

THRIPLow & HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday the 13th September 2021 at 7.30 pm

Present – Jane Gough, David Easthope, Mark Brogan, Carly Richman, David Schneider, Rowan Pashley
Parish Clerk – Martyn Corbet
RFO - Austin Flynn
District Cllr - Richard Williams

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Kit Jackson and Luigi Murton

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th July 2021

The minutes, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

3. Matters arising from the above-mentioned minutes not otherwise covered by this agenda

There were no matters arising

4. Updates

a) Heathfield Defibrillator Training

Cllr Schneider explained that the Community Heartbeat Trust has a backlog which it is working through. We are getting close for training to be available. Recent events have shown the value of having a defibrillator. The defibrillator made a pivotal difference. The defibrillator is ready for use again if required;

b) Heathfield Public Open Space

Cllr Schneider said the bins have been installed and the signs are up. The opening party will be held to comply with the conditions set by the donors of funds. This is scheduled for the 3rd September and will require planning. It was agreed that the occasion will be used to raise funds for the Royal Papworth Hospital. Cllrs Gough and Pashley raised the fact that a resident of Pepperslade had queried the name of Heathfield Open Space. Cllr Easthope confirmed it had always been the Heathfield Open Space. It had been provided as a result of the S106 agreement relating to the development of Pepperslade but the intention was always to provide a leisure area for the whole of Heathfield. The area belongs to the parish council;

c) Parish Website

Cllr Richman stated she has passed information to Cllr Murton but she has heard nothing as yet. The parish clerk will check on changes to the existing website which are needed; MC

d) Parking at the Junction of The Green and Fowlmere Road

Cllr Easthope said the work has not been done. He has contacted SCDC about the delay. Concern was expressed that the pub will open on Friday before the white lines are in place.

5. Health & Safety Report, Health & Safety and Environmental Issues

Cllr Schneider has produced a report based upon the individual checks undertaken by parish councillors. This is intended to serve as comprehensive blueprint for work which needs to be carried out. Cllr Schneider will obtain more costing information especially in respect of the more expensive items. DS

a) Duxford Business Park – air conditioning

The appeal is still awaiting determination. Cllr Williams commented on how long it is taking ;

b) The Crisp Factory

Cllr Gough said she together with Cllrs Easthope and Schneider are meeting with Robert Smith on Wednesday this week for discussions. The exact nature of these is not clear. Cllr Easthope suggested they might be about the potential conflict between farm vehicles and pedestrians on The Greenway.

c) Rusted manhole cover by the village shop

Cllr Schneider has heard nothing so far but CCC are going to inspect it next week together with the drains.

6. Parish Recreation Grounds & Maintenance

Cllr Schneider there are 2 split swing seats which may soon need attention on the Recreation Ground. The hinges on the new bins on the Heathfield Open Space need to be replaced. The Ringstone Open Space needs to be cleaned. The parish clerk referred to an email he has received from the IWM referring to volunteers for the War Memorials Register Team. An induction will take place at the Parish War Memorial on the 4th October between 9.00 and noon. (*Post meeting This email was apparently sent to the parish clerk in error*)

7. Footpaths

The footpath in School Lane needs repairs as it is crumbling.

8. Tree Works & Tree Protection Orders

Cllr Gough relayed a message from Matt Gough the parish Tree Warden. The current amount of trees being cut down in the village is ridiculous. No re-wilding is taking place. No one appears to care what is cut down. Even when objections to work are raised no one comes out to carry out an inspection.

Opinions are not listened to. The situation is not good enough. The parish clerk has assisted Mr Gough in preparing a letter to SCDC. This will be sent. **MC**

Cllr Williams said that he has raised the issue and asked if another Tree Officer can be appointed. There have been over 1,000 Tree Work Applications this year. The request was refused. More staff are needed to deal with Tree Work Applications properly. Cllr Gough suggested to Cllr Williams that if SCDC had not got the resources to carry out site inspections then they should take more notice of the parish council recommendations.

Cllr Easthope referred to the latest offer of 6 free trees and wondered where they might be planted.

Cllr Schneider said that the previous year's trees had still to be collected and planted. The delay has been due to the pandemic. The latest offer should be accepted by the end of September.

Tree Work Notifications

21/1098/TTCA – notice of work to reduce height of 3 conifers on front fence - 4 Middle Street;

21/0922/TTCA - notice of work to fell Goat Willow – 34 Church Street;

21/0948/TTCA - notice of work to fell Pine Tree and pollard 3 Cherry Trees – 32 Church Street;

21/0953/TTCA - notice of work to fell Ash Tree – 25 Middle Street;

9. Planning Matters

a) Planning applications received:

21/02981/HFUL – rebuild of single storey annex at 23 Middle Street – approval recommended;

21/03435/FUL & 21/03436/FUL – erection of agricultural building and grain store and creation of concrete apron north of A505 – approval recommended.

The parish clerk referred to an email he had circulated from SCDC inviting parish councillors to a Microsoft Teams session on the 21st September relating to trees and tree applications.

Cllr Easthope wishes to take part and his details will be given to the organiser. **DE**

b) Planning decisions received

None

c) Planning Appeals received

d) Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Easthope reported that since the last meeting the group, with the help of Kerstin Rivett, have prepared a consultation document and plan for the future of Heathfield. The intention was that this should have been sent out for consultation last month., however, before that it was determined that the Heathfield Residents Association should be given the opportunity to express their view and although the document has been sent to them they have not yet responded. Everyone has, no doubt, heard of Darren's medical problems and as one of the prime movers on the Neighbourhood Plan Group where it concerns Heathfield this has not helped. The consultation will therefore be delayed and I understand that a new date has not yet been set.

e) Any miscellaneous items

There were no other planning matters.

10. Financial Matters

a) Authority was granted to pay the following:

Payee	Amount	VAT	Total
Hardy Landscapes – Invoice 21103 – grass cutting Village Green (3) Road Verges (1) Heathfield & Rec (3)	1,107.00	221.00	1328.40
Hardy Landscapes – Invoice 21105 – grass cutting Road Verges (2) and Village Green (4)	590.00	118.00	708.00
SCDC – Invoice 80034410 – emptying dog litter bins from 01/04/21 to 31/03/22	156.00	31.20	187.20
Hardy Landscapes – Invoice 21158 – grass cutting Heathfield (5) and Rec (5)	523.00	104.00	627.60
Hardy Landscapes – Invoice 21168 – Village Green (5)	156.00	31.20	187.20
Hardy Landscapes – Invoice 21224 – cutting Yew Hedge at War Memorial and Road Verges (3)	519.00	103.80	622.80
Carol Deed – Website Administration	200.00		200.00

b) The following payments made between meetings were ratified:

Payee	Amount	VAT	Total
Payroll – July	866.66		866.66
Payroll – August	866.66		866.66
British Gas – Direct Debit – Bill No 716392372	46.77	2.30	49.10
Opus Energy – Direct Debit – Invoice 40937973 (£98.94), Invoice 40937974 (£7.46) Invoice 40937975 (£5.56)	106.63	5.33	111.96
British Gas – Direct Debit – Bill No 973642211	14.13	0.73	14.86

c) Item received for payment after publication of this agenda

Payee	Amount	VAT	Total
Hardys Landscapes – Invoice 21232 – grass cutting – Heathfield (6) and Rec (6)	523.00	104.60	627.60

d) Credits received

A payment of £8,294 has been received in respect of Neighbourhood Plan expenses.

e) Section 106 monies

The S106 monies remain invested in accounts with Cambridge Building Society and Saffron Building Society. These monies are utilised for maintenance purposes and appropriate amounts to cover such expenditure are withdrawn on an annual basis. In line with present economic conditions the rate of interest payable on the monies is minimal.

f) External Audit

Cllr Easthope reported that Mrs Easthope spoke to the external auditors today. Our audit is still “in the queue” and ongoing. The lady who was dealing with our audit has left and it has been passed on to another lady. Mrs Easthope was assured that they will contact her if they have any queries. Later this afternoon Mrs Easthope received an email asking for more detail such as breakdown of reserves and an explanation of variances between the past 2 years. She will deal with the queries before 17 September as requested

11. Administrative and other issues

a) Amendment of website and parish council email addresses

At the previous parish council meeting the parish clerk had explained about this item and also circulated the advice received from CPALC to the parish council. In the light of the advice received and the present and future cost of the work it was decided not to proceed;

b) Parish Councillor, Clerk and RFO training

The parish clerk will notify those parish councillors who have to undertake training of the available courses.

MC

12. Electricity supplies and alterations to streetlights

The parish clerk has circulated an email he received detailing alterations to street lights in the village in early January. He is going to investigate whether anything needs to be done in respect of the electricity supply contact with Opus Energy. It was noted that Heathfields Residents Association Limited have assumed responsibility for maintenance of the streetlights they own. This was previously undertaken by the parish council under a contract with Balfour Beatty.

13. Application for a further LHI Grants and the funding of road work projects generally

The parish clerk circulated notes he prepared detailing the types of funding available and the various procedures as set out on the CCC website. This was intended to assist parish councillors.

a) application for an MVAS with mounting posts

It was agreed that an application would be made for an LHI Grant to cover these items;

MC

b) yellow lines at Heathfield

It was agreed that an application would be made for a PLHI Grant for these.

MC/CR

Cllr Easthope said that CCC should renew existing lineage. Those needing work should be reported to CCC with a photo. Cllr Easthope said that he has seen a breakdown of the criteria for obtaining a 20 mph speed limit. The criteria would not be fulfilled. Cllr Williams referred to 20's Plenty. The parish council should make CCC aware of its wishes. By passing a resolution the parish council could get on

the list of supporters. It is a campaign to change CCC policy. Cllr Williams read out a copy of the Resolution. Acceptance of this was proposed by Cllr Gough and seconded by Cllr Schneider and agreed. The Resolution is:

“This parish supports 20’s Plenty for Cambridgeshire’s aim for wide area, default signed 20 mph limits with public engagement for this parish and across Cambridgeshire’s urban and village settlements”

14. Remembrance Day

The parish clerk will contact The Royal British Legion to update arrangements.

15. Reports

a) Neighbourhood Forum;

Cllr Gough said no meetings have taken place. Comments were made by Heathfield based parish councillors about parking during Air Shows. There was also a lot of parking on Gravel Pit Hill. It was agreed that the parish clerk should write to the IWM; **MC**

b) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough said the village hall is open for business and it was increasing. The Secure Room/Parish Clerk’s Office is being cleared. Cllr Easthope has spoken to the Barkway Amateur Dramatic Group about taking the T.A.D.S. props and costumes. This will be on and “All or Nothing” basis. Daffodil Weekend are moving their catering equipment to a store behind the Cricket Pavilion; **DE**

c) Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough reported that things have been quiet;

d) District Council Report

Cllr Williams report is attached to these minutes.

e) County Council Report

Cllr McDonald’s report is attached to these minutes.

16. Correspondence and information receive

The parish clerk had circulated a list of correspondence received.

17. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday the 8th November 2021.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Chairman

Dated

Local Plan: First Proposals Published

On 31st August the District Council (together with the City Council) released the ‘first proposals’ for their joint 2020-2041 Local Plan.

Plan in Numbers:

- **48,840** more houses/flats to be built between 2020-2041 across ‘Greater Cambridge’
- Average of **2,300** houses/flats to be built each year to meet that number
- For South Cambs, **34,772** extra houses are proposed (just over 14,000 in the City)
- Average of **1,656** extra houses per year in South Cambs.

- Government ‘standard method’ for calculating housing need in South Cambs requires **1,083** new homes per year in new the plan (equalling a total of 22,743 by 2041).

- Proposed number in S Cambs is **53% more** than the Government number
- Housing numbers proposed by the Councils are derived from a growth focused model that seeks to create 58,500 new jobs across Greater Cambridge by 2041 and so build a sufficient number of houses to accommodate the inflow of labour that would be necessary to sustain that level of growth.
- The lower Government number is derived from official population growth data combined with a housing affordability adjustment. Almost all councils use the government number in their local plans, with only a small adjustment up or down.
- Major development sites identified in local area at Melbourn, Shelford, Sawston & Duxford.
- No major sites for development chosen in the Parish.
- But ‘Windfall’ requirement from smaller developments **raised by 25%** from 4,220 to **5,345**
- Proposal to delete from the plan the current density guidelines for developments in villages in favour of a ‘design-led approach’, with no fixed guidelines.

Reasoning and Explanation

To give some context to the number, there were, in total, 52,000 houses and flats in Cambridge City in 2020. So across both councils (City and SCDC), the proposed 49,000 extra houses will, more or less, equate to building ‘another Cambridge’ - though obviously not all in one place.

The proposed number of houses is significantly more than the local housing need figure supplied by the Government ‘standard method’. The Government housing need figure is **36,700** houses by 2041, which is almost exactly the number that are already planned. This number (36,700) includes an uplift in number to address housing affordability problems. The Councils are therefore proposing to build around 12,000 more houses than the Government says are required.

Councils wishing to depart from the standard method number in their local plans need to demonstrate that ‘exceptional circumstances’ apply in their area. Councils can therefore propose to build less than the standard method number by, for example, citing local constraints on development such as Green Belt or infrastructure stresses/limits, or they can propose to build more by citing exceptional reasons such as a desire to go for more rapid economic growth than the standard method would provide.

In the case of the South Cambs/City proposals, the rationale advanced for building substantially more than the standard method is growth related. The Councils have relied upon projections of jobs growth to justify their number. **The Councils want to support the creation of 58,500 new jobs in City and South Cambs** and have sought to calculate the number of new houses that would be needed to support that figure.

For comparison and context, the **standard method** for calculating housing numbers would support a projected **45,000 new jobs**.

It is worth noting that significant in-migration to fill the ‘extra’ jobs implied in the proposed Local Plan is expected (indeed, would be essential).

The numbers in the first proposal suggest a significant and sustained acceleration in housing growth in South Cambs over the next 20 years.

The current local plan (2011-2031) provides for 19,500 new homes supporting 22,000 new jobs. This equates with an annual average housing number of 975 new flats and houses per year.

For South Cambs the number of homes in the proposed new plan (2020-2041) is 34,772. This equates to an annual need for 1,656 homes per year. This is a 70% increase over the current local plan.

Some rise in housing building in the new plan is suggested by the standard method calculation – at Dec 2020 that number would be 1,083. The proposed number for the new plan is 53% higher than that number.

The housebuilding numbers proposed in the new plan are likely to divide opinion, particularly around the question of if, and if so to what extent, the Councils should build more than the standard method calculation.

The Councils have relied on a method to calculate housing numbers that has not been used by any other local authority. Methods that are usually used to calculate likely employment growth, for example, are rejected as too “cautious” for Greater Cambridge. For reference, this usual method (an econometric approach, as used in the current South Cambs Local Plan and recently used by e.g. Huntingdonshire in its 2019 plan and are being used by East Cambs in their 2021 plan review), projects employment growth of 40,000 to 2041. The Councils are obviously aiming for much higher number than that (58,500).

My view is that the methodology used to justify the 49,000 houses plan is not satisfactory. It produces a number of new houses that unreasonably exceeds the standard method calculation, which in itself includes a significant (over 25%) uplift in the raw need numbers to address affordability issues. The Councils’ own reports acknowledge the inherent uncertainty in employment forecasting (which is the key metric used to produce the housing numbers) and acknowledges that is “difficult to agree” how much employment growth South Cambs as seen in recent years. Nonetheless, the Councils proceed to assume significant growth, and project future employment and high housing growth from that assumption. To my mind, insufficient attention is also paid to factors that could legitimately act as a constraint on development in South Cambs such as Green Belt (which is acknowledged in national planning documents as a potential constraint on development), but more acutely the strained water supplies in South Cambs. The Councils’ have a report from 2020 casting serious doubt on the sustainability of any growth above the Government number in terms of our ability to supply water to new homes and businesses. The Councils have sought to deal with this by demanding the Government build new water infrastructure to support the high growth numbers they have chosen. But completely insufficient consideration is given, in my view, to the constraint that water stress ought to put on growth numbers in the first place.

Refugees from Afghanistan

SCDC is working jointly with the City Council to help resettle Afghan refugee families. Three families from Afghanistan will be provided a home and essential support in South Cambridgeshire. The Council has said that it will continue to work with Government and other agencies who are monitoring the crisis and is open to taking further families where support is available. The initial three Afghan families will be supported by the Council to relocate to the UK through the Afghan Locally Employed Support (LES) scheme.

The Council is encouraging those who wish to donate help for refugees to do so via these national and local organisations: [Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group \(volunteering and financial donations\)](#), [Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum](#), [Distribute Aid](#) or [British Red Cross](#).

Six Free Trees

The Council is offering six free trees to Parish Councils. Parishes can [apply for a voucher](#) up to the deadline of Thursday 30 September 2021.

Civil Parking

The District Council has welcomed the decision of the County Council Highways to Committee to back the introduction of Civil Parking enforcement in South Cambs (as well as Hunts and Fenland). I was asked to provide a quote for the District Press Release welcoming this following the resolution on favour of CPE I put last year (<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/step-forward-in-plans-for-civil-parking-enforcement-in-south-cambridgeshire/>). I welcomed the decision!

Richard Williams

District Councillor, September 2021.

County Report for Parish Councils – September 2021.

Cambridgeshire County Report

A 505 Study

The on-going work on the A505 is being updated at the Highways Committee this week.

[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Afghan National Re Settlement

Cambridgeshire County Council is working with partners to help resettle Afghan nationals (and their families) who are at risk because they worked alongside our armed forces and the British Government, or who may be vulnerable for other reasons.

So far around 10 to 15 homes have been identified across the county, while the County Council has also offered one of its vacant outdoor education centres as temporary accommodation for Afghans while they wait for suitable accommodation either in Cambridgeshire or elsewhere in the region.

Each district and the city council have confirmed that they will be accepting and/or supporting Afghan nationals as part of the national Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), and the broader Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) for other vulnerable Afghans.

A consistent message from all of the discussions has been the need to continue to work collaboratively, while a commitment has been made to establish a county-wide taskforce to share good practice and unblock challenges.

Support being offered by the County Council includes:

- . Developing tailored English-language courses through its adult skills service, Cambridgeshire Skills
- . Supporting the national effort to transfer qualifications to British standards, through Cambridgeshire Skills

- . Exploring employment and apprenticeship opportunities within the council, and its contracted and commissioned services
- . Coordination of donations from the public
- . Expanding the locally-led donations schemes, especially for high demand items such as beds, wardrobes and white goods
- . Extending existing mechanisms to buy goods or to provide food and other vouchers via the County Coordination Hub
- . Supporting Afghan families to access online resources through the provision of computer hardware and data
- . Working with our public health teams to offer immunisations/vaccinations to those individuals who might need them

. The offer of broader social opportunities.

The council is aware that many people are keen to offer help and support. It is especially keen to hear from landlords with suitable and available housing (whole and self-contained houses, rather than rooms or shared accommodation), as well as from anyone able to donate good quality large items of furniture, including beds and wardrobes.

Anyone wishing to contribute or to find out more detail is asked to approach the relevant district or city council where the housing located in the first instance. However, the County Council is also offering an information point for anyone that wants further information, to offer accommodation, or to offer other support:

Email: communitycv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Telephone: 0345 045 5219.

Chief Executive

The County Council is going through the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive, as the current one is retiring.

Civil Parking Enforcement

There is an item on the September meeting of the Highways Committee at the County Council relating to parking enforcement. Currently the parking enforcement (ticketing) is the responsibility of the Police. The County Council are looking to write to the Secretary of State to request that they are allowed to explore carrying this out themselves and actually put some money and momentum behind it. Currently the Police, understandably, can't prioritise parking enforcement over other Policing.

Highways

There is an ongoing programme of micro asphalt treatment this time for Fowlmere:

- St Marys Walk, Fowlmere - Micro Asphalt works start 12 October 2021 for one day - road closure
- Champions Close, Fowlmere - Micro Asphalt works start 12 October 2021 for two days - road closure
- Johns Close, Fowlmere - Micro Asphalt works start 13 October 2021 for one day - road closure
- Isons Close, Fowlmere - Micro Asphalt works start 13 October 2021 for one day - road closure

- Jacksons Way, Fowlmere - Micro Asphalt works start 13 October 2021 for two days - road closure
- Ryecroft Lane, Fowlmere - Micro Asphalt works start 14 October 2021 for two days - road closure

Foster Carers

Cambridgeshire County Council needs more foster carers. Fostering means caring for one or more children or young people in your own home when they are unable to live with their family.

Foster carers provide a safe and secure home for children and young people of all ages, and come from a wide range of ages, cultures and backgrounds.

Becoming a foster carer normally takes four to six months. The Council offers

- a generous mileage allowance, a setting-up fee for furniture and
- equipment, two weeks additional basic maintenance payments for
- holidays, birthdays allowance, a festivities allowance, and an initial
- clothing and school uniform allowance.
- round-the-clock 'out of hours' support should you need reassurance.
- a dedicated social worker to provide regular supervision and support.

Foster carers could earn up to £44,720 plus benefits for looking after two children aged eleven or over, subject to experience, training, and assessment. There are lots of different types of fostering available for the right people and their families. Applicants will need enthusiasm and commitment to support the needs of children and young people in care, as well as a spare bedroom—and be over 21 years of age. The Council urgently needs foster carers for teenagers, sibling groups, and children with disabilities.

There are a lot of myths around fostering, which the Council is keen to dispel.

- Finances and home
- Career and work
- Personal circumstances
- Relationships and lifestyle
- More information:
- Six steps to fostering
- Siblings and teenagers

Being involved with social services or the police will not automatically rule out an applicant. The Council would just need to discuss this further. For more information

- visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering
- call 0800 052 0078 or
- text FOSTERING to 60777

Peter McDonald

September 6th 2021

