.

An open, online public event will be held on 9 March with two more events on the 14 and 16 March in Stow-cum-Quy and Bottisham, respectively.

For more information and to have your say in the online survey before midday on 27 March visit: <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/gcp-swaffham-bottisham-greenway>.

Branded maps and signposts will eventually line the route to help people find their way to their destination – with a ballot now open so people can decide what the signposts will look like and feel like.

Public to choose the look and feel of Greenways wayfinding signs in poll

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has opened a ballot where people can decide what maps and signposts will look like and vote for one of two colours.

The public are invited to choose between 'Cambridge blue' and 'rural green.' The blue reflects the city's coat of arms, and the green reflects the natural environments many of the Greenways will travel through.

The poll will be open until midday on Friday 17 March. To cast your vote visit <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/gcp-greenway-wayfinding>

I find it disappointing that the GCP is wasting time on going out to polling / consultation on the colour of signs along routes. Surely this is something that could have been done in previous consultations regarding these cycle greenways and it really isn't something I think there will be huge passion for given the long delays and inaction on cycle greenways.

Budget 2023-24

The District Council has now set its budget for the forthcoming year. The council has agreed an Authorised Limit for total external debt of £447.673m and forecasts external borrowing to be £315.1m by March 2026. The budget has a significant gap with £2.79m of savings/income identified. Council tax is to be increased by the maximum, unfortunately the amendment (that I seconded) to freeze council tax was voted down. I raised concerns over the increased borrowing and council tax rises alongside the potential reduction of service quality as a result of the amount of

savings made, I did not support the budget. Below I have copied the amendments that the Conservative group put forward to the budget.

Conservative Group Budget Proposal for 2023/2024

1. Freeze the council tax

It has been a difficult couple of years for residents dealing with the pandemic and on top of what feels like ever increasing household bills particularly in relation to heating and fuel costs which have hit people hard. It is proposed to freeze the council tax at 2022/23 levels to assist residents struggling to meet their living costs. The income forgone in 2023/24 as a result will be around £336,650.

2. Additional funding for fraud prevention and investigation

Local Authorities have in recent years seen increasing amounts of attempted fraud against them and if anything the Pandemic and cost of living crisis has seen this sort of activity increase further. It is important to tackle this growing trend and preventative work is seen as a key element to achieving this. It is therefore proposed to invest £50,000 in further fraud prevention work and raising fraud awareness in the community. This could be achieved by employing a fraud prevention officer and providing resources to support them in this work.

3. Additional planning enforcement (compliance) officer.

There is a need to bolster resources in the planning enforcement team and it is proposed to add an additional officer at a cost of £45,300 to provide for the growing demand to investigate breaches of planning conditions and consent.

4. Funding.

It is proposed that the amount required of £431,950 be funded in part from a saving by discontinuing the current policy that allows councillors to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, this will save around £14,000. Also reducing the number of South Cambs Magazines from 4 to 2 which will save around £26,000 with the remaining difference (£391,950) to be met from the transformation reserve.

Housing Budget

I was pleased to support the Council's plan to increase the amount of council housing stock across the district. There was also a review of the Council house rents and shared ownership properties rates. The Council has decided to increase the rents and charges by 7%, this is the highest increase possible as the government has set a 7% cap. This is something that I did not support especially in the current climate with rising costs. This would mean a Council tenant paying £600 a month rent would pay an additional £42 per month. I am not personally saying there shouldn't have been any rise at all but if we had opted for a 3% rise it would have meant an £18 per month rise. I am fully aware that it is costly to maintain Council houses and make sure they are as green as possible i.e. solar panels, insulation, PVC windows etc, (much of which has already been done). But given that often Council tenants are the most vulnerable people in society a 7% rise (the maximum allowed in this financial year) is a mistake and was the main reason I couldn't support this element of the budget.

Accounts 2019-2020

On the 21st February the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee met to approve the 2019-2020 accounts. It is yet unknown what the final auditor's fee for this year's accounts will be.

Scrutiny and Overview

I was the vice chair at the February Scrutiny and Overview committee where we scrutinised the Investment Strategy and cost of living support. On the Investment Strategy, the Lead member for Finance and the Lead Officer for Finance were asked a number of questions around risk by the committee but my questions were around training in that the Council should make sure that any councillors involved in making any decisions, whether this be around buying residential properties, office blocks, the Council's business partnership with Balfour Beatty or Hill or investing in overseas banks should have the relevant training. These are very complex decisions that could potentially have unforeseen outcomes for the Council and it is important that Councillors making these decisions have the knowledge and the training to be able to fully scrutinise and assess decisions around investments. This has been taken on board by the Lead Member of Finance going forward.

On the cost-of-living support, my question was around warm hubs and if data could be collected as to who is using these facilities. Anecdotally I wonder how many people are going to warm hubs with a view to save money on their heating bills or keep warm or are these warm hubs actually being used more as community facilities i.e. people using them because they are isolated or seeking company. I am not necessarily saying it is a bad thing if these warm hubs are being used for social isolation as clearly this is still a benefit to the community, but it might help us shape these going forward.

*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 07595 361 285 (please leave a voicemail if I am unavailable) **Councillor Graham Cone***