

Minutes of a Meeting of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday, 13th March 2024 in The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn.

Present: Councillor Smith (Chairman), and Councillors Andrews, Bramwell, Brown, Butler, Gaskell, Howell, Johnson, Lacey, Lockwood, Roberts, Thorn and Viner; County Councillor Daunton, District Councillors Cone and Williams, the Clerk, Administration Assistant and 3 parishioners.

131 To accept apologies for absence. All present.

132 To notify the clerk of any declarations of interest that will be declared by members for any item to be discussed.

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.

Gill Ward raised concerns about the on-going sewerage problems in Stonebridge Lane. Cllr Daunton said it was an Anglian Water (AW) matter and they had been in attendance for days pumping out the drains. Unfortunately, with so much rain of late, it is to do with water levels and surface water in getting into the foul water drains. Cllr Roberts asked about health issues. Cllr Daunton said AW are testing the water in the ditches and it is safe at the moment.

Mrs Ward then mentioned the defibrillator which has been missing from The High Street since January and had herself gone into the Cambridge Ambulance Station to try and locate it. Cllr Gaskell said the equipment had been used prior to the arrival of two ambulances, neither had a defibrillator on board, so took it with them and it was needed on route to the hospital. The Clerk has emailed an NHS contact with the serial number and they are trying to locate it. Mrs Ward suggested asking if the PC could be lent one until it has been found.

133 Neighbourhood Plan Presentation and Annual Report.

Ron Ward and the Neighbourhood Team had prepared a draft Annual Report for the PC's approval and what the PC wants to do to go forward with its aims and ambitions. There was a slight amendment to the 20-m.p.h. zone across the village, which has been approved in principle, and is now out for public consultation. Following discussion regarding circulating the report to all parishioners, the Clerk will enquire about costs to include it as an insert with the April 2024 Village Pump. Mr Ward and the Team, which does include Parish Councillors, were thanked for the report and presentation.

134 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

134.1 County Councillor Daunton issued the attached report. Cllr Johnson asked about the bus service in the village as buses are either not turning up or are turning round at one end of Fulbourn and not coming into the centre. Cllr Daunton said this was an issue for Stagecoach. Cllr Williams said he had a contact at Stagecoach so would raise these concerns with them.

134.2 District Councillors Williams and Hofman issued the attached report. Cllr Williams added that SCDC wish to convert the community room at Hollman's Close to a bungalow as it has such little use. Consulting the leaseholders had taken time, but now permission has been sought from them, the project is progressing.

134.3 District Councillor Cone issued the attached report.

135 To approve the minutes of the last meeting.

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

136 Matters arising from the last meeting.

136.1 Swifts Play Area. It is believed the Annual Play Equipment Inspection is due shortly, the Clerk will try to find out exactly when. Cllrs Smith, Bramwell and Johnson hope to attend and seek professional advice from the Inspector on the state of the equipment and its life expectancy before the PC considers adoption of the area.

136.2 New/refurbished pavilion. Following a recent meet, Alan Lamb was appointed as

Clerk

architect for this project and has drawn up draft plans. These have been circulated to the Working Party for consideration, and Cllr Smith will arrange another meeting to discuss these further.

137 Minutes of a Planning Meeting held on 27/02/2024.

138 Tree works:

24/0207/TTCA, 6 Cow Lane: Remove two branches on left-hand side of Oak to balance tree and make more of an upright shape instead of leaning to one side. No objection from PC.

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

139 Correspondence.

139.1 **Hope CIC Office** – Crowdfunding campaign to support their weekly visits to six villages, including Fulbourn, with a Mobile Food Hub.

139.2 **Cllr Bridget Smith** – Letter to Parish Councillors regarding an update on SCDC’s 4-day working week.

139.3 **Fulbourn Arts** – February 2024 newsletter.

139.4 **War Memorials Trust** – February 2024 magazine.

139.5 **CCC** – Cambridgeshire Matters, February 2024 newsletter. *Email 28/02/24*

139.6 **Resident in Apthorpe Street** – Numerous concerns regarding Highways including drainage, condition of road, amount of traffic and signage. The Clerk has acknowledged this correspondence and Cllr Daunton has also been in contact. Cllr Daunton recommended reporting potholes as soon as they are seen. This can be done on the CCC website.

139.7 **Clerks & Councils Direct** – March 2024 magazine.

139.8 **CCC** – TTRO (Temporary Traffic Road Order), Hinton Road, road closure 08/04/2024 – 26/04/2024.

139.9 **CCC** – TTRO, School Lane, road closure from 02/04/2024 – 04/04/2024.

139.10 **CCC** – Temporary Prohibition, The Maples footpath from 25/03/2024 – 19/04/2024.

139.11 **CCC** – Balsham Road, Temporary 40 m.p.h. speed limit from 06/03/2024 – 05/09/2025.

139.12 **Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority** – Have Your Say on Electric Vehicles and Charging Points survey, deadline 26/03/2024.

139.13 **TMC** (Traffic Management Centre) – February 2024 Incident Report.

139.14 **CCC** – Public Consultation on proposed 20mph and 40mph in Fulbourn commencing 13/03/2024. Comments by 08/04/2024.

139.15 **e-cops** – Series of Crime Prevention Webinars arranged commencing on 18/03/2024 running until 22/04/2024.

139.16 **Fulbourn Arts** – AGM, 12/03/2024. Unfortunately, it is the same date as the Fulbourn Liaison Meeting.

139.17 **Resident in School Lane** – Has reported damage to the triangular verge on the School Lane/Cambridge Road/ Dogget Lane junction which has been caused by a bus. Cllrs Daunton and Smith had recently had a walkabout the village with CCC Highways, and this repair is on the list to be done.

140 To resolve the accounts for the month.

Dor-2-Dor: Pump delivery.....264.13	Barclays: Monthly fees.....6.29R
Falcon Print: Village Pump.....385.00R	N Power: Street lighting.....222.65
Shelford Heating: Repairs.....916.20	T Fretwell: RFO fees.....500.00
Gopak: Supplies.....12.00	Cleaner Windows: Swifts.....30.00
Wages: Clerk + expenses.....1,400.90	Wages: Admin. Assist.....636.33
Wages: Swifts Cleaner.....200.00	Wages: Hub Cleaner.....80.00

Cllr Thorn proposed accepting the account, proposal seconded by Cllr Lockwood and agreed by the Council.

141 Council Committees and Remote Meetings.

Fulbourn Liaison Meeting. Cllr Williams chaired the meeting held on 12/03/2024 saying it had been a good and useful meeting. It was pointed out, the Fulbourn Greenway Scheme would have to wait until the development had been done. Notes from that meeting will be issued shortly.

142 Annual Parish Meeting.

This will be held on Wednesday, 24th April 2024 at 7.30pm in The Swifts.

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

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Attached Items:

Item 133

The Neighbourhood Plan - First Annual Report

Introduction

Our Neighbourhood Plan was drafted by a group of villagers, parish councillors, district councillors and completed in 2022.

Following subsequent formal inspection, we completed the final version in late 2022 and you voted for its implementation in April 2023.

The Plan enables us to positively influence:

- How we want the Parish to develop and remain separate from Cambridge
- How we want our environment to prosper and develop including green spaces
- Where new developments, housing and business should be built, what they should look like, and what housing mix is appropriate
- How we should maintain and develop our valued community services and facilities.

As part of the ongoing process, we undertook to report annually on how the objectives and aims of the Plan were progressing. This is the first such report and your questions, comments are welcomed.

Planning

The Statutory part of the Neighbourhood Plan focuses on policies for the development and use of land in the Parish.

During 2023 the planning applications received have been, though important to individuals, relatively minor. There has been no new application of significant size. It has also been noted that in the development of the District Council Local Plan there are no large housing developments earmarked for Fulbourn over the Plan period which takes us up to 2030.

We met with the Planning team of District Council and briefed them on the details of the Plan. All planning applications now make reference to the Neighbourhood Plan confirming they follow the defined policies. In considering applications we seek to ensure that the defined policies are followed and reject those proposals which do not.

Community Aims

In drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan other non-direct planning issues were raised and included. These included recreation facilities, healthcare, road safety and as highlighted above, the broad topic of environmental matters including green spaces.

With regard to extending our recreation facilities to meet the growing population we have met with the new owners of Capital Park and they will be working with villagers to compile a Fulbourn Walking Guide including routes around their parkland.

We are keeping the extension to our Recreation Ground under review as it continues to well used. Proposals to extend, rebuild the Pavilion our under discussion.

The PPG has engaged with the Healthcare Centre to discuss both the suitability of the current building and the need for greater patient capacity with the completion of the already approved housing developments. It is encouraging to note that following works carried out in 2021 the Centre has been refurbished to the latest medical standards and further consulting rooms have been added. There should now be enough capacity to meet the needs of the increased population over the Neighbourhood Plan time horizon. It is likely that a Community Matron will be appointed to serve

the needs of the village and the Practice is exploring other avenues and possibilities.

Moving around the village comfortably and safely was highlighted. Slowing traffic flows would contribute to this. During the year we have been able to apply to the County Council initiative with regard to introducing 20 mph zones.

The design for a 20mph zone across the village has been approved in principle and is now out for public consultation. These include: where signs, lines and roundels will go, where the 40 mph buffer zones will be. If all goes to plan implementation is late Spring or early Summer.

The Greenway project (active travel routes for cycling and walking) from village into Cambridge is ongoing. The Fulbourn Greenways Phase 1 from Apthorpe Street to Tesco, being implemented before the end of 2024. Proposals for Phase 2 from Tesco to Cambridge are continuing to be developed.

There are several ongoing and planned environmental projects.

A survey of trees on the land owned by councils (Parish, District and County) within the village is planned for 2024.

The herb beds project is ongoing with 5 beds in different village locations. The Fulbourn Forum have commissioned a film (Fugolburna film) highlighting the deteriorating situation of the local chalk streams.

The Fulbourn Manor released additional land at the end of Stonebridge Lane for incorporating into the existing nature reserve. The Manor is also expecting to implement a Community Farm (similar to that set up on the edge of Coldham's Lane) to demonstrate how food can be cooperatively cultivated in an environmentally sensitive way for the benefit of all.

The "Swifts" project has seen a significant growth in the bird population and continues to grow.

The twice-yearly litter picks contribute to the overall environment.

Areas of concern which we continue to monitor are the impact of the Teversham Road development on green spaces and water management. The vision of maintaining separation from Cambridge could be threatened by the recently announced sale of the triangle of land located at the Tesco end of Fulbourn Old Drift between the road and the railway line (opposite Capital Park).

Conclusion

The establishment of our Neighbourhood Plan is an important tool for giving the Parish Council and supporting groups such as the Fulbourn Forum, a vision for how you would like your village to develop.

Please get involved and all ideas are welcome.

Fulbourn Parish Council April 2024

Item 134.1

Report of County Councillor Claire Dauton to parish councils in the Fulbourn Division

March 2024

Fulbourn Issues

- (i) Cadent Gas Works: from Cadent staff 'Just another update on the progress of the works on Pierce Lane, we have made good progress over the last couple of weeks so should be able to complete the works on Pierce Lane a week or two ahead of schedule. Due to the location of the main and where some of the services are joining onto the main, we will have to complete the remainder of the works under a road closure as opposed to lifting the closure and working under lights. The next phase going up this week is from the junction of The Cornway to just short of the junction of The Maples. This means that there will be no access onto Pierce Lane from Bird Farm Road, we were hoping to be able to maintain access to this junction but unfortunately due to the location that one of the services joins onto the main this is not going to be possible to excavate on and allow traffic to safely navigate the junction. The next phase of the road closure is planned for next week and is from the junction of The Maples to outside 11 Hinton Road, this will be in place for around

2 weeks. Access will be maintained in and out of The Maples throughout this phase. The next road closure phase after that is from the junction of Cherry orchard to Opposite 28 Hinton Road which is still on track for a start date of 08/04/24 and is expected to take 3 weeks.

(ii) Stonebridge Lane: sewage pumping station. There have been problems of surface water mixing with foul water on Stonebridge Lane over the past several weeks. This is a matter for Anglian Water and they have been sending tankers to deal with the problem. But further work is needed and then there remains the issue of the clear-and clean-up. I am in contact with Anglian Water concerning the work that is needed to ensure the area is clear of foul water. I am grateful to the clerk for being able to liaise with her on this.

(iii) Footpaths: I arranged a visit of highways officers to look at footpaths and drainage in the centre of the village. It was good that we were joined on our walkabout by the chair of the parish council. We added to the list of work to be done: footpath repairs on Dogget Lane; gully clearing at various points; the need for resurfacing of Apthorpe Street and Cow Lane. Work on the latter is tied into the programme for the Greenway, the Cadent Works and the development on Teversham Road.

(iv) 20mph consultation: the statutory consultation on the implementation of the 20mph scheme in the village will begin on 13th March and run for 6 weeks.

(v) LHI bids: officers are now raising queries of design details to which the parish council and school will need to respond. This is a standard part of the process and leads on to the panel meetings in April/May at which parishes are invited to speak on behalf of their bids.

(vi) Roman Road: I organised a visit to the Roman Road with county officers and fellow county councillors in the surrounding area to agree on areas of maintenance over the summer and autumn. It is hoped that some funding will be made available for clearing scrub and repairing areas of deterioration.

FULL COUNCIL Budget: The council agreed its budget on Tuesday 13 February, prioritising funding to: improve the condition of roads and footpaths, social care, and support for vulnerable communities.

This was a difficult budget process as many residents continue to feel the squeeze from cost-of-living pressures, but the council also faces significant cost increases. Those on the lowest incomes are also those who are often most reliant on services provided by the council. The county council had to close a gap of £37.4M, with 75 per cent of the Council's net spending now being funded from Council Tax. Councillors have prioritised a number of key areas, based on residents' feedback from last summer's Quality of Life survey. The budget

- Sustains critical adults' & children's social care services.
- Includes record levels of highways funding to strengthen and improve the standard of roads and pavements, including tackling potholes, weeds and gulleys—in direct response to residents' concerns.
- Prioritises support for vulnerable communities, including continuing to providing holiday supermarket vouchers for those children most in need.

The council agreed a Council Tax rise of 4.99 per cent—2 per cent for Adult Social Services, and 2.99 per cent for general services—raising £17.5M of local income to help maintain and protect critical services for the most vulnerable communities. For the majority of residents in Band A-D properties that will mean an extra 99p to £1.48 a week.

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE Shire Hall back on the market

Bids are invited for the lease or purchase of part of the Shire Hall site in Cambridge, after the previous preferred bidder was unable to continue their interest. Shire Hall had been the County Council's headquarters since the 1930s, but the site itself was the seat of government in Cambridge for over a thousand years. Previously the site of two medieval castles, the building was the county council's administrative centre from its completion in 1933 until 2022, when the council relocated to Alconbury as part of its planned savings programme. The property comprises the original Shire Hall, the Octagon, the Old Police Station, Castle Lodge and public car parking. Offers will be considered by the council's Assets & Procurement Committee in June, when councillors will review not only the financial bid made but whether the offer delivers environmental and social benefits. The council expects strong interest from commercial bidders, with the building's prime position in Cambridge making it highly suitable for different uses. Due to the historic importance of the site all proposals will require full planning and listed building consents to ensure protection of the assets on site. The council has applied to give part of the lawn between the front of Shire Hall and the Mound the legal protection of 'Town Green' status.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Measles update: With cases of measles rising in some areas of the country, the council is asking everyone to check their MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination status and get vaccinated if not up to date. Measles is a highly infectious illness which can be very unpleasant and sometimes lead to serious complications. Two doses of the MMR vaccination give long-lasting protection against measles. In the UK, the MMR vaccination is given as part of the routine childhood vaccination schedule. The vaccine is free, available from GPs, and anyone can catch up at any age on missed doses. An alternative MMR vaccination is available which does not contain pork products.

Walk-in vaccination clinics are taking place across Cambridgeshire. These are for anyone over the age of one year who is not up to date with their MMR vaccinations. More information at <https://www.cpics.org.uk/measles>

Individuals should check their vaccination status if possible before attending one of these clinics. Vaccination records are in a child's personal health record (red book). Adults can check if they have been vaccinated with their GP or vaccination records from childhood.

NHS dentistry under the spotlight: The county council's Adults & Health Committee will be scrutinising the provision of NHS dentistry in Cambridgeshire at its meeting on Thursday 7 March. In recent years the availability of NHS dental care has shrivelled to almost zero, with many practices closing their doors to new NHS patients or ceasing to provide NHS dental care altogether. Dentists say that one in five people have resorted to 'DIY dentistry' and 4.4 million children in England have not seen an NHS dentist in at least a year, leading to a 17 per cent increase in tooth decay-related extractions in children. East Cambridgeshire is one of the worst 'dental deserts' in the country.

In February NHS England published a joint NHS and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) 'Dental Recovery Plan' to try to address the growing crisis. This includes

- a ‘new patient’ payment of between £15 and £50 (depending on treatment need) to treat around a million new patients who have not seen an NHS dentist in two years or more under the current contract, it is no longer financially viable to offer NHS procedures because of a lack of Government investment

- focus on prevention and good oral health in young children and an expanded dental workforce
- advice for parents and parents-to-be on taking care of baby gums and milk teeth
- one-off payments of up to £20,000 for dentists working in under-served areas for up to three years.

The minimum value of dental activity under the dental contract will increase from £23 to £28. This will affect only a small number of contracts across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and any additional funding will need to be covered from the current dental budget of the local NHS Integrated Care Board. Mobile ‘dental vans’ will be launched in rural and coastal areas, with at least one of these vans coming to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Cambridgeshire NHS has put in place a local Dental Improvement Plan, and identified the areas most in need as being Fenland, Littleport, Ely, and Peterborough.

Have your say on creating Healthy Places: Cambridgeshire’s public health team is inviting residents to have their say on how new and existing communities can be healthy, supportive and inclusive. Work is currently under way to develop the Healthy Places Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To inform this, the team has launched a survey asking for views on access to healthcare services, inclusive and accessible green spaces, opportunities for active travel and healthy play and leisure, and the provision of affordable healthy food options.

The survey is at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WNC1CB/> and is open until Monday 15 April at 5:00PM. It will take around 10-15 minutes to fill in and may be completed on behalf of yourself or someone you care for. If you would prefer to complete a paper copy, you can pick one up from your local library. If you have any questions about the survey or the Healthy Places Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, please email healthinallpolicies@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

More pupils get first choice of secondary school: A greater percentage of Cambridgeshire students will be going to their first-choice secondary school this September. A total of 87.9 per cent have been offered a place at their first-choice school—up from 87.1 per cent last year. The proportion offered a place at their first, second or third preference school has also risen, from 95.4 per cent in 2023 to 95.8 per cent this year. The total number of places offered this year was fewer than last – 7,220 compared with 7,413.

Supermarket vouchers: More than 23,000 supermarket vouchers were distributed during the February half term to eligible families in Cambridgeshire.

COMMUNITIES SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Free data SIM cards for low-income households: A reminder that Cambridgeshire Libraries are part of Good Things Foundation’s National Databank, O2 and Vodaphone scheme, which makes free data SIM cards or vouchers available to anyone aged 18+ from a low-income household.

Recipients can self-declare as eligible, and the support is available for a maximum period of twelve months. The data can be used with any SIM-enabled device. This offer is available at a range of libraries including Ely. Ask library staff for more details.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT Weekly food waste collections

The Government is moving towards weekly food waste collections across the country, with financial support to district councils for changes to collection of the waste, but not to county councils for disposing of it. Any councils not taking up the arrangements would be 'named in legislation' as being exempt from these collection arrangements, until such time as their existing waste contracts expired. In Cambridgeshire's case this is 2037, when the PFI contract at Waterbeach ends—a long time to wait. After prolonged discussion between Cambridgeshire's County and district councils, they have been able to agree to move to weekly collections, and avoid being listed in the legislation.

report it, even if it is not internal flooding, and even if the immediate danger has passed. In the event of a flood, if there is a threat to life call 999. To report a non-life-threatening flood emergency to the police, please call 101. Outside of those events, the County Council's flood reporting page

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/report-a-flood> provides options to:

- Report a flooding problem on roads and pavements
- Report flooding in a property, home or garden
- Report flooding from water pipes or sewers
- Report flooding from surface water, groundwater or ordinary watercourses
- Report flooding from a main river or the sea as well as information on how to prepare for flooding, and flood emergency contacts.

Crucifixion

The skeleton of a man who was crucified in Roman-era Cambridgeshire is on display as part of a blockbuster exhibition at the British Museum, after a loan of the remains was agreed by Cambridgeshire County Council. The British Museum's exhibition is called *Legion: Life in the Roman Army* and will run until 23 June 2024 in the Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery. Discovered as part of an excavation in Fenstanton, the body is only the second confirmed example of the Roman use of this barbaric punishment ever.

Once the exhibition ends, the remains will be transferred back into the guardianship of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

The council's Joint Administration has reinstated the programme of regular, cyclical gully clearing that the previous Conservative administration ceased. As noted above the budget includes record levels of highways funding to strengthen and improve the standard of roads and pavements, including tackling potholes, weeds and gulleys—in direct response to residents' concerns.

In Fulbourn the following areas will be completed: resurfacing of footpaths in Cow Lane and

Station Road; drainage scheme on Geoffrey Bishop Avenue; drainage work on Wilbraham Road. In addition to regular gully clearing and additional road repairs.

Busway works

A draft highways capital spending programme has been put to the council's Highways & Transport Committee for comment. It remains in draft only, and

further work will be done to prioritise the use of the council's capital funding.

Safety works are under way on the Guided Busway to allow the busway to return to full, two-way operation. Since February 2022, a section of the Guided Busway in one direction has been closed between Cambridge Railway Station and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. A temporary fence was installed whilst an independent safety review was in progress, and following ongoing communications with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and as part of continuous safety reviews on the busway. Since then, the county council has been working with the bus operators and emergency services to risk-assess and design a fence to be installed next to the upstand along sections of the southern busway. It has been specifically designed with removable sections to allow for safe evacuation. This work is being carried out in sections to minimise disruption to passengers. Contractors are working seven days a week and the busway and maintenance track are currently programmed to re-open on Saturday 30 March.

Claire Daunton

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Item 134.2

Report of Councillor Carla Hofman and Councillor John Williams to Parish Councils for March 2024.

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

South Cambridgeshire Budget for 2024/25

South Cambridgeshire District Council's plans for the year ahead will see us remain as one of the lowest taxing authorities in the country.

In a meeting of Full Council on 27 February) members voted to back the Budgets and Business Plan for the upcoming 12 months and said the budget was being set against a challenging background of rising population, increasing costs due to inflation and a national homelessness crisis.

The plans retain the Council as one of the lowest taxing authorities in the country, with a below inflation £5 per year increase for the average band D home or less than 10p a week, equivalent to around 3%, bringing the charge for this band to £170.31. Incidentally this is lower than the precept for a Town Council and two Parish Councils. The Council only retains around 7.6% of the Council Tax it collects, with the rest being passed on to other

organisations such as the County Council and Police. Council Tax will bring in over £11 million to South Cambs, and accounts for about half the taxation required to pay for council services – the other sources being Business Rates and a small grant from the Government.

In addition, the council is expecting to receive £7 million in commercial rent and interest from loans in addition to fees and charges mainly from large scale planning applications.

The budget includes more staff to deal with fly-tipping, the cost-of-living crisis and more waste collection rounds, as well as the managing the Zero Carbon Communities scheme. A budget of over half a million pounds was agreed for the Council's continued Digital Transformation work – which aims to make services even more accessible to residents in a way that works for them. This will fund the software and staffing costs. The Transformation project has already saved over £250,000 and further savings of £1.6 million are planned for the coming two years.

The budget does not take into account the 4-day week trial and its possible adoption. A decision on what happens after the trial of desk-based staff finishes at the end of March will be made at the cabinet meeting on 12 March 2024.

Government Funds Shared Planning Posts

Following a successful bid last year via the 'PropTech' Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities fund (DLUHC), the Shared Planning Service has been successful in a further bid for £200,000 from the DLUHC Planning Delivery Skills fund for 2024-25. Our bid focused on our aim for Greater Cambridge to not only thrive economically but for new development to be high-quality design, innovative, sustainable and respond to its local context. The monies will fund 3 fixed term posts: one in Planning Policy to focus on infrastructure and viability, and a landscape officer and designer in the Built and Natural Environment Team providing additional capacity for major applications, our strategic sites and to support our policy work.

Biodiversity Net Gain Required for Planning Applications

With the introduction of 10% mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (for all major planning applications from 12th Feb 2024 and all minor applications from 2nd April 2024), the Built and Natural Environment Team in our shared planning service has put two new measures in place to help applicants: a) a technical guidance note and b) a bespoke pre-application advice service. More details can be found on our website: Biodiversity Net Gain Advice (greatercambridgeplanning.org)

More Support for Ukraine Guests

Grants totalling more than £13,000 have been awarded for activities to help Ukraine guests settle into South Cambridgeshire and forge friendships. In addition, more than £102,000 has been given to support English tuition to help Ukraine guests develop communication skills.

The funding is part of a wider £500,000 package of support provided by South District Council since the Homes for Ukraine scheme began, including different forms of wrap around support to help guests achieve independent accommodation, a furniture package scheme and recently launched, a landlord incentive scheme.

The District Council has awarded 43 activities grants since the scheme started to help reduce isolation offer emotional support and support integration into the community. The small community grants have supported a wide range of events including:

- Art therapy workshops for children and adults
- Women's club meetings to forge friendships
- A party to bond, create fun and find new friends for traumatised children
- Funding trips to Woburn Safari Park
- A Candle making workshop for adults and children
- A colouring competition for children
- Flower making workshops to make flower emblems of Ukraine
- A traditional seaside coach trip including fish and chips
- A Ceilidh for Ukrainian guests, hosts and friends
- Group discussions and games for teenagers leading to further activities for the young people to get together

Funding comes from the Government tariff received for every guest who arrives in the area.

Half a Million Pounds Given in Grants in 2023

South Cambridgeshire communities benefited from grants totalling over £500,000 from the District Council last year (2023).

This funding was awarded through nine grant schemes with various focus areas such as promoting community well-being, environmental sustainability, and inclusive participation.

The grants were made up of the following:

£80,321 in Community Chest grants was awarded to 54 voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies to help further improve quality of life of residents in the district.

Six grants amounting to £71,708 were given out through the Council's Mobile Warden Schemes which have been set up to support older people to live independently in their homes and stay in their community.

11 Service Support Grants worth £173,900 were granted to help the Voluntary and Community Sector provide services and support to local residents. This includes Care Network Cambridgeshire who received £8,000 for the development and support of Community Car Schemes to assist the elderly and vulnerable within South Cambridgeshire. Citizens Advice Cambridge & District also received £100,000 to provide free, independent and impartial advice to residents of South Cambridgeshire on their rights and responsibilities.

The Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme which helps communities to take action on climate change at a very local level awarded £125,901 to nine applicants, including Cambridge Carbon Footprint being awarded £15,000 to develop their network of repair cafes in the district.

49 parish councils received trees worth £4,973 through the six free trees scheme.

The District Council's Long Term Health grant is aimed at supporting residents with chronic health problems and will be available to groups and organisations who provide physical activity programmes for people with specific health conditions. £13,312 was awarded to 9 organisations with Active with Parkinson's Sawston receiving and the Body Toning class at Shelford Cancer centre both receiving £2,000 of this.

Five leisure centres received £4,698 to restart fitness classes that stopped during Covid.

An Electric vehicle Charge point grant gave £15,000 to 3 applicants. One of these was Cambridge Sports Lakes Trust which received £5,000 towards four EV chargers at Milton Country Park.

Tenant community grants help fund a project, by up to £1,000, that benefits the local community. £5,948 was given to 8 applicants.

The Ukraine Small Grant which promotes the integration of Ukrainian guests into the South Cambridgeshire community gave out £5,512 to 19 applicants.

Carla & John

Item 134.3

District Councillor report to Parish Council March 2024

Home adaptations grant

Please could Parish Councillors be aware of the following grants for adaptations and repairs to homes occupied by people with long-term health conditions and disabilities. This grant was accessed by more than 100 families in our district last year and can help with adaptations to homes to prevent accidents, help with assisted living and help people live more comfortably and more independently within their homes. These grants are limited to £30,000. There is a lot of information on the website, I have attached the link below:

<https://www.cambshia.org>

Cambridgeshire Home Improvements Agency is a partnership between SCDC, Cambridge City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council with an aim of enhancing living conditions of residents that are older adults, have disabilities, combined with low incomes. If you have any further questions, feel free to get in touch with the officer leading on this project, Frances Swann on 01954 713 456.

Information for residents who believe their Council Tax banding is incorrect and want to challenge this

The Valuation Office Agency has put together a video to support residents who wish to challenge their council tax banding to give them information as to how to go about this. I have shared the link below as parish councillors and residents might find this useful if asked this question as we approach people receiving their council tax bills for the next financial year:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDA4xDiXIa0> .

SCDC budget

I was able to support some parts of the budget and other parts I was unable to support this year. There are many positive things in the budget that as an opposition Cllr, I can agree on, such as the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme, the plan for Ermine Street Housing and the additional borrowing / funding for this, the localised Council Tax support Scheme and the pay policy statement (although I have raised concerns that the 4-day week was not mentioned within the pay strategy). However, I could not support the budget as a whole as there is a black hole in the Council's finances of around £4.485 million between 2024 and 2029 which is much higher than

what was forecast in the previous year. The budget deficit for this year is bigger than the administration predicted.

The Conservative Group had put alternative budget proposals forward that were fully costed working through this with the Council finance team. These can be found within the budget documents on the SCDC website.

I could not support putting council tax up by the maximum allowed by Government and putting up council rents by 7.7% per year. I would much rather abolish the 4-day working week trial, strip out large amounts of money from the ever-growing transformation department and remove the second special responsibility for councillors.

4-day working week

As you will be aware, as an opposition councillor I have been pushing for a vote on the 4-day working week (whilst staff are being paid for 5 days). Despite the opposition group pushing for a vote, there is still no clear timeline as to when this will happen. We are told that a consultation will be held (costing around £40,000) but this would only be done once the Local Government financial settlement is confirmed. My guess would be that we are looking at around about June for all of this to have taken place and during this time the 4-day week will continue as it is currently set up.

I was pleased that officers have recognised that there is an unfairness and inequality between office-based staff that have to do 30 hours for 37.5 hours pay and refuse collectors that have to do 32 hours for 37.5 hours pay. As Chair of Scrutiny, I know that this inconsistency had been challenged with Cabinet and as an opposition, we have always highlighted this as completely unfair that you would have manual workers expected to do more hours than chief executives and office staff. From the briefings I have had, it looks like the council will up the working hours of office staff to reflect this inconsistency. This has been a long time coming and always, in my opinion, wrong from the outset.

My question to full council

My question to the Leader of the Council was as follows:

Is the Leader aware that the staff directory for councillors on Insite is not being updated, and how does the Leader think this may affect the essential services councillors provide for residents of South Cambridgeshire?

The reason I had asked this question is because for months the council has been running 2 systems side by side, neither of which have been functioning properly, so councillors have not had an up-to-date list of officers' contact details, making it very hard to get to information quickly on behalf of our residents. I was pleased that 2 working days prior to my question being heard, the council put in place a directory that can be accessed by councillors across the political spectrum.

The motion I seconded at full council

At full council I was happy to second the following motion:

This Council requests that the Cabinet expands its Cost-of-Living Support scheme to include providing free sanitary products to those who may not be able to afford them.

I was happy to second this motion for Cllr Heather Williams, which I believe would bring SCDC in line with other local authorities, the private sector and charitable organisations. The motion will

start a conversation about the cost of sanitary products to employees on site at the Council, working with charities and foodbanks and other public sector organisations to make sure that sanitary products are available to those that may struggle with this by their own financial means.

*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***

Item 137

Minutes of a Planning Meeting of Fulbourn Parish Council on Tuesday, 27th February 2024 at 7pm in The Hub, Home End, Fulbourn, CB21 5BS.

Present: Councillor Gaskell (Chairman) and Councillors Andrews, Butler, Lacey and Thorn.

Apologies: Councillors Bramwell and Smith.

Appeal in progress:

23/00356/FUL

Location: 76 Station Road

Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two five-bedroom detached dwellings (Use Class C3) accessed from Station Road, with associated parking and landscaping.

Refused Permission:

23/04839/HFUL – 49 Station Road.

Permissions:

23/04588/HFUL – 10 The Maples

23/04692/HFUL – 36 School Lane

Withdrawn application:

23/04658/FUL

Location: 43 Caraway Road

Proposal: Change of Use of land to residential to be incorporated within the curtilage of 43 Caraway Road and the erection of a fence/hedge.

Information only:

24/00521/CL2PD

Location: Four Acre Piggery, Teversham Road

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness under S192 for the Change of Use of an agricultural barn to storage.

Consultation on application for Removal or Variation of a Condition (Section 73):

24/00239/S73

Location: 29 Apthorpe Street

Proposal: S73 to vary Condition 2 (Approved plans) and the removal of condition 5 (BNG) of planning permission 23/02891/FUL (New one-and-a-half storey studio house to replace existing single storey house. Repair and renovation of existing single storey workshop. Resubmission of 23/00211/FUL) in relation to the condition 2, Window removed from north elevation, entrance door moved to front (east) street elevation, Entrance door and window moved to front (east) street elevation, removing 'blank' appearance, Two rooflights to be omitted, one on north and one on south slopes, Entrance door and window moved to front (east) street elevation, thereby avoiding 'problematic' placement, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy: The proposed solar panels shown on the roof plan on drawing AS10T will be integrated and recessed flush with the clay pantile roof, and not mounted on top of the roof tiles. This is noted on drawing AS10T. In addition, the plans are

varied to improve inclusive access with the repositioning of the stair and the layout of the shower/bathroom/WCS and kitchen, a window has been omitted on the south elevation, facing 25-27 Apthorpe Street and Condition 5 - BNG Remove condition as exempt according to current government legislation.

Consultation on application for Removal or Variation of a Condition (Section 73):
24/00239/S73

Location: 29 Apthorpe Street

Proposal: S73 to vary conditions 2 (Approved plans), 20 (Obscured Glazing) and 21 (First floor windows) and remove Condition 5 (Biodiversity Net Gain) of planning permission 23/02891/FUL (New one-and-a-half storey studio house to replace existing single storey house. Repair and renovation of existing single storey workshop. Resubmission of 23/00211/FUL) Window removed from ground floor north elevation, entrance door moved to front (east) street elevation, Entrance door and window moved to front (east) street elevation, removing 'blank' appearance to front elevation, two rooflights to be omitted, one on north and one on south slopes, Entrance door and window moved to front (east) street elevation, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy The solar panels shown on the roof plan on dwg AS10T will be integrated and flush with the clay pantile roof, and not mounted on top of the roof tiles.

Consultation:

CCC/22/057/FUL

Location: Wilbraham Chalk Pit, Mill Road, Great Wilbraham CB21 4HH

Proposal: Continued mineral extraction and progressive landfilling with inert waste. Temporary use of land for bulking and wet and dry processing of inert and non-hazardous soils and hardcore with crusher, screener, and wash plant with concrete slab. Erection of canopy for the maintenance of vehicles and two portable buildings for office and staff welfare; weighbridge, wheel wash, parking area, borehole, and landscaping (part retrospective).

Amendment:

23/04619/HFUL

Location: 16 Dogget Lane

Proposal: Retrospective single storey rear extension built within existing conservatory outline. Recommendation supports.

New Applications:

24/00303/HFUL

Location: 3 The Bourns

Proposal: Single storey rear extension. Recommendation supports.

24/00462/HFUL

Location: 28 Valerian Court

Proposal: Single storey rear extension, garage conversion with front roof extension. Recommendation supports.

24/00503/FUL

Location: 20-24 Pierce Lane

Proposal: Retrospective erection of a single infill dwelling house.

Fulbourn Parish Council objects to this application due to over-development, road safety in vicinity of busy Pierce Lane & Haggis Gap road junction & close proximity to bus stop in front of 20-24 Pierce Lane. Does not meet Fulbourn Neighbourhood Plan to "Does not maintain & improve the character and distinctiveness of the village". Policies: FUL/06, FUL/ 07 & FUL/08. The PC requests this application be referred to the District Council Planning Committee. Recommendation objects.

