

THRILOW & HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in The Barbara Pointon Room, Village Hall, on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present – Jane Gough, David Schnieder, David Easthope, Carly Richman, Rowan Pashley, Fergus Ramsay, Sonya Cooper

County Councillor – Peter McDonald – part-time
District Councillor - Richard Williams - part-time
Parish Clerk – Martyn Corbet
RFO - Austin Flynn

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Schneider

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th November 2023

The minutes, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed by the Chairman. .

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

Cllr Easthope referred to a fallen branch in Lower Street. He contacted BT who came out immediately and took off the branch but it has been dumped in the ditch.

4. Health & Safety , Health & Safety and Environmental Issues

a) Completion of Parish Councillors' Reports

Some reports have been completed and filed with Cllr Schneider. The parish clerk will check with him which ones have been received. Cllr Gough suggested that the volume of work undertaken by Cllr Schneider be reduced. Cllr Richman agreed to take on Health & Safety for Heathfield. Cllr Ramsay will be asked to take it on for the Village. The parish clerk will liaise with Cllr Schneider Richman and Ramsay about this; **DS, CR, FR, MC**

b) Electricity Supplies.

The parish clerk confirmed that the renewal contract with SSE has been completed

5. Parish Recreation Grounds and Maintenance

a) Goalposts at Ringstone

Cllr Pashley will obtain a quote for the installation of the goalposts; **RP**

b) Repair/Replacement of Pepperslade Notice Board

Cllr Pashley will install the new lock during the coming week. Once he has done so the notice board will be installed on the verge at Pepperslade. The parish clerk will liaise with Chris Gough in relation to siting of the notice board; **RP, MC**

c) Quotes re Roundabout at The Rec

The work required is to remove the matting and repair the concrete. The matting will then be installed. The parish clerk will liaise with Cllr Schneider and Pashley about the quotes required; **DS, RP, MC**

d) Replacement of Middle Street sign

The parish clerk has obtained a partial quote from BigDay Graphics. They have yet to include a cost for installation of the sign. Once a complete quote is received it will be circulated for approval; **MC**

e) Replacement of Finger Sign at The Greenway

The parish clerk has obtained a quote of £345 plus VAT from BigDay Graphics for the removal of the damaged finger sign and its replacement. Acceptance of this quote was proposed by Cllr Easthope seconded by Cllr Richman and agreed;

f) Cutting the hedge on the Heathfield Open Space

The parish clerk has received an email from Hardy Landscapes confirming the hedge will be cut this week;

g) Cutting the hedge at Hurdles Way.

Following email exchanges with Angus Batey of Hurdles Way it has transpired that a Copper Beach hedge belonging to the parish council adjoining the Hurdles Way Open Space needs attention. The parish clerk has

received a quote from Hardys Landscapes of £475.00 plus VAT. Acceptance of this quote was proposed by Cllr Richman seconded by Cllr Pashley and agreed.

6. Updates and progress reports on

a) Wooded area at Hurdles Way

Cllr Pashley has said that Jamie Mullet will create a timeline confirming when work can be carried out. Once this has been done Cllr Pashley will liaise with both Jamie and Darren Mullet; **RP**

b) Work on the Village Green to prevent damage during Daffodil Weekend

Cllr Pashley has been finding people who can install the netting. Once he has the quotes then progress can be made; **RP**

c) Suggested Dog Litter Bin on Church Street

Information has been provided about the location of the fibre optic cable in the land owned by KWS. Cllr Gough and the parish clerk will meet with Nigel Smith to discuss a location. It was agreed that the parish clerk will go back to SCDC and ask why the bin cannot be located on the same side of the road as the yellow gate; **JG, MC**

d) Application re 20 mph Speed Limited

It was agreed that Cllr Easthope, Mrs Easthope and the parish clerk will liaise over improving the application. They completed the original application; **DE, PE, MC**

d) Village Sign

Cllr Easthope is still endeavouring to progress this but it may be that the appropriate body to deal with it is the Thriplow Society. **DE**

Footpaths

Cllr Easthope referred to problems in his Health & Safety Report he has identified with the footpath in Lower Street. Some of the edging between the footpath and the ditch has fallen away leaving a gap. If a person were to fall into the ditch they might sustain serious injury. Work needs to be done. The parish clerk will contact Peter Gaskin of Cambridgeshire CC to ask for work to be done; **MC**

7. Tree Works & Tree Protection Orders

a) Tree Works

23/1301/TTPO – Tree works 1 Foremans Road – no objection;

23/1353/TTPO – Tree works 1 Foreman’s Road - no objection.

b) Quotes for:

i) Tree work on The Green at The Smithy

The parish clerk will liaise with Cllr Schneider to ascertain the current position;

ii) Tree work at The Rec

Following the meeting it has become apparent that the work has been completed;

8. Planning Matters

a) Planning applications received:

23/04586/S73 – S73 to vary condition 15 (Retaining Wall) of planning permission
30/00155/FUL (Change of use of Land from agricultural to
Provide extension to existing graveyard, access, parking and
Turning Area. Alterations to church wall and footpath to Church)
For an adjustment to the position of the access – no objections;

23/04847/HFUL – single storey side/rear extension – Paddock House, Church
Street – no objections

b) Planning Decisions Received

No planning decisions have been received;

c) Planning Appeals

No planning appeals have been received

d) Neighbourhood Plan

A meeting is required to resolve outstanding issues about Heathfield. The parish clerk will liaise with Philippa MacGarry. It was agreed that Cllr Easthope will represent the parish council in a forthcoming meeting with SCDC; **MC**

e) Miscellaneous Matters

There were no other matters raised.

9. Financial Matters

a) Authority was granted to pay the following:

	Amount	VAT	Total
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Payroll - January	1,178.66		1,178.66
Parish Clerk's expenses	9.50		9.50

b) The following payments made between meetings were ratified:

	Amount	VAT	Total
Payroll – December	1,176.66		1,176.66
Npower – Heathfield Electricity-	166.77	8.34	175.11
British Gas	0.92	0.69	1.61
SSE	21.75	4.35	26.10

c) Permission to make the following payment was granted. It having been received too late for inclusion in the agenda:

	Amount	VAT	Total
CambridgeshireACRE – annual subscription			

d) Credits received

The RFO confirmed that a credit had been received from Groundworks re the Neighbourhood Plan of £3,926.00. The Interest on the monies held at Lloyds Bank PLC received was £21.27. Rent received from Npower was £1.15;

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) Setting the Precept 2024/25

Following discussions it was agreed that the Precept for 2024/25 will be £36,879.00. This represents an increase of 22%. The Precept for 2023/24 is £29,899.00. A full explanation of the increase will appear in the APM leaflet. The increase is necessary to cover additional costs and work required throughout the parish.

10. Reports (if any):

a) Neighbourhood Forum

The parish clerk has contacted the Duxford Parish Clerk. She has confirmed that no contact has been received from IWM. Cllr Pashley will pursue this;

b) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough confirmed that the locks have been changed. No users of the hall have been locked out. On the 21st December an event was held to make the renaming of the committee room. It is now The Barbara Pointon Room in honour of the late Barbara Pointon who did so much for the parish and its residents.

c) Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough had nothing to report.

d) District Council Report

Cllr Williams had prepared a report a copy of which is attached;

e) County Council Report

Cllr McDonald had prepared a report a copy of which is attached. .

Cllr Gough has received an email from John Wakefield who has been logging buses 7A and 31. He has been recording when these buses are not turning up. He has also been sending emails to various CCC personnel. Cllr McDonald will check up on the position he confirmed that the bus company will be penalised;

11. Possible Assistance with the production of the Fowlmere & Thriplow News

Discussions have taken place to ensure the future of the Fowlmere and Thriplow News which is a vital part of the community. As a result of those discussions it has been decided that from February the magazine will be published two monthly and distributed to each household in the parishes of Fowlmere and Thriplow. Under the new arrangement each parish council will assist in funding the magazine if required.

12. Incursion of Lorries onto Hurdles Way

Cllr Pashley explained that some lorries visiting the Duxford Business Park will miss the entrance and go down Hurdles Way which then causes them to have to reverse up the road. This happens approximately once a week. He has contacted Nishant Gupta who has contacted Hermes. Hermes lorries are the “culprits”! The problem appears to be with agency drivers used by them. He suggested that a sign should be installed to say that the road is “Unsuitable for HGVs”. It was agreed that the parish clerk will contact CCC to say there is a problem which needs urgent attention. **MC**

13. Area on Village Green outside The Green Man

Cllr Gough reported that preliminary discussions with representatives of the Company which owns the freehold of the pub have taken place. As a result of those discussions an appointment has been made with the parish council’s solicitors to obtain legal advice; **JG, MC**

14. Support for the “Hedgehog Project”

Nothing further has been heard about this. The parish clerk will pursue it. **MC**

15. Courses for parish councillors

The parish clerk will book courses for Cllrs Cooper and Ramsay when they become available; **MC**

16. Appointment of Parish Council Representative on TVHMC

Cllr Cooper was appointed to be the parish council representative on TVHMC.

17. Allocation of tasks for the Annual Parish Meeting Leaflet

The parish clerk has sent an email to parish councillors detailing these.

18. Correspondence and information received

The parish clerk had circulated a list of correspondence received to parish councillors.

19. Next meetings

The next parish council meeting will be on the 11th March 2024.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the 25th March 2024.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.
The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Chairman

Dated

District Report

Cllr Richard Williams

Development in Greater Cambridge and Local Plan Update

In December the Secretary of State Michael Gove gave a speech which touched on development plans in Greater Cambridge. The SOs confirmed the Governments’ Cambridge 2040 strategy that had first been outlined in July 2023. The number of new houses at the heart of this strategy has dropped to 150K (from 250K) but there are not details on how or where such a number of new homes could be built. The SoS acknowledged the constraints that water supply put on development in the area, but committed to finding solutions via the ‘Water Task Force’ established in summer 2023, again however, there were no details on what the solution would involve to increase supplies to a level that would enable anything like 150K new homes.

Separately, though with obvious links to the above, the Director of the Planning Service has given a recent update on the state of the next Local Plan. In short, Plan development is essentially on hold pending further details on solutions to the problem that restricted supplies of water currently place on hous-

ing and other development in our area. Concern that there is not enough water to meet current development plans has led the Environment Agency to object to several major developments in the last year, with most on hold as a result.. There are plans for new reservoirs in the Fens and Lincolnshire, but these are unlikely to be operational before 2035. At present it is therefore not clear how ambitious plans for more houses and development in the area, from local or central government, can be met.

Report on Council Culture and Performance

A 'Peer Challenge' report on South Cambs council was published in December. The Peer Challenge system is organised by the Local Government Association and involves a group of councillors from other councils meeting Councillors and Council staff reporting on the culture and effectiveness of the organisation. The South Cambs Report contains a mix a praise and constructive criticism as is typical in these sort of report. You can read the full report here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/2023-corporate-peer-challenge/>

Civil Parking Enforcement Confirmed

The Government has confirmed that Civil Parking Enforcement powers have been introduced in South Cambridgeshire in mid-December. The County Council enforcement team will start issuing fines from February 2024 after an initial period of issuing warnings to illegally parked vehicles.

Clean Air Strategy

South Cambs Council and Cambridge City Council have agreed to develop a new Clean Air Strategy for our area. The strategy will link to the planning system – 'with a focus on designing out air quality impacts during the construction of new developments'. A further part of strategy will focus on transport and the provision of new sustainable travel options. The strategy will also include an information strategy on local air quality and an air quality monitoring network.

Cambridgeshire County Report to Parishes Jan 2024

County Council Budget

In December I reported that we were facing a £23m gap in funding for 2024/25 as a result of inflation and other factors. This has now been closed to c.£2m.

The revised proposals focus on sustaining social services, continuing to provide free school meal vouchers for eligible children during holidays, progressing the council's commitment to pay the real living wage to people providing adult social care, and prioritising highways and cycleways maintenance across the county. However, even with a proposed council tax rise of 4.99% – 2% of which will be dedicated to adult social care services – the combination of demand for services, inflation and the ending of some government grants will still leave a £2m gap in the 2024/5 budget.

Included in the proposals for the coming year are for the council to:

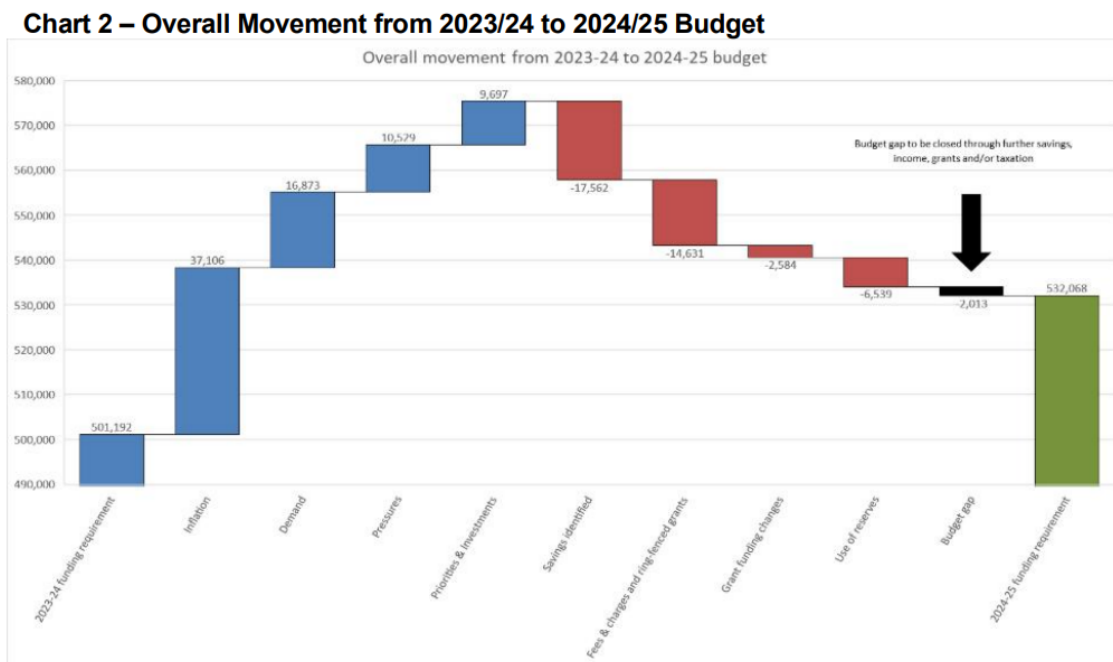
- Invest £57 million to sustain children's and adult social care services.
- Further the Council's commitment to the Real Living Wage, which has increased to £12ph outside London, to take account of the Government uplift of the legally enforceable Living Wage, being paid by adult care providers.
- Prioritise £3m to continue to provide holiday food vouchers for all children eligible for free school meals, despite the government support being likely to end in the next financial year.

- Invest £2.2m to deliver other anti-poverty initiatives – such as support to make sure that vulnerable people are claiming all the welfare benefits that they are entitled to.
- Put £1.3m into delivering more accessible libraries to support vulnerable communities.
- Prioritise investment of £23m into making highways, footpaths, and cycleways safer – on top of a recently announced government allocation of £2.3m. This will be to deliver improvements which both repair and prevent potholes, deliver improved drainage schemes, and reinstate cycleway maintenance and weed clearance.
- Put additional funding into schemes for people experiencing mental health issues to prevent them reaching crisis, particularly focussing on younger people.

The proposals include an increase of council tax by 4.99%, the maximum permitted by Government before a public referendum is needed – with a total of 2% of this increase dedicated to adult social care services across the county, and £17.6m of identified additional savings – from areas such as:

- moving to LED streetlights which are set to deliver £1m in energy savings each year.
- £1.5m across the next three years from rationalising the council’s office accommodation.
- more than £2m from reviewing the highest cost children’s placement costs, and home to school transport routes – to bring children closer to home and reduce travel time.
- £0.5m from driving down the amount of bad debt.
- reviews of income raised by permits and parking charges are also proposed to raise just under £1m.

Summary of Changes in Finance 2024/25



Flooding & Storm Henk

This were the incidents the county was attending to Jan 4th. It is updated daily and I will circulate every 2-3 days

Date	Time	Location	Parish	Issues	Actions
02/01/2024		Main Street	Hamerton	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		A605 Peterborough Road	Elton	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024		New Road	Woodwalton	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		High Street	Tilbrook	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024		Bridge Street	Wistow	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		Infield Road	Glattou	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		Royal Oak Lane	Hemmingford Abbots	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024		High Street	Offord Darcy	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		Hinchibrooke Park Road	Huntingdon	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024	15:45	B1046 Between Toft and Kingston	Toft	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024	15:45	A1198 at Arrington	Arrington	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024	16:32	Park Lane	Dry Drayton	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024	17:06	B1046 Between Toft and Kingston	Toft	Flooding	Milestone called to advise Road needs closing due to vehicles stranded
02/01/2024	17:25	WITHERFIELD ROAD	Horseheath	Carriageway Pothole	Milestone to attend and make safe
02/01/2024	17:34	Berry Croft Lane/ Over Road	Willingham	Traffic Signals	Police informed there is a power cut and traffic signals not working, advised that if the power was off they would not be
02/01/2024	17:53	Long Road	Cambridge	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	17:53	Mill Way	Grantchester	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	17:53	A1307 Horseheath near lodge	Horseheath	Carriageway Pothole	Milestone to attend and make safe
02/01/2024	17:58	Orwell Road	Barrington	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	15:59	Bridge Road	Impington	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	18:10	Berry Croft Lane/ Over Road	Willingham	Traffic Signals	Police informed a local had come and removed this
02/01/2024	18:08	Berry Croft Lane/ Over Road	Willingham	Traffic Signals	Police informed Power is now back on but Traffic Signals still not working - Passed to Swarco
02/01/2024	18:19	A1301 Near to Rose and Crown Pub	Stapleford	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	18:22	Babraham Road - Near to Wandlebury	Stapled	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	18:53	Shepreth Road	Shepreth	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	18:55	Nosterfield End	Shudy Camps	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	19:26	Mill Hill	Weston Colville	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	19:43	Ickleton Road	Ickleton	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	19:54	Fishers Lane	Orwell	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	19:54	Comberton Road	Comberton	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024		Tower Road	Sutton	Flooding	Customer concerned his property may be flooded
02/01/2024	17:12	Pierce Lane	Fulbourn	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	18:29	Back Lane	Malbourn	Tree down	Police advised a part of a tree had come down and landed on a car but the the recovery crew had removed this from the highway
02/01/2024	21:38	The Street	Saxon Street	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024	22:30	Pampisford Road	Great Abington	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	22:28	Ashwell Road	Ashwell	Tree down	Advised this is in Hertfordshire
02/01/2024	22:20	Brinkley Road	Six Mile Bottom	Flooding	Milestone to attend and place flood boards out
02/01/2024	23:00	Nosterfield End	Shudy Camps	Tree down	Milestone called to request for BT to attend site as their cables were caught in the tree
02/01/2024	00:55	Long Lane	Fowlmere	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024	01:19	Nosterfield End	Shudy Camps	Tree down	BT called informed they have removed their cables and have now requested for UK Power Networks to attend - Called UK Power
02/01/2024		Lone Tree Avenue	Impington	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024		Branch Bank	Littleport	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024		The Dolles	Over	Flooding	Milestone to provide sandbags due to garden being flooded
02/01/2024		A10 near Ely Golf Course	Ely	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024		Birch Grove	Elm	Flooding	Milestone to provide a tanker to clear away surface water risk of flooding to properties
02/01/2024		Mill Lane	Little Paxton	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		London Road	Kimbolton	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards
02/01/2024		High Street	Alconbury	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		Hamerton Road	Alconbury Weston	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		Low Road	Fenstanton	Flooding	Road Closure in place
02/01/2024		Ermine Street	Great Stukeley	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024		High Street	Bluntingsham	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024		Nursery Gardens	St Ives	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
02/01/2024		South Street	Woodhurst	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
03/01/2024	09:40	B1046 Between Toft and Kingston	Toft	Flooding	Milestone to remove road closure
03/01/2024		B1040 East Delph	Whittlesley	Flooding	Flood gates have been closed
03/01/2024	09:40	High Street	Babraham	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
03/01/2024	11:39	B1046 Between Toft and Kingston	Toft	Flooding	Milestone attend to remove closure however advised to still keep it close as there is areas that are still flooded
03/01/2024	3.08pm	8 High Street	Littleport	Flooding	2 x blocked gullies causing flooding of footway and risk to terrace property. Gully crew requested on 2hr call out LA491631
03/01/2024		Brampton Road	Huntingdon	Flooding	Milestone to place flood boards out
01/01/2024		Great drove	Yaxley	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway
03/01/2024	15:30	Tower Road	Sutton	Flooding	Milestone to send tanker/jetter out to help alleviate flooding to property
03/01/2024		Oundle Road	Chesteron	Flooding	Milestone to send tanker/jetter out to help alleviate flooding to property
04/01/2024	08:26	Earith Bridge		Flooding	Milestone to close road
04/01/2024		La Houge Road	Chippenham	Tree down	Milestone to attend and clear from carriageway

Peter McDonald Jan 7th 2024

