

# THRILOW & HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30 pm

**Present** – Jane Gough, David Easthope, Mark Brogan, Kit Jackson, Luigi Murton, Rowan Pashley,  
Parish Clerk – Martyn Corbet  
RFO – Austin Flynn  
District Cllr - Richard Williams  
County Cllr - Peter McDonald (part-time)

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Richman and Schneider

## **2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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 Jackson said that a training session fronted by David Walston which took place in the village hall on the 26<sup>th</sup> January had been successful. Another is planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00 am. There are 30 places of which 26 have been taken. Cllr Jackson would like to see more take up from Heathfield. Booking can be made via the parish website which connects to one set up by David Walston.

### **b) Heathfield Public Open Space**

Cllr Schneider was unable to be present but the parish clerk said that in a recent survey conducted under the auspices of HRA comments had been made about the Zip Wire. These have been related to Cllr Schneider. The RoSPA report on all the play areas owned by the parish council is due in April. This will include the Heathfield Open Space. Cllr Pashley said that the goalposts intended for the Ringstone Open Space will be discussed at the next meeting of the working party;

### **c) Parish Website**

Cllr Murton said that changes have been made. Those changes went live yesterday. Cllrs should check if they like them. If they have any questions they should contact Cllr Murton. In response to a question from Cllr Jackson he said that there are fewer tabs. The parish clerk will get feedback from Carol Deed on the changes;

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

Cllr Easthope said that he has no news. The work still needs to be done. He has been told by John O'Brien of Cambridgeshire CC that money last October and that there would not be any more available until the new Financial Year in April;

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

Cllr Gough has received a call from a resident about potholes some of which are in a bad state. CCC will be doing some in Church Street. These have been marked. Some are quite deep. One in particular near the resident's home has not been marked. There is a bad pothole near the triangle at Gravel Pit Hill and a sign has gone over. Cllr McDonald said he will take a look and make sure the potholes are dealt with. Cllr Easthope mentioned that a few years ago a particular way of dealing with potholes had been adopted instead of the old one. In the latter tarmac was put in the hole from a lorry and then the lorry was used to firm it in. This method does not last however the improved method used earlier on which involved sealing the edges of any repair was much more successful;

### **a) Duxford Business Park – air conditioning**

Cllr Pashley referred to the fact that the parish council's comments were not on the planning website. This had been the subject of an email from the parish clerk. Cllr Williams said that these comments are now on the website. Cllr Pashley said this was the case but that the letters from neighbours had been deleted. He also said the air conditioning is being used. Cllr Williams will contact planning;

### **d) Nomination of Assets of Community Value**

The parish clerk said the assets in the Village Ward have been registered. Even though those for Heathfield Ward were sent to SCDC in the same "Signed For" envelope they deny receiving them. Following further emails it has been confirmed by SCDC that the whole process is of little value where the assets are in parish council ownership. On this basis there is little point in submitting a fresh Heathfield Ward application;

#### **e) Electricity supplies and alterations to street lights**

The parish clerk has not heard anything further regarding the restoration of the street light on the triangle outside of the village shop. The RFO has received invoices for payment from HRA Limited in respect of electricity supplied to the street lights on the old Heathfield Estate. It is noted that these are made out to HRA Limited. It was proposed that the parish clerk write to HRA Limited asking for future invoices to be paid payable by the parish council to facilitate reclaim of VAT. The proposal was made by Cllr Easthope and seconded by Cllr Gough and agreed;

#### **f) Update on applications for LHI grants and funding of road work projects generally:**

##### **i) application for an MVAS with monitoring posts**

The application for an LHI grant was be considered by Cambridgeshire CC on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Representations in support were made by Cllr Gough and the parish clerk. The parish council will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible;

##### **ii) yellow lines at Heathfield**

Cllr Richman and the parish clerk met on site with Steven Thoday of Cambridgeshire CC on the 9th February. The location of the proposed double yellow lines has been agreed. Mr Thoday has confirmed that the proposed Traffic Regulation Order will be advertised in the local press on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Site notices will be posted on site on the same day. Consultation emails/letters will be sent to interested parties . This will include statutory consultees and local residents). The consultation period will be 3 weeks. During this time comments may be lodged with CCC;

#### **g) Flooding on Farm Lane**

Cllr McDonald said that CCC had said they would dig out the Grips. Cllr Gough confirmed this has been done but that they do not drain into the field. The water still flows into the road. Cllr McDonald will get back to CCC on this;

#### **6. Parish Recreation Grounds & Maintenance**

No information was available on this topic;

#### **7. Footpaths**

Cllr Brogan said that at least 10 trees had come down in the Crows Parlour area as a result of Storm Eunice. Some of these had blocked the path. The trees had been cleared by the farmer;

#### **8. Tree Works & Tree Protection Orders**

##### **a) tree works**

*22/0203/TTCA – application for tree works at 40 Middle Street – no objection;*

*22/0205/TTCA – notification of tree works at 25A Middle Street no objection;*

Cllr Gough said that the Tree Warden will be stepping down in May because SCDC do not listen. Cllr Williams has raised questions about the tree situation with SCDC. He was told that if the parish council is “upset” it should write to SCDC. It was pointed out that the Tree Warden and parish clerk had written but been largely ignored. It was agreed that the parish clerk would send copies of the correspondence to Cllr Williams;

**b) Free Tree Scheme** It was observed by members (once again) that although the parish council is being given trees to plant more are being chopped down. Cllr Easthope again referred to planting trees at Sherald's Croft this has to be done with the co-operation of the residents. SCDC should be consulting them. Cllr Williams provided him with the contact details of the Housing Officer who is responsible for Sherald's Croft;

#### **9. Planning Matters**

##### **a) Planning applications received:**

*21/05593/HFUL – 2 storey rear extension 87 Kingsway – approval recommended;*

*22/00053/PRIOR – change of use of an agricultural building to Class B8 Commercial Usage – Thriplow Farm, Lodge Road – approval recommended;*

*22/00489/FUL – retrospective application for erection of 5 air conditioning units within plant compounds for air conditioning units providing mitigation and painting of fences matt black – Heathfield House – a majority of those who replied objected to this application;*

*22/00528/FUL – erection of a single storey detached annex, ancillary to the existing dwelling (re-submission of planning application S/2080/19/FL) – approval recommended;*

*Two applications have been withdraw:*

*21/05593/HFUL – two storey rear extension 87 Kingsway;*

*21/05226/FUL – single storey detached annex 23 Middle Street;*

##### **b) Planning decisions received**

No planning decisions have been received;

##### **c) Planning Appeals received**

No appeals have been notified to the parish clerk;

**d) Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Jackson said that the report prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting summarises the present position. He has received an email from Philippa MacGarry for agreement to authorise the expenditure of £288.00 maximum on the preparation of maps for the Neighbourhood Plan. This plan will hopefully complete the mapping requirements. Approval was proposed by Cllr Jackson and seconded by Cllr Pashley and agreed;

**e) Any miscellaneous items**

The parish clerk read out an email he has circulated to everyone regarding meeting with a representative to hear about plans for the Grain Store Site. It was agreed he should contact the representative and arrange a date. Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group will be invited to attend. It will be stressed that those present cannot give decisions they can only listen;

**10. Financial Matters**

**a) Authority was granted to pay the following:**

	Amount	VAT	Total
Payroll – March	866.66		866.66
Parish Clerk reimbursement ref domain fee paid to 34SP.com	15.00		15.00
Hardy Landscapes Limited – planting 6 trees	120.00	24.00	144.00
Heathfields Residents Association Limited – reimbursement of electricity charges	754.45		754.45

**Items received after publication of this agenda**

	Amount	VAT	Total
Carol Deed – Website Management -half year	200.00		200.00
Cambridgeshire ACRE – Neighbourhood Plan Assistance	2,250.00	450.00	2,700.00
Parish Clerk's expenses - 11 <sup>th</sup> January to 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	16.25		16.25

**b) The following payments made between meetings were ratified:**

	Amount	VAT	Total
Payroll- February	866.66		866.66
Opus Energy – Invoice 41464933 (21.53), Invoice 41464934 (4.71), Invoice 41464935 (5.06)	29.81	1.49	31.30
British Gas – Bill number 979596736	15.08	0.75	15.83
The Langham Press Limited – printing APM leaflets	306.00		306.00
Opus Energy – Invoice 415614 (21.16), Invoice 4156145 (4.71), Invoice 4158146 (5.07)	29.47	1.47	30.94
British Gas – Bill number 995487596 electricity for The Smithy	14.13	0.70	14.83
Parish Council Websites – website and email hosting for Thriplow.org.uk	180.00		180.00

**c) Credits received**

The RFO reported that interest has been received from the Cambridge Building Society totaling £57.79. He is seeking the interest figure from Saffron Building Society. Nothing has been received from NS & I. The RFO will pursue this;

**d) 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;

**e) Release of financial records to the Internal Auditor**

It was agreed that the parish council's financial records may be released to the Internal Auditor.

**11. H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr Brogan said the issue of suitable celebrations will be addressed after Daffodil Weekend has taken place. The need for liaison between the Village and Heathfield was stressed because of the need to avoid two separate celebrations in the same parish;

**12. Replacement of picnic table opposite the village shop**

Cllr Easthope has been in contact with the resident who wishes to provide the picnic table as a memorial to his wife. As the original picnic table was provided by the village shop some years ago which, being of softwood, had subsequently rotted and had to be removed. The resident has spoken to his family about the picnic table and they are keen to replace the original picnic table with one constructed from recycled materials that will come with a long guarantee. The cost of the table will be donated to the village shop. These monies will be used to purchase the picnic table. The resident and his family will arrange for a memorial plaque.

**13. Request for permission to erect a marquee on the Village Green in October**

After some discussion during which it was stressed that whilst the Village Green is an amenity for all there is a need to respect the peace and well-being of those living nearby. It was felt that what is being planned is not conducive to this. The parish clerk will communicate the parish council's decision to the person who has made the request;

**14. Amendment re parish council representative on Village Hall Committee**

It was agreed that Cllr Gough should replace Cllr Jackson as the parish council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee

**15. Forthcoming elections**

The parish clerk has sent a copy of the email he has received from SCDC giving the link for access to the Nomination Forms. The Notice of Election must be posted on the notice boards on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. Completed Nomination Forms must be taken by hand to SCDC between 28<sup>th</sup> March and the 5<sup>th</sup> April. Effectively this gives a limited time especially as the parish clerk has to make an appointment to deliver the forms. He has requested that completed forms are given to him by the 24<sup>th</sup> March. He is unable to make arrangements for other candidates unless they make themselves known to him.

**16. Reports (if any):**

**a) Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Gough said a constructive meeting had taken place with the IWM over traffic on Air Show days. A Duxford Neighbours Forum Meeting is planned. Cllr Gough cannot attend. It is probable the parish clerk will go instead;

**b) Village Hall Management Committee**

Cllr Gough said that Derek Pinner has sorted out the timer. The curtains have been re-hung by Steve Gough. The curtain hooks had not been made for 15 years and were especially sourced. There has been a problem with the 3 way valve for the hot water. This will remain on until the plumber can sort it out. The fire extinguishers will be inspected next month. A quote is being obtained to paint the soffits. The light outside needs to be attended to. Cllr Easthope and Derek Pinner will fit the replacement microwave. It is proposed to re-name the secure office "The Barbara Pointon Room". Cllr Brogan suggested that it might be more appropriate to re-name the Committee Room. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting;

**c) Police & Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Gough had nothing to report.

**d) District Council Report**

Cllr Williams report is attached to these minutes. He said he has received an email from residents about mud on The Greenway. He contacted the farmer who has said he will try and keep it cleaner. Cllr Gough raised comments she has received about Green Bin collections. After the failure to collect the Green Bin recently on the designated day residents had been notified on Facebook of the replacement date. SCDC should be aware not everyone has Facebook. People should not be expected to check the SCDC website daily. In the discussion which ensued it transpired that because the replacement collection took place on a Saturday SCDC paid time and a half. This was felt to be counter-productive. Cllr Williams queried the non-collection and SCDC had agreed to do a

replacement collection. He feels SCDC are getting back on a stable footing but the situation needs to be watched;

**e) County Council Report**

Cllr McDonald's report is attached to these minutes. He referred to the fact that he had received (earlier in the evening) a briefing about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. It was agreed that the finer points of this scheme need to be finalised by HM Government. Cllr McDonald said that over Easter free school meals will continue to be provided under the Haf Programme. We will know about our LHI application in April. It is hoped to extend the funding for 20 mph speed limits subject to meeting a set of criteria.

Cllr Easthope said that anyone wishing to donate to Ukraine may do so via the village shop.

**17. Annual Parish Meeting**

The parish clerk reminded everyone that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm.

**18. Allowing Thriplow School PTA use of the water supply at The Smithy**

This was agreed;

**19. Correspondence and information received**

The parish clerk had circulated a list of correspondence received.

**20. Date of the next meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

The Annual Council Meeting will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

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

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Chairman .....

Dated .....

**District Report from Cllr Richard Williams**

**March 2022**

**Budget 2022: Council Tax Increase and Key Spending**

The new budget for the District Council was approved by a majority vote on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The District Council's portion of the **Council tax will increase** by £5, taking the charge for a **Band D property to £160.31**.

**Social rent for Council houses is also to increase** by the **maximum allowable amount of 4.1%**.

In terms of spending, £6.83m is to be spent on green initiatives, including £4.2m to fund a solar energy farm at Waterbeach to help generate power for the waste services proposed fleet of electric refuse lorries. A further £1.3m of the £6.8m is to be spent purchasing the electric bin lorries.

**Update on Drinking Water**

Cambridge Water has released further information on the contamination of the Duxford Airfield bore hole with a PFOS chemical. This information seems to confirm that Thriplow and Heathfield were not affected by the problem, with blended water from the bore hole having been

distributed in the Shelford/Stapleford/Trumpington and Newnham areas. Information from the Drinking Water Inspectorate also confirms this. The presence of PFOS at Duxford Airfield seems to have been known about for some time, however this was in the context of a different regulatory environment with higher advised limits than are in place today. The District Council has been checking private water supplies in the area, with all samples apparently within recommended limits.

### **Sheralds Croft Sign**

The Council has replaced the damaged street sign on Sheralds Croft Lane.

### **New Regulation of Street Trading**

The Council has imposed new regulation on street trading across the district. This new licencing requirement is just a licence to trade, it is not a hygiene/food safety licence, which was required already. Street traders will, from 1<sup>st</sup> April, need to obtain a licence from the Council to trade on any street, road, highway verge, footway or other area to which the public has access without payment. This includes trading on private land to which the public has access without payment. Various matters will be considered by the Council where a new licence is applied for including public safety, proximity to the highway, compliance with legislation relevant to the trading activity, food safety (traders must be registered with the Environmental Health Service), public order and the avoidance of public nuisance. Traders operating in the area before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 have certain 'grandfathered' rights.

### **Community Fitness Grants**

South Cambs is inviting applications from instructors to apply for up to £300 to lead fitness and wellbeing activities in their communities. Anyone who leads an existing group or who wants to set up a new initiative in the District could be eligible for the small grant. Activities could include walking football/rugby/netball, to chair-based exercise classes, diabetes walking groups, yoga for the over 60s or baby yoga classes.

The grant, which is funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, is to help deliver physical activity programmes provided by the District Council in partnership with Living Sport. Further details are available here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/300-grants-available-for-community-fitness-and-wellbeing-activities/>

### **Ukraine**

The District is encouraging residents to donate funds to help support victims of the war in Ukraine. The full advice and suggested organisations to donate to, is here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/assistance-for-those-affected-by-the-war-in-ukraine/>

The Council has also expressed its willingness to assist settle refugees coming to the UK

### **Water Resources Plan**

The Council has submitted a response to the Water Resources East draft plan for managing water in our area. The East of England is designated as a water stressed area and evidence shows that we cannot sustain housing growth beyond the Government 'standard method' number (37,000 to 2041) without causing significant environmental harm. The Council's response to the water management plan is framed by its desire to achieve significantly higher housing growth (49,000 to 2041) than the Government number.

*The Council has expressed support for a new a Fens Reservoir to provide increased water, but acknowledges that any such reservoir would not be operational until at least 2035. The Council therefore supports interim measures to take forward higher growth such as water transfers. The Council also supports setting ambitious levels of water efficiency of 80 litres/person/day in new housing. Currently average water consumption is 142 litres per person per day. The Council expressed its support for Chalk Stream Protection initiatives. As previously indicated, my strong preference is for lower, sustainable, housing targets to be set – alleviating pressure on water supplies and creating scope to repair environmental damage already done through any increased supply or efficiency measures.*

## **Report for Parish Councils – March 2022.**

### **South Cambs District Council**

#### **Ukraine**

The Council has pledged to support people fleeing the Ukraine and is calling for a national resettlement programme to be set up by the Government so that this can happen. Councillors have said that the Council will play their part and work to identify local homes for refugees leaving the warzone if needed. You can read the Council's position in full here: [pledge to support people fleeing Ukraine](#).

We hear and empathise with the anxiety and concern of residents who want to do something to help those affected and we want to help by signposting people who wish to offer support in response to the humanitarian crisis.

#### **Donations**

The Disasters Emergency Committee brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas. You can learn more about their Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Additionally, local organisation Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action – which ordinarily works to take regular convoys of donated items to refugees in Calais – has advised that it is NOT currently collecting items for Ukraine. They suggest instead that donations of money is a much more effective way of helping the aid organisations that are working in the region. Furthermore, the Local Government Association (LGA) has provided Councils with this link to BBC News online where it suggests people should direct their support to organisations including:

- The British Red Cross, which has launched an appeal to help the Ukrainian Red Cross to provide food, medicine, clothing and shelter, as well as first aid training in bomb shelters, and drinking water to villages in eastern Ukraine
- The UNHCR refugee agency, which is funding emergency shelters, repairs for homes damaged by shelling, emergency cash assistance, psychological support and warm clothing
- UNICEF, the UN's children's charity, which is helping to ensure families have clean water and food and that child health and protection services continue
- Save the Children, which is providing cash assistance, food and other support to refugees crossing into Romanian and Lithuania, as well as in Ukraine itself.

Additionally, the Secretary of State for Defence, Ben Wallace, has suggested donating money through the Ukrainian Embassy's With Ukraine fund. The money will be spent on providing humanitarian assistance to the civilian population and to purchase medical and military supplies for Ukraine's army.

**Business grants update:** Hospitality and Leisure Grant and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) top-up. This is up and running and the status as of March 1st was:

#### **OHLG**

Applications received: 328

Applications processed: 237

Processed value: £819.4k  
Rejected/duplicate:83  
Pending/in progress: 8

**ARG – please see attached analysis**

Applications received: 133  
Applications processed:82  
Process value: £256.8k  
Rejected: 34  
Pending/in progress: 17

**Cambridgeshire County Report**

**Secondary School Places**

The proportion of pupils offered a place at one of their preferred Cambridgeshire secondary schools has risen.

In total, 90% of pupils have received a place at their first choice school for 2022/23, similar to the 90.9% figure from this time last year. Moreover, 97.2% of pupils were allocated a spot at either their first, second or third preference school, a rise from 97% last year.

Overall, 6,983 offers were made, up from 6,819. There were more online applications and fewer paper applications in 2022. Students heard on 1 March 2022 at which secondary school they have been offered a place in September 2022.

**Easter Programme for Children**

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

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers fun with friends and free food for primary and secondary school children in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The 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), the HAF scheme enables local authorities to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered by approved providers, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

Each eligible child will be able to access up to 16 hours of free holiday childcare or enriching experiences through the school Easter holiday period. Further information can be found at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf) and Early Years & Childcare | Peterborough Information Network

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.

Both councils are working with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the HAF programme.

### **Highways Capital Spending**

The 2 year capital plan including footways and paths is here [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)  
The priority schemes are listed here [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

### **Flooding**

A new plan to reduce the risk of flooding in Cambridgeshire over the next five years has been approved by Members of the county council's Environment & Green Investment Committee agreed the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and supporting action plan at its meeting on Thursday. The council is responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a local flood risk management strategy (LFRMS) for the county.

The key objectives of the strategy are: understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire, managing the likelihood of flooding, helping residents to manage their own risk, ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire and improving flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery.

The newly agreed strategy and action plan will run until 2027 and was agreed following a public consultation which lasted for nearly two months until late January.

The consultation received 31 responses, which led to changes in areas including: greater reference to the natural and historic environment, greater representation of local flooding issues, the impact of new development on flood risk, communication with the community and more details around timescales.

The strategy and action plan are included in the meeting's agenda, which can be viewed here. [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Residents can check their flood risk by using the online flood maps to check whether they're at risk of flooding at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>.

### **Ethics & Behaviour at the County Council**

You may be aware of 'Farmgate' whereby an independent investigation concluded that the former Cambridgeshire County Council deputy leader breached the Council's Code of Conduct in six different areas. Ex-Councillor Hickford failed to treat Officers and others acting on behalf of the Council with respect; used a bullying manner in order for the Council to pay for works that would otherwise be the responsibility of the tenant. He also used a bullying manner in order to set the terms of the lease for Manor Farm. He compromised Officers and others' impartiality in his dealings with regard to Manor Farm and his conduct towards Officers and others and his conflict of interest would have reduced the public's confidence in him being able to fulfil his role or the Council being able to discharge its functions.

He also used his position as Deputy Leader to receive concessions that the Council would not otherwise have agreed to and failed to register a disclosable pecuniary interest (the tenancy of Manor Farm) within 28 days and he failed to declare a non-statutory disclosable interest in meetings with regard to County Farms matters. Obviously one bad apple is a bad apple too many so the Council is taking a wide range of steps to ensure that appalling behaviour such as this will never be tolerated again by officers or Councillors.

### **Thakeham**

Seems the OxCam Arc is dead for now and Thakeham seems to be quiet.

### **County Farms Estate**

Cambridgeshire County Council has been advertising for new tenants for seven council-owned farms, part of the council's 33,000 acre rural estate. The council's estate – the largest public sector estate in the country – is divided into 226 holdings, with 160 different tenants. The seven farms up for application, 1,800 acres in total, are in South Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Littleport. Interest is high, with 67 viewings booked by mid-February. The estate brings in £5M in rent to the council each year, to support local services. It contributes to the local economy, enables the council to put its environmental commitments into practice, and ensure public access to the countryside with permissive paths and bridleways.

The council is looking for innovative, entrepreneurial applicants with new ideas for developing their own businesses on the land. These could well be arable or livestock farming, but there are also opportunities for ancillary enterprises such as livery, farm shops or engineering.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and a viable three-year business plan and budget. They will also need to show that they understand the council's expectations for the farms estate, and in particular are keen to farm in step with nature and do their bit to help tackle climate change and increase biodiversity.

Interviews will take place this month, and tenancies will be ready to take up from October onwards. The council has published a brochure about this opportunity, <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/business-with-the-council/rural-business-opportunities>

Peter McDonald  
Mach 6th 2022

