

THRILOW & HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in The Barbara Pointon Room, Village Hall, on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present – Jane Gough, David Easthope, Carly Richman, Rowan Pashley,
Fergus Ramsay, Sonya Coope
County Councillor – Peter McDonald – part-time
District Councillor - Richard Williams - part-time
Parish Clerk – Martyn Corbet
RFO - Austin Flynn
Member of the public in attendance - Richard Turner

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Schneider

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th January 2024

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

There were no matters arising except it was pointed out that Cllr Schneider was both present and had apologized for his absence in the minutes.

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

a) Completion of Parish Councillors' Reports

It was confirmed that the previous Health & Safety Reports had been completed. The parish clerk pointed out that there is no record of these and that the next ones are becoming due;

b) Organisation of Handover to Cllrs Richman and Ramsay

Cllr Richman has tried to arrange a meeting but without success. The parish clerk will arrange a meeting;

MC

5. Parish Recreation Grounds and Maintenance

a) Goalposts at Ringstone

Cllr Pashley has obtained a quote. To install one goal the cost is £150.00 installing two will be less than double that. The cost of the goals is £1,097.00 plus £90.00 delivery charge. Gravel will cost £26.50 and Poscrete £11.50. Grand total of the work is £1,035.00. That is if the work were undertaken by Parish Council personnel. Acceptance of the figures was proposed by Cllr Richman and seconded by Cllr Easthope. Acceptance of the figures was agreed. Cllrs Pashley and Richman will mark where the goalposts will be located. After further discussion it was felt that the installation work should be undertaken by a contractor. Acceptance of the quote provided by Cllr Pashley was proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr Easthope and agreed.

RP/CR

The goalposts will be delivered to Cllr Pashley's home and collected from there by the contractor;

b) Repair/Replacement of Pepperslade Notice Board

The missing locks will be placed with the noticeboard by Cllr Pashley. The noticeboard and locks will be available for installation from tomorrow;

RP

c) Quotes re Roundabout at The Rec

Cllr Pashley has attempted to obtain a quote but has been unsuccessful. Previously Cllr Schneider had contacted other contractors. The existing rubber matting needs to be taken up and the concrete underneath repaired. The rubber matting must then be re-laid. The parish clerk will obtain three quotes in time for the next meeting;

MC

d) Replacement of Middle Street sign and Give Way sign

Previously the parish clerk contacted Cambridgeshire CC. Cllr Williams said the correct authority to contact is South Cambridgeshire DC. The parish clerk will do this. He confirmed that the Give Way sign at Gravel Pit Hill has been repaired;

MC

e) Replacement of Finger Sign at The Greenway

As of today this has still not been done. The parish clerk has shown the contractor the location. He will chase the contractor to complete the work;

MC

f) Forthcoming RoSPA Report

The parish clerk reminded the meeting that RoSPA will carry out their inspections next month;

g) Broken Fences on Heathfield Open Space

Cllr Pashley has attempted to obtain three quotes for repairs. Only two contractors have got back to him. The parish clerk will chase the other contractor. **MC**

6. Updates and progress reports on

a) Wooded area at Hurdles Way

Cllr Pashley has been unable to pursue this. He will do so. He suggested that when plans have been drawn up copies are distributed to residents in the area for comment;

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

Cllr Pashley has obtained quotes to carry out the work and purchase the matting. He will send these to the parish clerk who will contact Paul Earnshaw after the conclusion of this year's Daffodil Weekend. **MC**

c) Suggested Dog Litter Bin on Church Street

The parish clerk has not heard back from SCDC and will chase a response. He and Cllr Gough will meet with a nearby resident to confirm the final location; **JG**

d) Application re 20 mph Speed Limited

The parish clerk confirmed that a new and improved application has been submitted. This was completed with the assistance of Cllr Easthope and Mrs Easthope;

e) Potholes around the parish

The parish clerk confirmed that he has submitted reports in respect of approximately a dozen potholes but more keep appearing. Cllr Gough confirmed that a resident has temporarily filled in some of the potholes on Church Street. Cllr McDonald said that CCC will be dealing with the potholes before Daffodil Weekend but that this is subject to the weather conditions. No one should attempt to deal with the potholes other than CCC. Anyone can report a pothole via the CCC website. They should inform the parish clerk when they have done so to prevent a duplication;

e) Village Sign

Cllr Easthope explained that this is not really a parish council matter. An application for financial assistance to repair the sign has been submitted to the Daffodil Weekend Trust.

f) Moving the MVAS sign around the parish

The parish clerk has received a request from Geoff Axe of Community Speedwatch who are moving the sign for extra mounting bars and fixing bands (clips). This would enable the sign to be moved more easily from pole to pole. Mr Axe has stated that he thought there is already a mounting bar on the Heathfield pole. Cllr Pashley confirmed that this is not the case. Attempts will be made to find the missing mounting bar as three were supplied originally. Only six fixing bands have been received. A different clip is required on Heathfield because the sign is fixed to a lamppost. The parish clerk reminded the meeting that the parish council has agreement with CCC which states that the MVAS sign should be moved every four weeks. The purchase of the necessary mounting bars was proposed by Cllr Ramsay and seconded by Cllr Richman and agreed.

g) Quotes re prevention of parking on Ringstone Open Space

Generally concern was expressed that this matter had been the subject of comment on social media. It appeared that pressure was being applied from certain quarters. Whilst the parish council appreciates and understands the concerns of residents it must consider all the aspects of this matter. This includes allowing residents to park on part of the area. Further investigations need to be undertaken. These include an application for Change of Use and the re-routing of the existing footpath which runs alongside the road. All correspondence should be conducted via the parish clerk. Individual parish councillors are not authorized to deal with parish council correspondence and should not do so.

No further action will be taken until all the information is available. The results of investigations will be reported

7. Tree Works & Tree Protection Orders

a) Tree Works

24/0041/TTCA – Monterey Cyprus fell to ground level due to die back – 8 Lower Street – no objections;

24/0199/TTCA – Walnut Tree in corner of front garden (when facing the house) boundary of No 15 The Green And The Green itself – 13 The Green – no objections

b) Quotes for:

i) Tree work on The Green at The Smithy

Work still needs to be done on the Norwegian Maple tree near The Smithy. The parish clerk will get three quotes before the next meeting. **MC**

8. Planning Matters

a) Planning applications received:

23/04867/FUL – single storey side/rear extension – Paddock House, 63 Church Street – no objections;

23/02347/FUL – change of use of existing agricultural barn to Class B (Storage and Distribution) including external alterations and provision of associated car parking and work – Thrplow Farms, Lodge Road no objections;

b) Planning Decisions Received

No planning decisions have been received;

c) Planning Appeals

No planning appeals have been received

d) Neighbourhood Plan

The parish clerk has received copies of Regulation 14 comments and a changes document which are intended to become part of the overall Consultation Statement from Philippa Macgarry. These have been circulated to all parish councillors for consideration prior to this meeting. Cllr Pashley expressed concern about a comment in relation to a resident's fence in No 17 Chapter 6.1.8 which described this fence as "unsympathetic. It is felt that it is not appropriate to include this comment.

Parish councillors felt that the concrete path between Heathfield and Church Street should be referred to by its proper name which is "The Greenway". There should also be mention of the fact that the safety features at the entrance to Heathfield should be maintained. Cllr Pashley and others thought that the mentioned of cars being parked illegally and permanently in No 22 Parapgraph 6.1.16 was not appropriate and should be removed.

Acceptance of the changes document was proposed by Cllr Easthope and seconded by Cllr Ramsay and agreed;

e) Miscellaneous Matters

There were no other matters raised.

9. Financial Matters

a) Authority was granted to pay the following:

	Amount	VAT	Total
Payroll – March	1,178.66		1,178.66
CambridgeshireACRE – Invoice 8284 consultancy support for Neighbourhood Plan etc	1,050.00	210.00	1,260.00
BWP Creative Limited – Invoice 2631 website hosting at a cost of £19.00 per month from 26/02/24 to 25/02/25 inclusive	228.00	45.60	273.60
Hardy Landscapes – Invoice 23016 – trimming sides beech hedge, Hurdles Way and reduce height to 2.5m	475.00	95.00	570.00
Parish Clerk's expenses	31.25		31.25

b) The following payments made between meetings were ratified:

	Amount	VAT	Total
Payroll – February	1,176.66		1,176.66
Npower –Invoice INO9419626 electricity Heathfield 1/12/23 to 31/12/23	173.25	8.66	181.91
British Gas- Bill NO 851250384 – The Smithy electricity 18/12/23 to 17/01/24	14.83	0.74	15.57
Npower – INVOICE INO9675103 – electricity Heathfield01/01/24 to 31/01/24	186.70	9.34	196.04
Hardy Landscapes – Invoice 23011 – cut back or perimeter hedge around large Heathfield Open Space	1,940.00	388.00	2,328.00
Langham Press – printing APM leaflets	359.00		359.00
British Gas – Bill No 848055064 – The Smithy electricity 18/01/24 to 17/02/24	14.36	0.71	15.07

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

	Amount	VAT	Total
CambridgeshireACRE – Invoice 8329	262.50	52.50	315.00

d) Credits received

The RFO confirmed that interest of £1,080 has been received from Cambirdge BS. Interest of £514 was received from Saffron Bs and £200 from Lloyds Bank. An invoice for grass cutting has been sent to Heathfield Residents Association Limited;

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) Permission for release of accounting records to Internal Auditor

Subject to circulation of the accounting records to parish councillors their release to the Internal Auditor was agreed. **OF**

10. Reports (if any):

a) Neighbourhood Forum

Cllr Richman said that the IWM is hoping to re-start meetings;

b) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough said that a meeting has taken place with representatives of Daffodil Weekend to obtain clarity regarding use of the Village Hall during Daffodil Weekend. This principally centred upon electricity usage. There will be a further meeting before the event itself. Notices will be displayed in the kitchen. The event will resume using the main entrance as the point of entry for customers. Insurance has risen slightly from last year. An application for a grant has been submitted to the Daffodil Weekend Trust for money to help with the cost of new hand driers. The existing ones are unfit for purpose;

c) Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough had nothing to report. Cllr Richman mentioned that someone had been seen taking photographs of children at Ringstone. These people were acting suspiciously;

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. .

11. Incursion of Lorries onto Hurdles Way

.An application will be made to fit a notice onto a lampost at Hurdles Way; **MC**

12. Area on Village Green outside The Green Man

Negotiations are still in progress. A further meeting is planned. **JG/MC**

13. Problems with flooding in parts of the Village

There is a proposal to withdraw tankering. Cllr Gough has contacted Anglian Water but heard nothing back. She will try again. There may be some confusion with respect to contact details. Cllr Gough is trying to arrange a meeting with Anglian Water. It has been confirmed that there will be no tankering between 9 am and 5pm during Daffodil Weekend. Cllr Easthope suggested that the Chief Executive of Anglian Water is invited to attend the meeting;

14. Courses for parish councillors

The parish clerk will book the courses. The dates have been agreed. **MC**

15. Annual Parish Meeting

Everyone present confirmed attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 21st March.

16. Correspondence and information received

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

17. Next meetings

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the 21st March 2024.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on the 13th May 2024

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

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Chairman

Dated

District Report

Cllr Richard Williams

Local Plan Update and ‘Cambridge 2050’

The District Council planning service had published an updated timetable for completion of the next Local Plan. The original timetable envisaged a formal draft plan and statutory consultation this year, but this has been delayed due to concerns about the deliverability of the plan due in light of water stress in the Area. The new timetable sees a formal draft coming forward in late 2025, with a consultation thereafter, although with District elections due in May 2026 it seems likely that formal adoption of the plan would not come until later that year. The Plan is of course in many ways linked to the Governments “Cambridge 2050” vision for development in our area. A series of documents on the vision for Cambridge, including how water scarcity will be addressed, were published after the budget (links at the foot of this article). It is notable that the timeframe for the Government plan has lengthened by 10 years, so it is now ‘Cambridge 2050’ rather than ‘Cambridge 2040’, and whereas previous iterations have talked about 250K homes, then 150K homes by 2040, there is now talk of illustrative scenarios of 100K by 2050. The District Council in any case was planning around 57K new homes by 2040, so the gap seems to be narrowing. The challenge of finding even enough water for even the 57K homes by 2040 has not been conclusively resolved at this point. The key Government docs are here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65e865a05b6524001af21a7c/The_Case_for_Cambridge.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge-update-on-government-measures>

District Council Budget

The 2024/25 District Council; Budget was approved at the end of February. The District part of the Council Tax will rise by £5 (the maximum allowed) for a typical band D property. Rents on Council properties will also rise by the maximum allowed. The Council will be allocating extra funds to ‘transformation’, which really means modernising the delivery of council services, including use of AI. The Council administration’s take on the budget is reflected in the official press release:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/council-backs-budget-and-business-plan/>

Four Day Week (4DW)

The council administration is proposing to extend the 4DW indefinitely beyond the end of the trial period, which ends in May. A public consultation is promised in the future although no date has been given. The extension will be discussed/agreed by the Council Cabinet (tomorrow March 12), without a vote of all councillors. Further information is available here:

<https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s134721/Update%20on%20the%20Four-Day%20Week%20Trial.pdf>

State of the District Report

South Cambs has published a ‘State of the District’ Report which is a great source of data on all aspects of the District. The report can be accessed here:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/state-of-the-district-report-published/>

Home Energy Support

The District Council is urging residents to make use of energy-saving support to which they are entitled. The Council is working with Action on Energy (a partnership of Cambridgeshire Councils). Further information is available here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/home-energy-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-residents/>

Battery Recycling

Small batteries can now be recycled by attaching them to black, blue or green bins following upgrades to bin lorries. Further information is available here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/more-frequent-battery-recycling-collections>

County Council Report

Secondary School Places

A greater percentage of Cambridgeshire students will be going to their first choice secondary school this September. A total of 87.9 per cent have been offered a place at their first choice school – up from 87.1 per cent last year.

The proportion offered a place at their first, second or third preference school has also risen – from 95.4 per cent in 2023 to 95.8 per cent this year.

The total number of places offered this year was fewer than last – 7,220 compared with 7,413. Year 6 students hear this week (1 March) which secondary school has offered them a place for September 2024.

Half Term Vouchers

More than 23,000 supermarket vouchers were distributed during the February half term to eligible families in Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire County Council has continued to run the existing scheme using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Eligible families were automatically sent a £15 voucher for the week via email or text at the beginning of the half term holiday, with the voucher being valid at a choice of 11 supermarkets. A total of 23,288 were distributed.

The current round of Government funding will end on 31 March, but the county council agreed at its meeting on 13 February to invest £3m of its own money to continue the holiday supermarket vouchers for those children most in need.

The recent quality of life survey of over 5,000 residents in Cambridgeshire showed that 86 per cent of residents were concerned about cost of living increases.

Free data SIM cards for low income households

A reminder that Cambridgeshire Libraries are part of Good Things Foundation's National Databank, O2 and Vodaphone scheme, which makes free data SIM cards or vouchers available to anyone aged 18+ from a low-income household.

Recipients can self-declare as eligible, and the support is available for a maximum period of twelve months. The data can be used with any SIM-enabled device. This offer is available at a range of libraries.

The Busway

Safety works are under way on the Guided Busway to allow the busway to return to full, two-way operation. Since February 2022, a section of the Guided Busway in one direction has been closed

between Cambridge Railway Station and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. A temporary fence was installed whilst an independent safety review was in progress, and following ongoing communications with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and as part of continuous safety reviews on the busway.

Since then, the county council has been working with the bus operators and emergency services to risk-assess and design a fence to be installed next to the upstand along sections of the southern busway. It has been specifically designed with removable sections to allow for safe evacuation. This work is being carried out in sections to minimise disruption to passengers. Contractors are working seven days a week and the busway and maintenance track are currently programmed to re-open on Saturday 30 March.

