

Minutes of a Meeting of FULBOURN PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday, 14th January 2026 in The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn.

Present: Councillor Smith (Chair), and Councillors Bramwell, Howell, Johnson, Lacey, Lockwood, Saunders, and Ward; District Councillor Cone and Williams, the Administrator Alison Mclellan and the Clerk and 1 parishioner.

79 To accept apologies for absence.

Councillors Andrews, Brown, Drage, Gaskell, and County Councillor Morgan.

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

Cllr Saunders has a tree application in. Cllr Ward said there was no issue.

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.

81 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

81.1 County Councillor Matthew Morgan

Report attached at end of document.

Cllr Howell mentioned the issue of potholes. Cllr Williams reminded everyone to report them via the reporting website. Clerk frequently posts the link in the Pump in most editions and online.

81.2 District Councillor Williams

Report attached at end of document. Cllr Williams highlights:

District Council have not asked for the elections to be postponed, so elections will take place in May. Elections will take place May 2027 for new authority.

Meeting with Peter Freeman on 4th Feb in Cambourne that 2 councillors should attend. Go on Greater Cambridge website and look at plans, feedback will close on 30th Jan.

Debates still taking place over 4 day working week.

81.3 District Councillor Cone

Report attached at end of document. Cllr Cone highlighted:

Link to local plan consultation included in report. Cllr Cone highlighted food waste collections but is as written. Postal vote reminder. Clerk to put copy of the bin schedule on the noticeboards.

82 To approve the minutes of the December 2025 meeting.

83 Matters arising from the last meeting.

Farehurst Park and The Orchards Cllr Smith confirmed the lights round the pond are not working and the TPO tree is on Hills land. To be brought up at the liaison meeting. Several councillors have been approached about not getting council housing in Fulbourn, despite being on the waitlist. Cllr Williams will contact a housing officer to come to our next meeting to explain the process to councillors. Cllr Saunders has asked about the Farehurst Park footpath at the entrance to Teversham Road. Cllr Williams confirmed Highways did not ask for a pedestrian footpath, but council have told Hills it is in their best interest. SC still pursuing.

Mobile Speed Indicator Device (SID) Cllr Cone confirmed an engineer is coming out on 20th to look at the machine. Hopefully they can fix it then, otherwise they will have to take it away to fix or replace.

Swifts Play Area Cllr Johnson confirmed the bench will not be moved.

Swifts 106 Solicitors are waiting for the funds to be sent.

Clerk

Tree 3 - Ilex altaclerensis 'Golden King' Evergreen Hardy Holly. At 1.5m high, trunk is 10cm diameter. 3.5m tall. 5m from trunk to rear boundary hedge. 10m from trunk to left boundary wall. Foliage protrudes 1.2m from trunk in all directions, smothering the adjacent corkscrew willow and surrounding shrubs including continus coggygria and hibiscus syriacus.
 Proposal: To remove tree as it is planted in an inappropriate location, smothering all the surrounding plants and shrubs, making access to the rear left hand corner of the garden difficult and reducing usable garden space.
 Greenhouse dimensions
 5.5m long, 2.7m wide. 1.8m from left boundary wall. 15m from rear wall of house to front of greenhouse.
 Garden diameter is approx 22.5m.
 Garden length from house rear wall to boundary hedge is approx 26m.
 Site address: Ruspidge Sanders Lane Fulbourn
 Reference: 26/0004/TTCA
 Public Access link: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/26/0004/TTCA>
 Disclaimer: Fulbourn Parish Council Tree Officer and the Parish Council accept no liability for the advice given above.

85 Correspondence

Mem Safe, email – Quote obtained to check safety of gravestones. *To be discussed at ACE meeting*
Cambs Constabulary, email – Replying about organising a Coffee with a Cop event. Time and date and whether councillors could attend
Parishioner, in person – A parishioner has reported an overgrown hedge opposite the school. *Cllr Johnson to confirm which hedge*
ETS, email – quote for tree survey 2027. *Quote confirmed.*
Youth Club, email – drawn up a rental agreement for hire of the youth club and music room. *Clerk to confirm no hire of the halls.*
Cambridgeshire Youth Justice Service, email – Request to hold panel meetings. *Clerk to send email round to cllrs.*
Waldorf School, email – request for a letter of support for their LHI bid due on Friday. *Council agreed, Cllr Smith signed letter.*
CCC, email – Station Road closure for pavement works. Tuesday 7th April to Friday 8th May – with daytime road closures from 08:00 to 17:00. *Clerk to confirm that school buses are aware.*
Parishioner, email – wondering about the long stretch on Pierce Lane without any 20mph signs or roundals.

Clerk

KJ

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

86 To resolve the accounts for the month.

Pavilion Gas.....	185.98	Pavilion Elec.....	624.10
Hub Gas.....	308.11	Hub Elec.....	211.01
SPLandscape:hedges.....	1194.00	Mark Danson IT 2026.....	500.00
Furnleaf landscape.....	4128.00	S Wales: pest control.....	360
DBS: Christmas lights.....	133.69	Birketts: lease legal fees.....	226.80
GWPC: G39 training x2.....	167.26	DR Raven Garden.....	165
Tesco: Mobile.....	26.99	Cleaner Windows: Swifts.....	30.00
Clerk: Wages.....	1301.64	Admin Assist: Wages.....	676.00
Cleaner: Wages.....	433.00	DR Raven Garden: hours.....	345.00

Cllr Johnson proposed passing the accounts, proposal seconded by Cllr Howell agreed by the Council.

<p>87 Council Committees and Remote Meetings Cllr Johnson apologised for forgetting the ACE meeting last week. Suggested Tuesday 3rd at 6:30 at Hub. ACE committee agreed. Clerk to send round agenda.</p> <p>88 To receive items for inclusion on the next Agenda for decision and/or action.</p> <p>There was no further business and the meeting closed at 20:45.</p>	<p>1568 Clerk</p>
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Attached reports:

81.1

Report of County Councillor Matthew Morgan to

Fulbourn in the Fulbourn Division, November 2025

Please email me at matthew.morgan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for any further information or clarification. Mobile 07831418046.

Requests for Capital Maintenance Projects in Fulbourn

For the 2026/27 Capital year in Fulbourn Village I:

- i) Reiterated the importance of resurfacing Cambridge Road, noting that funding had already been allocated but the works had not yet been carried out, and requested the replacement of cat’s eyes along its full length.
- ii) Requested consideration of resurfacing, or substantial edge resurfacing, on Station Road and Wilbraham Road, particularly where deterioration at the road margins was affecting safety and usability.

Note that Teversham Road has funding to be resurfaced in the coming year. But currently there are bad potholes that I have escalated to the day-to-day maintenance team.

Apthorpe Street Resurfacing

Resurfacing of the patch near Apthorpe street has now been agreed by the GCP following design to reduce flooding risk to nearby properties. Work should be in mid-spring and residents will receive letters.

County Council Wide:

Department for Transport local Road Maintenance Ratings

This is the new (mostly) standardised score for local roads and highways maintenance across England. For Cambridgeshire our Overall Rating was Amber, the Road Condition was Amber, Investment (In long term fixes) was Green and Best Practice was Amber. Only 16/154 local authorities were Green Overall.

Further personal reflections on the ratings; how they might be interpreted, along thoughts on the strategic steps that the County Council should have been forwarded to

Parish Councillors. The key points locally are negotiating the right new term service contract (day-to-day) repair contract, picking the right senior officers, effective computer systems and most crucially of all, investment in long term repairs of roads instead of frequent short term sticking plasters. Roads are the key local service the CCC provides for many residents and I want to make sure they are provided properly.

CPD rankings

The Council has been awarded an A for the first time. The CPD rating is given on the basis of climate reporting, a realistic plan to reduce greenhouse emissions and adequate climate mitigation measures. Approximately only 5% of all organisations reporting information got an A rating.

Useful links for the County Council

Grant Funding

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/funding-opportunities-in-cambridgeshire Outlines many of the local and national grants available

Maps for the County Council

<https://maps.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/> is an Ordnance Survey Map with optional overlays of most pertinent County Council Information.

Information on Planned and Emergency Road Closures

<https://one.network/> Is an excellent resource with all planned closures and hopefully all emergency closures. You can recommend it to parishioners.

Information on Capital Maintenance Projects

[Capital maintenance programme | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Gives lists and expected dates for larger capital maintenance schemes.

Reporting Tools for Highways Maintenance Issues

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/> Can be used to report all highways or footpath maintenance problems. Feel free to discuss these faults with myself as well if you want them escalated. You can recommend it to parishioners.

81.2

**Supplementary Report of Councillor Carla Hofman
and Councillor John Williams to
Parish Councils for January 2026.**

*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*

Also, look out for the Parish Clerks e-Bulletin from South Cambridgeshire District Council

Greater Cambridge councils set out arrangements for new weekly food waste collections

Weekly collections of food waste will begin in parts of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire in January – with Greater Cambridge Shared Waste rolling out collections to all households by the end of 2026.

Fen Ditton and Horningsea will be the first villages in the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward to have separate food waste bins and should be receiving letters and bins now to start later this month.

The service will be extended across Greater Cambridge in phases throughout 2026. All households will receive a letter with full details a few weeks before the service begins in their area to help ensure they are prepared.

Before their new collections begin, households will receive a new outdoor caddy to put out for collection at the kerbside with their wheelie bins each week, as well as a smaller indoor caddy to collect food waste in the kitchen. Most flats will share an outdoor wheelie bin in their bin store to empty their indoor caddy into. The weekly food waste collections will take place on residents' usual bin days.

The new service is part of national legislation requiring councils to collect food waste separately. It aims to help boost recycling rates and reduce the amount of food that gets thrown away and ends-up in landfill.

New website for Greater Cambridge Planning Service

Greater Cambridge residents and businesses can now use a redesigned website that provides instant hyperlocal planning information - and simplifies the planning process.

The launch comes days after Greater Cambridge Shared Planning was named the UK's Planning Authority of the Year at the national Royal Town Planning Institute Awards for Planning Excellence. The redesigned website introduces a range of exciting features aimed at improving accessibility, navigation, and user experience.

Among the highlights:

- **Localisation:** Simply enter your postcode on the homepage to instantly access planning information relevant to your area. This includes active planning applications, flood zones, conservation areas, and tree preservation orders – giving residents quick and easy insight into what's happening locally on their doorstep. Around 18,000 different people used this function within the first 24 hours of the redesigned website's launch.
- **Improved navigation:** A smoother, more intuitive layout ensures you can find the information or services you need without hassle.
- **Accessibility tools:** A new suite of built-in tools makes the site easier to use for everyone.

- Document library: A brand-new searchable library allows users to view planning documents, including those related to the current Local Plan consultation.
- Mobile-friendly design: Optimised for smartphones and tablets, the site is designed to work seamlessly on any device.

Visit the website today at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org - the same URL as always - and explore the features designed to keep you informed and engaged with the planning process.

South Cambridgeshire Grants totalling £900,000 for local organisations that support residents of all ages

The latest round of grant funding for local voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations – totalling £900,000 - has been announced.

For the next three years, Service Support Grants will provide crucial funding of £300,000 a year to local groups to deliver services that make a real difference including supporting people with their mental health, independent living, advice services, and helping residents through the cost-of-living crisis.

The Service Support Grants funding has significantly increased from the previous £167,400 a year budget - underscoring the Council's commitment to community wellbeing, tackling inequality and reducing social isolation.

Grant recipients include:

- Cambridge and District Citizens Advice – £105,000 per year to provide free, confidential advice services to residents.
- Disability Huntingdonshire – £12,998 per year to support people with disabilities in South Cambs to live independently.
- Royston and District Community Transport (RDCT) – £7,000 per year to maintain accessible transport for those who need it most in the west of the district.
- Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre – £10,000 per year to deliver specialist support for survivors of sexual violence in South Cambs.
- Over Day Care – £30,000 per year to provide a transport and hospital discharge support service for older residents.
- Support Cambridgeshire (CCVS) – £20,000 per year to strengthen the voluntary and community sector in the district.
- Hope Against Poverty CIC – £14,400 per year to provide a Wellbeing Programme for people experiencing anxiety, bereavement, or social isolation. Hope also provides food hubs in South Cambs.

Other organisations receiving funding are

Young people - Blue Smile children's mental health charity; Cambridge Acorn Project supporting children who have experienced trauma; Home-Start home-visiting services; Ormiston Families helping families facing adversity; Romsey Mill to deliver youth work in South Cambs; Turtle Dove to improve mental health, wellbeing, and employment outcomes for young women; Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth for youth club sessions.

All Ages - CamSight helping people of all ages with low vision and blindness; Reach Community Projects supporting families facing poverty as well preventing others from falling into it

Older residents - Care Network Cambridgeshire to help continue and expand support for Community Car Schemes; Sew Positive using sewing to help address mental health challenges, social isolation, or economic inequality; The Voluntary Network helping older residents maintain independence.

This is in addition to a £449,000 budget for the Council to help South Cambridgeshire residents through the next two years of cost-of-living financial pressures. This funding focuses on supporting vulnerable households by expanding access to emergency food and energy support such as food hubs and community centres providing warm places, building financial resilience by delivering workshops for residents on budgeting and debt advice and continuing community partnerships to provide coordinated support to low-income families.

South Cambridgeshire residents to get £3.9m in support with 1,000 successful benefit claims and counting

South Cambridgeshire District Council has supported residents with 1,000 successful benefit claims – under a scheme to ensure people claim what they're entitled to. The milestone has been reached just 12 months after the first successful claim. The work has secured a total of over £514,000 in additional income for residents in the first year alone, and an estimated £3.9 million over the lifetime of their claims.

It is part of the Council's proactive outreach work - using data to ensure residents can access financial support they may have been previously unaware of, and which can make a real difference to their lives.

The Council has helped residents secure a wide range of benefits and financial support, including Pension Credit, Healthy Start vouchers, Free School Meals, Attendance Allowance, and reduced water tariffs.

The largest single area of support has been through the Household Support Fund, with 540 successful claims for families who were previously not claiming.

The success is driven by the Council's use of the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) tool. The software brings together different sets of data on low-income families, which the Council already holds, to identify households that should be claiming certain benefits but aren't. The software covers approximately 6,500 low-income households across South Cambridgeshire.

Once a household has been identified as eligible through LIFT, Council officers then reach out directly to offer tailored support, helping residents navigate the application process.

Amongst the successes that LIFT has helped the Council to achieve are:

- Pension Credit: 113 successful claims, worth £300,169 in the first year and £3.2 million over the lifetime of the claims.
- Free School Meals: 81 successful claims, securing £12,844 in year one and £314,184 over the lifetime of the claims.

- Healthy Start vouchers: 65 successful claims, providing £21,429 in year one to help families afford nutritious food.

The Council has also hosted six in-person events to reach older residents who may not engage online, ensuring support is accessible to all. Almost 200 people have come along to one of these community events held in 2025. They are also a way to provide tangible support around loneliness and isolation, highlighting that the benefits of the Council's LIFT Programme extend far beyond just the financial figures.

Best Wishes for the New Year

Carla & John

81.3

District Councillor report to Parish Council January 2026

Happy new year!

Local Government Reorganisation Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Consultation

I want to update you on the government's plans to streamline local government by transitioning to single-tier unitary councils, replacing the current two-tier system. This reform aims to strengthen local councils, drive economic growth, improve public services, and empower communities. The Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness, Alison McGovern MP, has expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts in submitting proposals for this change and outlined the next steps. A consultation on proposals from the remaining areas is expected to launch in early February 2025, lasting seven weeks, as required by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. While the government cannot comment on the substance of the proposals yet, officials will address any questions raised. We will continue to work closely with the government and keep you informed as this process progresses.

Happy to send the letter from government to anyone that wants to read it.

Government Consultation on Changes to National Planning Policy

The Government has launched a public consultation on a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), alongside a wider package of proposed planning reforms.

Residents can view:

- The Written Ministerial Statement issued by the Government

- The Oral Statement delivered to Parliament
- The Government press release
- The full consultation documents

The consultation is open for responses until **10 March**.

Key proposed changes include:

- The Government has decided not to introduce statutory National Development Management Policies (NDMPs) at this time. Instead, national planning policy changes are being made through the revised NPPF, with the option to introduce statutory NDMPs in the future if required.
- The NPPF has been significantly restructured, with a new format and layout compared to previous versions.
- A number of new national planning policies are proposed, including:
 - A **permanent presumption in favour of development** in suitable locations, particularly in urban areas.
 - A **“default approval” approach for housing near railway stations**, including:
 - Development around stations within existing settlements
 - Development around well-connected stations outside settlements, including on Green Belt land
 - Proposed minimum densities of 40 dwellings per hectare around all stations, and 50 dwellings per hectare around well-connected stations.
 - Measures to **increase density in urban and suburban areas**, such as redeveloping low-density sites, corner plots, upward extensions, and infill development, including within residential gardens.
 - Additional support for **small and medium-sized housing sites**, with a new category of “medium development” (10–49 homes) aimed at reducing costs and regulatory burdens for small and medium-sized builders. This may include exemption from the Building Safety Levy.
 - Proposals to **exempt very small developments (up to 0.2 hectares)** from Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, alongside simplified rules for small and medium sites that are not exempt. Further consultation is also proposed on potential exemptions for certain brownfield residential sites.
 - **£8 million of new funding** for local planning authorities to help speed up the processing of major residential planning applications after outline permission has been granted. This funding will be targeted at authorities with high levels of development activity and strong growth potential, with **£3 million allocated to London authorities**.

The Council will be reviewing the proposals in detail and will submit a formal response to the consultation. Residents are also encouraged to review the consultation documents and submit their own comments directly to the Government before the deadline.

Have your say on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan

I encourage all residents, businesses, and community groups to share their views on how the Greater Cambridge area will grow over the next 20 years.

The Local Plan, which will cover both South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge, sets out where new homes and workplaces could be built, alongside the utilities, services, green spaces, and community facilities to support them. Once adopted, it will become the official development plan guiding decisions on planning applications.

The consultation will close at 5pm on 30th January. The council is holding in-person and online events where residents can find out more and speak to planners. Please visit [the Local Plan dedicated webpage](#) for more information about the consultation and events, or drop us a line.

Weekly food waste collections starting in January

Weekly collections of food waste will begin in parts of South Cambridgeshire in January – rolling out collections to all households by the end of 2026.

The service will be extended across Greater Cambridge in phases throughout next year. All households will receive a letter with full details a few weeks before the service begins in their area to help ensure they are prepared.

Before their new collections begin, households will receive a new outdoor caddy to put out for collection at the kerbside with their wheelie bins each week, as well as a smaller indoor caddy to collect food waste in the kitchen. Most flats will share an outdoor wheelie bin in their bin store to empty their indoor caddy into. The weekly food waste collections will take place on residents' usual bin days.

Households in the first phase of the roll-out which will start in January will have received a letter before Christmas letting them know when to expect delivery of their caddies and the date that their weekly collection service will begin.

All households will receive a letter a few weeks before the service begins in their area to help ensure they are prepared. You can check your bin information at www.greatercambridgewaste.org by inputting your postcode.

There are a few households that already have caddies because the council ran a three-year trial on approximately 9,000 households between 2020 and 2023, so we asked officers for advice where residents do in fact already have one as to whether they can use that one as it seems like a waste of money to issue new ones – with the answer being that residents will have the option to return caddies to a number of drop-off points. You can check the website for nearest drop-off points.

Reminder for postal vote renewals

A last reminder this year that if you completed a postal vote application before October 2023, you will need to renew it by January 2026 at the latest in order to remain a postal voter for the district and parish council elections in May 2026. The easiest way for residents to re-apply is online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote, but the council can send paper forms to anyone who needs them. Please email elections@scambs.gov.uk if you have any questions.

Decision-Making for Our Local Area

At Full Council this month, a proposal was brought forward calling on the Council to support the establishment of a **Mayoral Development Corporation**, rather than having key planning and development decisions made directly by central government.

With **£4 million of Government funding** proposed for Cambridge, we believe it is important that decisions about how our area develops are led locally. A Mayor—regardless of political party—is **directly elected by residents and accountable to them**, which provides local democratic oversight.

The Liberal Democrat administration did not support this proposal. During the meeting, the Leader of the Council confirmed that her opposition was based on the identity of the current Mayor. As a result, the administration chose not to support a locally led approach, despite the alternative being greater decision-making from Westminster.

We believe that decisions affecting our communities should be made as close to residents as possible, by leaders who are democratically elected and accountable. We would like to see all parties put the interests of local residents first, rather than allowing national party politics to influence decisions about our area.

Support for Our Local Pubs and Small Businesses

At the last Full Council meeting, we brought forward a motion calling on the Council to support our small local businesses by backing the **abolition of business rates for local pubs, high street shops and businesses across the hospitality sector**. These businesses are central to our communities, providing jobs, social spaces and vital local services, yet many continue to face rising costs and financial pressure.

The motion was debated at length, during which the Liberal Democrat administration proposed amendments that would have introduced a new charge, known as a **Commercial Land Levy (CLL)**. We were concerned that this would have replaced one tax burden with another, rather than delivering

genuine relief for small businesses. As a result of these amendments, the motion was ultimately abandoned during the meeting.

Despite this outcome, I want to be clear that **supporting our local pubs and small businesses remains a priority**. I will continue discussions with the administration and will press for policies that provide meaningful, practical support for our pubs, high streets and hospitality venues.

I believe these businesses are the **backbone of our local economy** and should be helped to succeed, not faced with additional or substitute taxes. I will continue to stand up for them and oppose measures that would place further financial strain on small, locally run businesses.

*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***