

THRILOW AND HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting scheduled to take place on Monday the 11th July 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room at Thriplow Village Hall.

Unfortunately, due to unexpected illness, the meeting was not quorate and could not take place.

The next meeting will take place on Monday the 26th September 2022 at 7.30 pm. The reason for the delay being that due to holidays and other intervening events it is not possible to ensure any meeting held earlier is quorate.

Reports had been received from County Councillor Peter McDonald and District Councillor Richard Williams. These are replicated below in the usual manner.

Report for Parish Councils – July 2022.

Cambridgeshire County Report

Great Chesterford Hardcore Site : ESS/20/22/UTT

I've been following closely the development of this site. It has been permitted by the EA and has been submitted to ECC Planning. I am working on an ECC officer refusal given the noise and dust from the site. SCDC have said they may be able to provide monitoring although its across the border. I will meet the Site Director July 5th to understand their operation and communicate residents' concerns.

Climate change and flood money

The first spending from the Council's new Just Transition fund has been agreed. £2.175M over four years has been awarded for a business case for the first phase of the Council's plan for Cambridgeshire to reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. And £1.7M has also been awarded for flood work and nature restoration.

Highways IT system

A new Highways IT system is on the cards for the County Council—but officers have been asked to do more work on their proposals after a report to the Strategy & Resources Committee was sent back.

Household Support Fund

The Government has confirmed that it is extending the Household Support Fund for six months of 2022/23 and has allocated £3.58M of grant funding to Cambridgeshire for this. The Fund is intended to provide support to households through free school meals for eligible children during school holidays, and for payments to people in need. In order to meet the Joint Administration's commitment to provide free school meals in the holidays throughout the year, and to have a direct support scheme that is comprehensive, the Strategy & Resources Committee has allocated a further £1.87M to supplement this locally. Inflation adds to council costs

The County Councils Network and the Society of County Treasurers have revealed that spiralling inflation has left forty of England's largest councils with £729M of additional unfunded costs since they set their budgets in March.

To balance their budgets—as they are legally required to—and control costs, councils warn they face a winter of 'difficult decisions'. The increased costs nationally include

- £428M for adult social care services
- £72M for children's social care

- £397M for capital projects
- £107M for energy prices
- £136M for external contract and labour costs
- £77M for school transport services
- £259M for staff pay

These inflationary costs far outstrip any increases in Government funding or council tax.

Library@home award

Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers are one of three voluntary groups in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. It aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. The award was created in 2002 to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee. Recipients are announced each year on 2 June, the anniversary of the Queen's coronation. The Library@home service provides books and audiobooks to residents who find it difficult to get to a library through disability, illness or caring responsibilities. Volunteers visit once a month to bring and return library books and to have a chat.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisureculture/libraries/accessibility>

Local Highways Improvement updates

The schemes in Thriplow and Foxton are progressing as well as the 20 mph zone for Duxford

CENSUS

Cambridgeshire has seen one of the UK's biggest population increases over the past ten years, data just published from the 2021 Census shows.

Overall the number of people living in the county rose by more than 57,000 in the last decade to 678,600. This 9.2 per cent rise is higher than the East of England average, in a national picture which saw the East grow faster than any part of the UK. The figures confirm the County Council's contention that previous Office of National Statistics figures—on which the government bases its grant allocations—under-estimated the size of the county's population. Included within the Cambridgeshire Census figures is an overall 26 per cent rise in the number of Cambridgeshire people aged 65+, against an 18.6 per cent national average rise—with a high percentage increase of people in the 70 to 74 age band in all districts.

While the more urban areas of the county like Cambridge have seen population growth across all age ranges, its more rural areas have seen small or no growth in the youngest age groups (0-19) but large increases in older populations.

Last year's census took place in March 2021 and data from the census will be published in stages over the next two years. Future releases will include figures on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. Also, for the first time, there will be information on UK armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and gender identity. www.ons.gov.uk/census

Peter McDonald

July 2nd 2022

District Report from Cllr Richard Williams July 2022

Support for Ukrainians in the South Cambs

The Council is continuing to support Ukrainian nationals in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. South Cambs has one of the highest per capita rates for hosting under the scheme and the Council is very busy as a result. A number of Council officers have been seconded to supporting hosts and guests. In general terms the system is working well. There are inevitable hiccups and delays, but council officers are usually very responsive if prompted on a particular case and as local Councillor I have been able to help in a few cases. The Council has also organised schemes such as free bikes for Ukrainian guests on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

New South Cambs Development Plan: Responses to First Consultation Published.

The Council has released feedback from the First Consultation on the new Local Plan for South Cambs and Cambridge. The plan will set out the policy framework for housebuilding and other development up to 2041. The report on the Consultation is available at: <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2574/gclp-first-proposals-consultation-report-v2.pdf>

The consultation included some ‘quick questions’ on key themes in the plan. In response to the question: “Do you agree that we should plan for an extra 550 homes per year, so that new housing keeps up with the increase in jobs in our area?”, 31% of those responding to the consultation agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, 54% disagreed or strongly disagreed, and 16% were neutral. To the question, “Do you agree that new development should mainly focus on sites where car travel, and therefore carbon emissions, can be minimised?” 68% of those responding agreed or strongly agreed, while 16% were neutral and 16% disagreed or strongly disagreed. The full set of responses can be seen in the report. As part of the consultation, some new sites for potential development were put forward by landowners across the District. These sites will be assessed for their suitability by the planning department.

GCP ‘Making Connections’ Results Published.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership published results from its ‘Making Connections’ consultation on transport in June. The plans consulted upon were, broadly speaking, to expand the bus network across Cambridge and South Cambs, paid for by a congestion charge to drive into Cambridge, and expand ‘active travel’ infrastructure. Surprisingly, the consultation did not ask specifically whether residents supported the introduction of a congestion charge, but asked only whether they supported the ‘overall package’. In general, there was support for the package, but analysis of free text comment suggests opposition to the idea of a congestion charge (which could be up to £15 per day to drive into Cambridge).

The full report on consultation responses is available here:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/asset-library/City-Access/Making-Connections/GCP-Making-Connections-report-13June22.pdf>

Local Planning Applications

After a very long delay, it looks like the planning application for the barns at Rectory Farm, Middle Street, will be going to South Cambs planning Committee in August.

Local Markets and Shops Directory

The Council has launched two directories of local markets and shops with the aim of supporting local businesses. The Council is also offering to work all parishes, community organisations and many local businesses wishing to begin a market of their own. Further information is available

here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/council-launches-online-toolkit-to-help-local-villages-and-towns-set-up-markets/>

New Cabinet Appointed

The new cabinet line-up for the Council was confirmed in May. Portfolio holders are as follows:

Leader of the Council: Cllr Bridget Smith (Gamlingay ward).

Deputy Leader: Cllr Judith Rippeth (Milton and Waterbeach ward)

Resources (finance): Cllr John Williams (Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward)

Planning: Cllr Dr. Tumi Hawkins (Caldecote ward)

Environment: Cllr Brian Milnes (Sawston ward)

Communities: Cllr Bill Handley (Over and Willingham ward).

Housing: Cllr John Batchelor (Linton ward).

Economic Development: Cllr Peter McDonald (Duxford ward).

Local Issues

I have been in touch with Environmental Health about burning waste near Heathfield and will chase the matter up today.

I have reported pavements near Thriplow School as in need of repair following a concern from a local resident.

Will Holloway has left the planning enforcement team at South Cambs, so a new officer has picked up the case at Heathfield House (although we are still waiting for the planning appeal decision)

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