

Over Parish Council

Minutes Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th December 2021

7.35pm

PRESENT

Chairman: Mrs A Griffiths

Vice Chairman: Mr G Twiss

Councillors: Mrs J Davies, Mrs M Hyde, Mr R Robinson, Mr A Tranter, Mr M Conlon, Mr M Grange (2 Vacancies)

Parish Clerk: Mrs M Pink

In attendance

County Councillor: Cllr F Thompson

District Councillor: Cllr Bill Handley

Parishioners: three

2021/12-01 To Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence

Mr S Couper, District Cllr D Percival

2021/12-02 Members' Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

- 2.1 Declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda – Registered Interests received from Cllr A Tranter – Trustee of Over Day Centre
Cllrs A Griffiths, R Robinson, M Hyde – Trustees of Over Relief in Need, and The Church and Town Lands Charity, Estate and Town Branches
Cllr J Davies – Trustee of Over Community Association
- 2.2 Requests to Speak - No requests received to speak on any items as declared above.
- 2.3 To receive requests for dispensations - No requests received.
- 2.4 To grant requests received - The granting of dispensations to be made by Full Council.

2021/12-03 Matters of Interest from County and District Councillors and PCSO

- 3.1 County Council – Emailed report noted by Council
- 3.2 District Council – Emailed report noted by Council
- 3.3 Police – No report

2021/12-04 Public Participation – A presentation was given to the Council regarding the future of the Windmill in the Village. The history of the Windmill was discussed along with repairs that have been made and future projects that still need to be tackled. It is hoped that the Council can act as a signposting organisation and can provide funding and volunteering details when these are available. Cllrs Handley and Thompson will also provide advice and help where they can.

2021/12-05 Minutes

- 5.1 **To Approve Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Dated 9th November 2021.**

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Minutes are approved. Chairman to sign the Minutes. **ACTION CHAIR**

2021/12-06 Planning for Discussion and Comments

- 6.1 Application - 21/04755/LBC - 80 High Street - Internal and external modifications including replacement windows
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Council comments are noted as no objections.
- 6.2 Application – 21/05015/HFUL – 35 High Street - Single storey rear, single storey side & two storey front extensions following demolition of existing porch
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Council comments are noted as no objections.
Planning for Information Only or Comments if needed
- 6.3 Application – S/2383/17/CONDB – Site Adjacent Longstanton Road - Submission of details required by conditions 3 (External Materials), 4 (Floor Levels) and 17 (Surface Water Drainage) of permission S/2383/17/FL – Noted by Council
- 6.4 Application - S/2383/17/CONDC - Site Adjacent Longstanton Road - Submission of details required by conditions 7 (Hard and Soft Landscape works) and 10 (Scheme of ecological enhancement) of planning permission S/2383/17/FL – Noted by Council

- 6.5 Application – 20/01648/CONDD - 46 Station Road - Submission of details required by condition 11 (Foul Water drainage) of planning permission 20/01648/FUL – Noted by Council
- 6.6 Application – 21/05026/TELNOT – Removal and replacement of 3no. antennas and installation of ancillary equipment – Noted by Council
- 6.7 20/03254/OUT - Land at and to the rear of 30 & 32 New Road - Appeal report to be noted – The Chairman thanked Cllr Twiss for his very informative report and for attending the Appeal on behalf of the Council.

2021/12-07 Village Matters

- 7.1 Asplins Close parking area update – The Clerk has received favourable comments from the residents in Asplins Close and was asked to look into the provision of drop kerbs. The Council discussed this item and felt that the inclusion of drop kerbs could result on the whole of the grass area being driven over and this would not leave the area as green space for public recreation as stated in the S106 agreement. Grass matting will only be provided to the section of land specified to the front of the green area to preserve the grass and enable the area to remain as green open space. The Clerk will meet Cllr Hyde on site to agree the area needed and quotations will then be provided to the Council for consideration. **ACTION CLERK & MH**
- 7.2 Illegal Encampments update – No current information – Toolkit expected in April 2022
- 7.3 Storage of old bench from the Memorial site to be discussed – Cllr Tranter is able to store the bench at his home until the re-profiling of Duces Pond is finalised and it can then be re-sited at Duces Pond. The Clerk is to ask the Village Maintenance man if he can collect the bench from its current storage area and transport it to Cllr Tranters home. If it cannot be transported, then it will need to remain where it currently is until another proposal can be made. **ACTION CLERK & AT**
- 7.4 Discussion following the Windmill presentation from the Open Forum – Further to the presentation at agenda item 2021/12-04 the Council will pass on any information they have and will keep in touch moving forward. **ACTION CLERK**
- 7.5 RSPB circular walks comments to be made if needed – Cllr Robinson stated that Hansons will need to provide a bridge for the walks to be provided – Item noted by Council.
- 7.6 Resident letter concerning street naming in Over – The Chairman is to provide the Clerk with the letter so that a reply can be made stating that the Parish Council are not responsible for street naming in the Village although they can make suggestions when new developments are built. Now that the Village family have asked for the family name to be used as a street name the Council will put this forward as a suggestion when any new developments are being named in the Village. **ACTION CHAIR & CLERK**
- 7.7 Sparks holiday club proposal – The Council discussed this item and they believed that the District Council offered holiday sessions for Children in the District. The Clerk is to ask Cllr Handley if the District Council offer any children’s recreation sessions during the school holidays. **ACTION CLERK**
- 7.8 PC support for Community Warden advert in the Over News – The Over News have been liaising with the Clerk to see if they are able to offer any support for the mobile warden scheme and they have offered the inclusion of a regular quarter page advert in all issues which would be payable, but they have also offered a free insertion of a standard by-line that can be added to the magazine when space allows. The Council discussed both options and felt that as the scheme is run by Age UK then Age UK should place a quarter page advert if they choose to do so. The Clerk will let the Warden know at the next meeting in January. The Council would like to have the free by-line insertion added to as many issues in the Over News as possible. **ACTION CLERK**
- 7.9 Tree report regarding no 63-65 The Doles and 7 Station Rd – The Doles - Cllr Robinson had a site visit with the tree surgeon who confirmed that the tree was healthy and that the works already carried out provided the best solution, however you could cut the tree down to hedge height or even to about 20 feet in height but this would then encourage more growth lower down the trunk which would mean that surrounding houses could experience some shadowing.
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the tree should be left for now and reviewed annually.
Station Road – Cllr Robinson had a site visit with the tree surgeon and reported that there was no evidence that the tree, which is sited away from the garage had caused the cracks to the far wall. The pollarding already carried out on the tree is all that is needed at this time.

- 7.10 Rights of Way update regarding the meadow at Mustills Lane – The Clerk has received some advice from the County Council stating that twenty years of continual use must be provided for a right of way to be established. Evidence will need to be submitted by the Community and an application made to the County Council so that they can investigate the suggested route. The Clerk is looking into the three wildflower meadow wildlife sites around the Village that have been given to Over as mitigation for the guided busway to see if these can be made public for the use of the Village. She will liaise with the wildlife trust, ecology department and the guided busway team as well as the Swavesey and Over Conservation Society to see what can be achieved with these areas. This will be an ongoing project for the Council to work on in the New Year. **ACTION CLERK**
- 7.11 Parish Council Strategy Plan regarding Village Projects for the Council going forward – The Chairman had tabled a proposal sheet for the Council prior to the meeting with ideas on what could be included within a strategy document.
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk can work together to provide a suggested Over Parish Council plan to be agreed. This will be an ongoing project for the Council in the New Year. **ACTION CHAIR & CLERK**
- 7.12 Community Led Plan to be discussed - The Chairman had tabled a proposal sheet for the Council prior to the meeting with ideas on what could be included within a Community Led Plan.
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk can work together to provide a suggested method of community engagement to see if this initiative would be welcomed within the village of Over. This will be an ongoing project for the Council in the New Year. Willingham Village have a Community Led Plan Group and it was suggested that ideas could be shared with them for action to be taken. **ACTION CHAIR & CLERK**
- 7.13 Vandalism to play equipment at the Centre – Police report to be noted – Noted by Council
- 7.14 Plastic Free Communities – The Clerk reported that two residents have come forward to join the steering group and the first meeting was held to determine roles within the group. Administration has been taken on by the Clerk, Communications and events have been taken on by the two residents, but all members of the Group will support each other to move this initiative forward within the Village. Support is needed by the Parish Council and the Plastic Free Communities initiative require the Parish Council to agree three points: -
The Council needs to put a member onto the steering group.
The Council agrees to support any other Plastic Free Initiatives that are present in the Village if it has the power to do so and it feels that it will help the Village.
The Council pledge to act by example to remove single use items from its Council owned buildings. The Clerk is part of the steering group and support will be given to any other plastic free initiative in the Village where the Council are able. The Chairman is keen for a single use plastic free policy to be approved for the Pavilion which is the only Council owned building within the village.
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Council agree to the three points mentioned above and will work with the Steering Group to move this initiative forward within the Village of Over. **ACTION CLERK**
- 7.15 Standard Parish Council Emails update – Request to change domain name and apply for a debit card to make payments – The Clerk has tried to arrange for the transfer of the current domain name to be added to Microsoft 365 so that standard email addresses can be used by the Council. The current domain name is not owned by the Council and so it cannot be used. A new domain name is to be used for emails only and the Clerk will ensure that this is owned directly by the Council so that it can be utilised fully going forward if needed. Monthly recurring payments are required by Microsoft for the use of email hosting, and they do not accept direct debit payments and will only allow invoices for clients with 100 or more inboxes. The Clerk asked the Council to consider allowing the application for a Council debit card so that monthly recurring payments can be made. This will be an agenda item for discussion later.
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Clerk can arrange a new Domain name and can apply for a debit card. It is hoped that overparishcouncil.org.uk is available for use. **ACTION CLERK**
- 7.16 Greater Cambridge Partnership Travel Consultation for comments or to be noted – Noted by Council.

2021/12-08 Procedure

- 8.1 Draft Budget to be tabled ready for discussion in January – The Clerk has tabled the budget for the Council to consider in January – One query arose regarding funding given to a resident to provide a Youth Club for the Village. Due to the covid pandemic the Youth Club has not been started and the Clerk is to contact the resident to see if they will still be taking this item forward when they are able. If the resident will not be able to move this initiative forward, then the money will need to be returned to the Council. **ACTION CLERK**

Parish Council meeting suspended in order to discuss items relating to the Registered Charity for The Green (Charity number: 300418) Parish Council is Sole Trustee of the Charity

2021/12-09 The Green as a Charity – User Action Groups

- 9.1 Green user action groups - stakeholder update – Cllrs Twiss and Grange reported that they have not yet been able to establish a meeting with the Over sports groups, but they will provide a series of dates for meetings, and it is hoped that a date can be put into the diary in the New Year to move this item forward. **ACTION GT, MG**
- 9.2 Green user action groups - user update – Cllr Davies reported that she will arrange a meeting in the New Year to set up a steering group with terms of reference so that some action can be taken to move this forward. It was suggested that perhaps three meetings per year would be adequate. **ACTION JD**

Parish Council meeting reconvened**2021/12-10 Village Reports**

- 10.1 To receive Village Handyman Report – Noted by Council – The Council agreed that the vandalised piece of play equipment will not be replaced until S106 monies have been received and the complete area can be looked at for improvement.
- 10.2 To receive Pavilion Report – Noted by Council

2021/12-11 PC representatives on Village Charities and other bodies – Matters of interest

- 11.1 Hanson Aggregates – Cllr Robinson reported that Hansons have a list of projects that they are considering for the New Year and that production at the Quarries has increased. There will be a further meeting in April.
- 11.2 Over Relief in Need, and The Church and Town Lands Charity, Estate and Town Branches – Cllr Griffiths reported that the Charity has a new Chairman, Mr Les Nicholas and that the refurbishment work is ongoing but looking good.
- 11.3 Over Community Association – Cllr Davies reported that the Centre had experienced a loss of bookings for training in the New Year. The bar is doing well, and several repairs have been carried out.
- 11.4 Over Day Centre – No report
- 11.5 Community Warden – No report
- 11.6 Speed Watch – No report

2021/12-12 Finance

- 12.1 Approval of Payments – £2,774.93 (list attached)
The Clerk asked the Council to accept a late invoice for payment for room rental of £39.60. The payment will be made now and listed on the payments list in January.
RESOLVED: To approve invoices and payments to the sum of £2,774.93 as listed and to make a payment as above for £39.60.
- 12.2 Receipts noted: £25.00
- 12.3 Donation to Santa Village visit to be agreed – A grant donation request has been made for £124 as support for the Santa Visit.
RESOLVED: To approve grant request to the sum of £124.00 and to make a payment.
- 12.4 Application for a debit card to be considered for use by the Clerk – The Clerk has requested, as per agenda item 2021/12-07.15, for the use of a debit card to cover the automatic payments for the new email system as well as other payments for the Council as they arise.
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the Clerk can apply for a business debit card for payments. It was stated that removal of the option for contactless payments should be accepted if offered on the application form. **ACTION CLERK**

2021/12-13 Correspondence received – None

Cllr Robinson passed a letter to the Chairman from a Village resident asking if they could adopt a bench on the Green. The Council asked the Clerk to reply to the resident asking for more information so that this item can be placed on the agenda for consideration. **ACTION CLERK**

The Chairman forwarded an email to the Clerk so that she can make a report regarding overhanging hedges on Long Furlong. **ACTION CLERK**

Cllr Twiss asked the Clerk to make a report about the distressed stated of Longstanton Road coming from Ramper road on the corner. The sides of the road have collapsed due to ongoing vehicles misjudging the width of the road and thus driving over the road edge to avoid oncoming vehicles. The Clerk has reported this issue to the Highways Department who have stated that they will add white lines to the side of the Carriageway so that road users are aware of the width of the road. Cllr Twiss is aware of some accidents already occurring at this site. Cllr Hyde stated that she was also aware of some accidents. **ACTION CLERK**

Invoices for approval to date - 30th November 2021				Total	Total		Type of
Village				Payments	Receipts	Powers	payment
<u>Direct Debits:</u>							
British Gas Lite	The Pavilion - Electricity		84.03			LGHA 1972, s.133	DD
<u>Invoices received:</u>							
D Bridgman:	Handyman tasks, Nov - Village	425.00					online
	Handyman tasks, Nov - Pavilion	221.00					online
			646.00			LGA 1953, s.4	
Clerk's Salary - Nov 2021	Gross £1337.19		1,004.97			LGHA 1989, s.7	SO
HMRC	PAYE and NI Nov		415.05			LGHA 1989, s.7	online
Over Community Enterprise	Room hire for PC meeting		39.60			LGA 1972, s.133	online
Mr A Tranter	Expense claim for trees purchased for Giffords Way		214.63			OSA1906, s.10	online
Earith PC	Practitioners Conference 50% cost shared		45.00			LGA 1972, s.91	online
Krystal Hosting	Village website Hosting fee		119.99			LGA 1972, s.142	online
<u>Grant requests</u>							
Santa Visit	Donation agreed at December meeting		124.00			LGA 1972, s.137	Chq
	Total Payments for the Village:			2,693.27			
Costs relating to The Green (Registered Charity 300418)							
MC Garden Maintenance	Grass Cutting		50.00			OSA 1906, s.10	online
	Total Payments for The Green:			50.00			
	Total Payments to be made for November			2,743.27			
Payment made by D Card							
Optimum Card	monthly charge x 1		1.99			LGA 2003, s.93	Dcard
Amazon	Signs for Overcote		29.67			OSA 1906, s.10	Dcard
	Total Payments already made for the Village:		31.66				
Receipts							
Mr Roberts	Wayleave Payment		25.00				
					25.00		

Next meeting dates: Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm Tuesday 11th January 2022

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 10.34PM

These minutes are unadopted.

Signed & dated Chairman.

Cambridgeshire County councillor report Longstanton, Northstowe & Over covering Oakington & Westwick
December 2021 Cllr Firouz Thompson – County Council Report

Highways

GULLEY MAINTENANCE: Since being elected in May, the Joint Administration have been looking into solutions for maintaining our gully system, to mitigate the risk of flooding in our communities. As we did not have a record of all our gullies, we invested in a data driven approach and invested in a new system called KaarbonTech Asset Management, which is being used across the country by many councils and leading construction companies. In September we started the process of recording while cleaning each gully, due to a

lack of maintenance over the years the gullies have taken longer to clean. We have to date cleaned 45,000 gullies out of what we believe is around 100,000. In October and November, we cleaned the villages of Longstanton, Oakington and Over – Westwick is yet to be cleaned. A report will follow to each Parish Council. WEST STREET FLOODING: Pleased to state the two new gullies are now in place between No's 10 and 20 and they are draining well. Thank you to all residents in West Street for their patience and highways officers for all their hard work. Special thanks to Dave and Janet Garnett for regularly sending photos to me to build the case. FOOTPATH RESURFACING: Anglesey Way, inc. Kirby, Deny, Hemington & Elstow Close's, Full estate Footway resurfacing. This is currently in design stage for delivery this financial year, likely to be Quarter 4 2021. Please note that this is a legacy scheme from previous administration.

SOUTH ACCESS ROAD WEST (SARW) CONNECTION TO B1050: Contracts were signed between CCC and Highways England in October and work have been scheduled to be completed by February 2022.

November BT Openreach roadworks raised complaints by residents, we will issue Fixed Penalty Notices for breaching their conditions where appropriate. Further works are planned for another 10-12 weeks with 6 weeks requiring temporary lights, we have requested weekly updates on these works to update the residents to plan their journey accordingly. Currently we understand that all works are taking place offline, and we will be given notice prior to works requiring temporary traffic lights on B1050.

Wilson's Road Bridleway resurfacing: works was completed mid-October. As this is a new innovative surfacing for our county, we are very keen to engage and work collaboratively and will be offering a site inspection after 6 months to all the members of Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum and Longstanton Parish Council. This new surfacing will benefit the local community and be truly inclusive for all abilities of walkers, horse riders, rambblers, cyclists, wheelchair users and pushchairs. Please do try out this new surfacing and feedback to me on the email address below.

HIGHWAYS QUARTERLY MEETING: Next planned meeting will be held in January, I will contact the Parish Clerks to arrange the next date.

County Wide News

Covid-19

EDUCATION: w/c 29 November has seen the highest number of cases in a single week in Cambridgeshire schools since the pandemic started. We have also closed a school for the first time this academic year due to the high number of cases and significant absence and we have also closed classes in some schools due to a lack of staff. There remain huge stresses on education leaders to continue to operate for the last two weeks of term. From the 26 November to the 2 December, we identified 1,443 cases of Covid-19 across 283 settings. This is an increase from the 888 cases reported last week and we expect the number of cases to rise again this week.

Vaccination rates among Cambridgeshire's 12–15-year-olds are at or above the East of England average in all Cambridgeshire districts, and all are higher than the England average. Vaccination rates among 12–15-year-olds in East Cambridgeshire are the second highest in Cambridgeshire. As of 23 November, vaccination rates among 12–15-year-olds were as follows.

Area	12-15 vaccination uptake
South Cambridgeshire	60.0%
East Cambridgeshire	56.5%
Huntingdonshire	54.7%
Cambridge	47.0%
Fenland	45.8%
East of England	45.8%
England	39.8%

Case rates in Cambridgeshire: as of 27 November:

- 3,139 cases were recorded in Cambridgeshire in the previous seven days—477.6 cases per 100,000 population. This is above the East of England average of 455.9 cases per 100,000 population.
- 443 of these cases were in East Cambridgeshire, an increase of 10 per cent on the previous week—491.3 cases per 100,000.

Vaccinations

- 71,228 people in East Cambridgeshire had been given their first dose of the vaccine by the end of 25 November.
- 65,461 people in East Cambridgeshire had been given their second dose.

Booster vaccinations are now being offered to those aged 40 and above who had their second dose of the vaccine more than six months ago. However, the NHS is struggling with capacity to deliver the booster programme, meaning that a number of local residents are being offered their booster vaccinations in locations as distant as King's Lynn, and even people with pre-booked vaccination appointments are having to queue round the block at their chosen location.

Testing: Mobile testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot tests as well as kits to take away and complete at home. You can also order kits to use at home. More information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

General Covid information

- <https://twitter.com/CambsCC>
- <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-overview>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine>

Household Support Fund

Cambridgeshire's Household Support Fund, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. The scheme will run until 31 March 2022.

Support is offered in two ways:

- Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families: residents are eligible to access this support if they earn less than £17,940 per year, or are in receipt of certain state benefits
- Direct food voucher scheme: as in previous school holidays, supermarket vouchers will be issued to families meeting the low-income criteria for free school meals, funded childcare for two-year-olds, early years pupil premium, or sixth form students eligible for free school meals.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund

Holiday Activity & Food in Cambridgeshire

Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch are being made available in the Christmas holidays for the children of families receiving benefits-related free school meals.

The Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme offers fun with friends and free food for primary and secondary school children in Cambridgeshire. Sessions will include a healthy meal, a variety of exciting activities or sports and the opportunity to socialise with other children. Any child receiving benefits-related free school meals is eligible for the programme.

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE) for the next three years, the HAF scheme enables councils like Cambridgeshire to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered by approved providers, and co-ordinated locally by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Each eligible child will be able to access up to 16 hours of free holiday childcare or enriching experiences through the school Christmas holiday period. Bookings have already opened and information about how to book with participating providers can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf

As part of the HAF programme, eligible children will be able to access:

- Fun and enriching play opportunities or new experiences that provide children with new skills and knowledge.
- At least one meal a day.
- Guidance on healthy eating and getting children involved in food preparation and cooking.
- Support for parents, carers or other family members with guidance on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.
- Information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful.

The Council is working with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the HAF programme. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

Registered Holiday Scheme Providers and childminders are welcome to sign up to deliver the programme, by emailing HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. It would be great to see the programme expand into some of our larger villages locally. There are 29 providers in South Cambridgeshire but none in Longstanton, Northstowe, Over and Oakington & Westwick, it would be great to have a few signed up.

Innovate & Cultivate Fund

The County Council's next deadline for Innovate & Cultivate Fund applications is **1st February 2022**. The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children's services.

The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. This funding round is for Cultivate grant applications (£2,000-£15,000) for projects that build community support networks for vulnerable people. Organisations need to get pre-application advice on their project ideas before submitting an application. Do you want to do something for the community but need some inspiration to start a project? We've developed application guidance for 7 Cultivate project ideas - Mobile Warden Schemes, Community Youth Worker, Digital Inclusion, Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Community Sheds (Men's Sheds) – that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering, and complement more costly Council services. Applications and further information about fund priorities and criteria may be found below:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/innovate-and-cultivate-fund>

Cambridgeshire County Council

Full Council meeting on Tuesday 9 November were:

- The appointment of Stephen Moir as the Council's new Chief Executive—Stephen used to work for the County Council some years ago and was a strong choice as the new Chief Executive.
- Various changes to the Council's constitution, which were agreed.
- The parental leave policy for councillors which was approved.
- The Pension Fund Committee annual report, which was also agreed,
- Motions on surface water flooding (see further details below), resettlement of Afghan citizens, the Government's social care plan, and cuts to Universal Credit, which again were all agreed. The motion on Universal Credit resolved that the County.

Budgets – big numbers: County Council budget preparation County Council committees are now considering options to address the Council's budget shortfall. The financial situation the new Joint Administration inherited included a gap of £22.2M between spending plans for 2022/23 and the resources available. We have already reduced this gap to £19.5M and are developing proposals to enable a balanced budget to be presented to the Full Council in February.

The overarching themes for the Council's Business Plan are:

- Economic recovery
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Decentralisation
- Environment & climate emergency
- Social Value
- Efficiency and effectiveness of Council services

Residents at risk of flooding to be given extra support

Further action will be taken to protect Cambridgeshire homes from flooding, caused by excess surface water and high levels of rainfall.

Members of Cambridgeshire County Council agreed at Full Council on Tuesday (9 November) to invest more money to support residents who live in areas which are at risk. Following the decision, the council will:

- Look into the county's underground highways system and assess any known problems it may have coping with large amounts of water in a small period
- To use these findings to predict which systems may be overwhelmed and use this information in future planning
- Ensure the findings of the Winter 2020/21 flooding report are reflected in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy when considering surface water in future highways projects
- Commit to the people of Cambridgeshire that anywhere small bore pipework is causing an issue it will be addressed by carrying out an assessment of the full cost of a programme of works to either replace the small-bore soak away pipework, with appropriate higher bore pipe work solutions that bring immediate relief and also future proof as predicted or supply full details of alternative solutions in those areas with fully costed plans of actions that will mitigate and protect property in areas of known puddling. Consideration of solutions and costs for addressing surface water flooding issues to go through the Council's ongoing business planning process
- Ask Cambridgeshire County Council's Chief Executive to write to all planning authority chairs, water companies and other relevant agencies to seek their input on these possible strategies

These plans will ensure residents of homes at risk of flooding caused by heavy downpours are as protected as possible.

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/residents-at-risk-of-flooding-to-be-given-extra-support?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee approved a draft revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which will go out to public consultation shortly. The overall objectives of the strategy remain the same:

1. Understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire
2. Managing the likelihood of flooding
3. Helping Cambridgeshire's citizens to manage their own risk
4. Ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire
5. Improving flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery

The new strategy will cover the period 2021-2027. It has been updated to reflect the effects of climate change, changes in policy and legislation, the increased importance of working in partnership—and of course the winter 2020 floods. The strategy identifies that there needs to be much greater clarity on the roles of each flood risk management authority, and greater reference to riparian ownership and community involvement.

Climate Change & Environment Strategy

A draft of the County Council's revised Climate Change & Environment Strategy will be considered by the Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee on 16 December. This follows a series of engagement meetings with parish councils, local businesses, and Council staff across the organisation. The final version of the Strategy will be considered by the Full Council at the budget meeting in February.

The Council's annual report on its carbon footprint will go to the Committee for consideration in January.

Climate-related research: Meanwhile, work is ongoing by postgraduate students from the University of Cambridge on two pieces of climate-related work.

- The first is considering the potential for a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and how it might work.
- The second is considering how Local Area Energy Planning could work in Cambridgeshire. Local area energy usually refers to energy projects that are led by local organisations, whether public, private or third sector, and run for local benefit. Local area energy plans can cover lots of different activities taking place within a local area such as
 - Improving the energy efficiency of homes within a local area
 - Installing micro-generation, like solar panels on the roofs of houses and community buildings
 - Creating local generation, such as a local wind farm to produce energy exclusively for consumers in that area
 - Managing local distribution, potentially via a 'smart' local grid (a network that moves energy around a small geographic area)
 - Making public or on street electric vehicle charging points more widely available
 - Taking action on climate change including requiring low carbon heat in new buildings, creating heat from waste, or public and private transport/clean air priorities such as low emission zones.

We look forward to receiving the reports from the students in the new year.

Queen's green canopy

Next year marks 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II took the throne; to celebrate the anniversary and create a lasting legacy, a UK-wide tree planting initiative named The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) has been established.

The unique scheme involves inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee," with everyone encouraged to plant trees in the current and in the next planting season (October 2021 – March 2022 and October 2022 – March 2023). Any trees planted in this period can be badged under the project.

To drive the push locally, both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are working with the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Julie Spence, to raise awareness of the project and with residents, community groups, schools, businesses and other partners to encourage and support their participation. Everyone is invited to take part and it is easy to get involved – whether you are an expert gardener or complete novice, there is something you can do. This includes individuals planting trees on private land, community planting projects, schools planting trees on their premises and businesses setting up tree planting projects with employees.

So far, trees have been planted in three local schools: Woodston Primary School in Peterborough, Spring Meadow Infant & Nursery School in Ely and St Philip's Church of England Primary School in Cambridge. Both Councils have also committed to carrying out planting within their rural estates,

We'd like to ask for your support in encouraging community groups, schools, residents and businesses in your ward/division to create their own planting projects. More information about what, where and when to plant can be found here: [The Queen's Green Canopy Project - Cambridgeshire County Council](#).

A national map is being hosted on the national QGC website where planting projects can be added, so everyone can view the contribution being made across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. If you know of a

planting project taking place in your ward/division, then please encourage the organiser to add it to the map: [Map - The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](http://queensgreencanopy.org). Plaques are also available from the Queen's Green Canopy website. We can also support the organisation of planting events, and facilitate the attendance of Mayors, the Lord Lieutenant or one of her Deputies, and other dignitaries.

Education

A campaign has been launched to find more people willing to serve on the governing bodies of schools in Cambridgeshire. Schools are looking for governors who can bring a variety of skills and expertise from a wide range of backgrounds.

Governors – who are volunteers – support the strategic leadership of the school, providing support, challenge and accountability to the school's headteacher and senior leaders. The headteacher is responsible for the operational running of the school on a day-to-day basis. Cambridgeshire County Council is particularly seeking to build diverse governing bodies which reflect the communities they serve, enabling children to succeed and thrive.

Previous experience of being a school governor is not necessary, as full induction and training will be offered. Experience of working in education is not necessary either.

Governors are usually appointed for a four-year term. Time commitments vary from school to school, but to fulfil the role effectively, governors are expected to sit on individual committees, visit the school regularly and attend full governing body meetings.

Responsibilities include working as part of a team, maintaining educational standards and performance, holding the school to account and monitoring the school's budget.

Further information about the role and how to apply can be found here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/working-together-children-families-and-adults/working-with-partners/school-governors>

Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership – Making Connections Consultation

Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership consultation has started. It could make a difference to how you get around and essential to transforming our public transport.

We need a better public transport system to ensure that most people have a quicker, more convenient and reliable journey than by car. It is extremely important that everyone has their say.

Please take time to fill out the survey, there is a map available for St Ives corridor map which includes Northstowe, Longstanton and Oakington.

The consultation closes at midday on **Monday 20 December 2021**

Details included are:

- Quicker, more frequent rural and city bus services
- Extended bus operating hours
- Making Greater Cambridge a better place to live and travel in and around more easily
- Simplified bus routes
- Shorter journey times
- New services linking buses into the core network
- Improved walking and cycling facilities to connect to buses
- The different ways this could be funded

Check out the #MakingConnections proposals in more detail and share your thoughts <https://tinyurl.com/yb4jea5v>

councils, responsibilities and key government funded organisations

If you have a problem or concern do not worry too much about who can solve it just ask the question and we will endeavour to signpost to the right person. The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but it is important to identify where responsibility lies.

County Council Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, Waste management, Maintaining their estate. Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.
District Council Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.
Parish/ Town Council Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.
Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)

<p>'The local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government worth up to £500 million over 15 years, to vital improvements in infrastructure (decarbonising transport), supporting and accelerating the creation of 44,000 new jobs, 33,500 new homes and 420 additional apprenticeships.'</p> <p>Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.</p>
<p>The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor</p> <p>'A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.'</p> <p>What our mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.</p>
<p>Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge, and Peterborough</p> <p>To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.</p>
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority</p> <p>The Fire Authority is the governing body responsible for delivering a fire and rescue service to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is made up of Cambridgeshire County Councillors and Peterborough City Councillors.</p>

councillor update

Monthly email newsletter - with updates on local news as well as wider district issues which will impact us all.

To sign up please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_over

(Note to help us manage GDPR it is easier for us to host from the LibDems webpage, but we absolutely promise this link will NOT subscribe you to LibDem news)

For all the latest news & updates so far please go to: <https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/over>

For those on social media please follow Over & Willingham Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/libdems3rdMay18>

Contact Details

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

Firouz Thompson: firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe & Over, Oakington & Westwick

District Councillors Report to Over Parish Council December 2021

Local Plan consultation – a reminder

The six-week public consultation for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is now in its last week and ends at 5pm on Monday 13 December 2021. This is an important opportunity to comment on the plan which will set out how the Greater Cambridge area will develop over the next twenty years.

The whole Plan is available for comment online. www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan

Bite-sized webinar recordings and videos are on the Councils' YouTube playlists: <https://tinyurl.com/yckxhd6s>

We strongly urge you to have your say.

Clearance of Dockerel Brook

In response to my letter to them in July, the Environment Agency promised that Dockerel Brook would be cleared before the end of November in order to reduce the flooding risk to the lower parts of Fen End. The work has not yet been carried out and I have written again to the Environment Agency asking for an explanation. Their holding response suggest that they may not reply in detail before Christmas. This is very frustrating, but I will continue to pester them.

Community Chest Grants and Community-led Plans

We have recently increased the maximum amount that Community Chest funding that can be applied for from £1,000 to £2,000. This fund is for community groups and smaller PCs (<160 residents) who cannot raise funds via a precept. However, a significant sum has been ring-fenced to fund the development of Community-led plans, which is a special fund that PCs are allowed to bid for. Community-led plans are intended to allow communities to determine and specify what things are a priority for them and to obtain funding and advice to help them identify these priorities.

Willingham has taken up the challenge and in quite well advanced in their plans. They are in the middle of a survey to take the views of their residents with the following broad-ranging categories: Traffic, Roads & Transport, Children & Young People, Housing, Development and the Environment, Leisure, Amenities and Communications, Medical Services, Health and Wellbeing, Employment and Business and Community, Governance, Crime & Antisocial Behaviour. If it is felt that this is something that Over should pursue, I am sure that the Willingham group will be very happy to share their knowledge and experience.

More information and a tool-kit can be found here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-action/community-led-plan-toolkit/>

Call back feature on Council phone lines

The council's Contact Centre has moved across to a single number for most of its services. The number is 01954 713 000 which replaces 03450 numbers, and this service does not cost any more money in call charges than the previous numbers did. The Contact Us website page contains all the details.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/contact-us/> There is also a new call back feature which is useful for when answering times are longer than usual; if the customer has to wait for more than five minutes the call back function will automatically be offered to them.

A webchat service is planned for 2022 which will allow residents to message the council at their convenience online - further details will follow early next year.

Business Support and Development Team

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Council's Business Support and Development Team has interacted with over 3,000 small businesses to give support with guidance on Covid safety and regulations. It has paid out more than £38 million in Government funding via business support grants, as well as providing general business support and advice to both existing businesses and start-ups.

To help the hospitality sector, which has been particularly hard hit by lockdowns, it has set up a new website at <https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/> This showcases the wealth of local food and accommodation businesses and the attractions of the area to boost both local and visitor trade. Local hospitality and leisure sector businesses can have a free listing on the website via the link: [Business Data Collection | Visit South Cambs](#)

The Council also supports and showcases local businesses and traders on its social media channels under the banner [#OnYourDoorstepSCDC](#). The campaign shines a spotlight on what local hospitality and retail businesses are offering seasonally. It is built around the idea of encouraging everyone to 'shop local', which supports local business owners, local jobs, and is positive for the planet too.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Bill Handley and Dawn Percival, December 2021 Cllr.handley@scambs.gov.uk 01954 200287

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bill.handley.54540> or <https://www.facebook.com/libdems3rdMay18/>

Twitter: @bill_handley55