

THRIPLow AND HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The Barbara Pointon Room , Village Hall on the 20th January 2025 at 7.30 pm

Present Jane Gough , David Easthope, Carly Richman, Fergus Ramsay

County Councillor - Peter McDonald (Part-time)
District Councillor - Richard Williams (Part- time)
Parish Clerk - Martyn Corbet
RFO - Austin Flynn

Members of the Public also present - Tom Harvey, Derek Pinner, Richard Taylor

1 Co-option of a new parish councillor

Tom Harvey agreed to serve as a parish councillor. His co-option was proposed by Cllr Gough and seconded by Cllr Easthope. His co-option was agreed.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cooper.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th November 2024

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

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

There were no matters arising.

4a Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th December 2024

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

4b Matters arising from the above-mentioned minutes not otherwise covered by this agenda

The parish clerk mentioned that a discussion needs to take place about any S106 monies which might be available as a result of the Grain Store Development.

5 Health & Safety and Environmental Issues

a) Health & Safety Reports

The parish clerk distributed inspection forms to parish councillors. These should be returned to him by the middle of February;

ALL PCs

b) Damage to the footpath in School Lane

The parish clerk has made a report to Cambridgeshire County Council but has not had a response. Cllr McDonald will chase a response.

PM

6 Parish Recreation Grounds and Maintenance

a) Work required at Thriplow Rec

Neither Cllr Gough or the parish clerk have successfully engaged with Ian Wilson who was asked to carry out the repair works. It was agreed the work needs to be done as soon as possible. Cllr Richmann agreed to try and engage with Mr Wilson with a view to getting the work done. Quotes will be obtained from Cllr Harvey. The parish clerk will send a full description of what needs to be done to Mr Taylor who knows someone who may help.

MC

b) Replacement of Middle Street and Fowlmere Road street signs

The parish clerk has heard nothing from South Cambridgeshire DC. Cllr Williams will pursue this on behalf of the parish council. The parish clerk will send him the job reference numbers.

MC

c) Broken fences on Heathfield Open Space

It has been agreed this work will be done when the Precept for 2025/26 is received.

d) Damage to the triangle at Gravel Pit Hill

Cllr Harvey has installed the new bollards. It was agreed they will be painted white and reflectors will be attached.

TH

e) Work required on the Heathfield Open Space

i) Zipwire and Basket Swing

The parish clerk said that the remedial work required should soon be carried out by Flights of Fantasy Limited;

ii) Remainder of work required on the HOS

It has been agreed that Cllr Harvey will undertake the work required.

TH

7 Updates and progress reports on :

a) Wooded area at Hurdles Way

This area has been looked at by Cllrs Harvey and Richmann. Cllr Harvey stated that in his opinion there is no need to remove many of the trees. A winding path could be made leading to a bench. The path would be covered by wood chippings. A drawing will be prepared. Details of the scheme will be included by Cllr Richmann in her report for the APM leaflet. Residents of Hurdles Way will be circulated and asked for their opinions.

MC

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

Although the work has been done some damage has been noted to the area near 8 The Green. It was agreed that the other side is coming on very well. The effect of the damage will be kept under review.

c) Application for a 20 mph Speed Limit

The previous application having been unsuccessful. A new one is being made. The Traffic Calming Survey has been completed. 94 Forms were returned. Of these 71 stated their priority choice is a 20 mph speed limit. A further 18 agreed that there should be a 20 mph but it was not their first choice. There were 5 forms stating there should not be any traffic calming measures at all.

d) Village Sign

Cllr Easthope has been sent some pictures by David Carter who is repairing the sign. These show it now that the paint has been removed. There is a large hole in the sign. There is some rot along the bottom edge. The sill which the sign sat on was also rotten and it will need to be replaced along with the two lower scrolls. The two shields also showed some rot. Mr Carter's next step is to treat the areas that have been damaged by rot and then fill them. He will also have to re-carve some of the areas. Cllr Easthope believes that whilst the original estimate for the work is £1200 - £2000 the actual bill will be closer to £2000.

e) Progress on parking on the Ringstone Open Space

Nothing further can be considered until the next precept is received

8 Tree Works and Tree Protection Orders

a) Tree Works

24/1157/TTCA – 4 The Green – no objections

b) Suggested tree survey for trees on The Green

The parish clerk had some quotes which have been obtained by Cllr Richmann. Cllr Easthope has also obtained a quote which was not available at the meeting. It was agreed to go with the cheapest quote.

The parish clerk referred to a dangerous tree near Uday Phadke's house on The Green. In consultation with Mr Padke and Shelford Tree Services Limited the tree was felled and cut into logs. Residents have been invited to help themselves to these logs. The remaining part of the tree which includes the roots has still to be removed. Upon the advice of Shelford Tree Services Limited the remaining part of the tree has been injected with Eco Plugs. These will kill it over a period of 3-4 months. Once this has occurred the remainder of the tree can be removed. Quotes will be obtained for the work.

MC

9. Footpaths

The School Lane footpath had been discussed earlier. There was nothing to report on the other footpaths in the village.

10 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications Received

24/403986/HFUL – single storey front and rear extensions, roof extension with front facing dormer window, changes to fenestration, installation of Air Source Pump (ASP) and creation of garden shed to the rear – 31 Church Street – no objections

24/04140/FUL - demolition of Thriplow Grain Store etc

Thriplow and Heathfield Parish Council held a Public Meeting on the 9th December 2024. As a result of this consultations the following points are felt to require further consideration:

1. Parking

Thriplow is a small rural village with a very basic system of public transport which forces residents to rely upon private vehicles.

It was noted that the development provides for 2 parking spaces per unit together with a carport in some cases. This is considered to be inadequate given that in many instances there will be presently or potentially more than 2 car owners per household.

The applicant states that provision has been made for 2 "Guest Parking Spaces". The location of these places is not apparent from the plans provided. It is readily apparent that this provision is inadequate given the number of potential visitors to the units.

Parking in Fowlmere Road is not acceptable. Lodge Road is not suitable for vehicles to park in. No provision has been made for "Disabled Parking Spaces".

We have concerns about the future use of carports. Other developments have seen these developed so as to provide extra accommodation for the units they serve. A good example of this is Ringstone. It is suggested that a condition be added to any planning approval that might be granted stating that permitted development rights should be removed thereby ensuring planning approval would be needed.

2 Drainage

The village is experiencing drainage problems. Anglian Water is in the process of surveying the existing drainage system which cannot cope with heavy flows of water. We urge that this should be investigated by the developer. During the winter months tankage is necessary to prevent flooding. No survey appears to have been undertaken to assess the effect of the development upon the existing drainage system.

The use of a balancing pond for the disposal of surface water on the development was queried. It was felt such a pond should be replaced by a SUDS system. In addition it was felt that a pond would be a potential hazard for young children. The developer has stated he will arrange for his drainage engineer to re-consider the provision of a pond.

3 Design and Number of Units

The developer has been keen to express its cooperation with those preparing our Neighbourhood Plan. That plan (whilst still incomplete) makes provision for approximately 20 houses on the site. This application is for 26. Concerns were expressed about the design of the units. It is felt they are not in keeping with the general design footprint of the village. In particular roof lines should be more varied. It is felt that there should be additional screening of the gardens of the units viewable from Fowlmere Road.

4 Road Safety

Thriplow has road safety issues with cars and lorries frequently speeding through the village and along Fowlmere Road. We have made 2 applications for LHI grants and been unsuccessful. Additional cars from this development will not help matters. Some traffic control provisions need to be put into place.

We have concerns that the development will lead to an increase in vehicles using Farm Lane (which is narrow) to access the M11 via the A505. Such increased use represents a significant risk to road users. The road is particularly popular with walkers. It is suggested that consideration be given to making Farm Lane a "No Through Road" from the junction of Mill Lane and The Bury to Lower Street. In the alternative a restriction might be imposed to limit its use.

It is noted there is a footpath around the public open space on the development. It is felt there should be a gate onto Fowlmere Road but that there should be a barrier in front of this gate to prevent young children running into the road.

b) Planning decisions received

None

c) Planning Appeals

24/02556/FUL – erection of a single storey self-build dwelling together with use of retained access points and associated works – 9 The Green.

d) Neighbourhood Plan

Early in 2024 a draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was sent to all interested parties and made available to all parishioners. The result of this consultation was a number of items which were considered by the Neighbourhood Plan team. An inspector was appointed by South Cambridgeshire DC to look in detail at the proposed plan and comment on it in the light of the responses from the consultations. The neighbourhood Plan team considered these consultations and the comments of the inspector and revised some sections of the plan accordingly. It is now with SCDC to make the agreed alterations.

f) The Grain Store

The comments of the parish council have been submitted to SCDC. Cllr Easthope commented that some comments on the SCDC website referred to the poor state of the drainage infrastructure in the

village. Whilst this might be the case it is for SCDC to stipulate that improvements are needed as a condition of granting permission if it feels appropriate.

The parish clerk read out an email from SCDC relating to the possible use of any S106 monies which might be available as a result of the development. It was agreed that he should go back to SCDC and ask how much is likely to be available. This would aid the parish council in deciding to recommend where the monies are allocated. Cllr Easthope is aware that the school do not want any of the money whilst the Church has expressed an interest. Cllr Easthope will liaise with James Fisher of SCDC about the possible destination of any S106 monies receivable

DE

g) Meridian BioGas

Cllr Easthope is hoping to discuss this matter with Cllr Williams. At present there is insufficient information to comment. No formal planning application has been submitted.

h) Miscellaneous Items

None

11. Financial Matters

a) authority is requested to pay the following:

	Amount	VAT	Total
Payroll – January	1,300.00		1,300.00
Parish Clerk's expenses	25.25		25.25
CambridgeshireACRE - Subscription	72.00		72.00

b) the following payments were ratified having been paid between meetings:.

	Amount	VAT	Total
Npower	170.99	8.55	179.54
Carol Deed – website management	200.00	0.00	200.00
Payroll – December	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00
Tom Harvey – Gravel Pit Hill - bollards	170.00	0.00	170.00
Tom Harvey – HOS Rubbish Bins	250.00		250.00

c) the following invoices were received after publication of the agenda but ratified for payment at the meeting

	Amount	VAT	Total
Shelford Tree Service Limited – cutting up and making safe fallen tree on The Green	1,450.00	290.00	1,740.00
Shelford Tree Service Limited – Insertion of Eco Plugs into stump of tree	180.00	36.00	216.00

d) credits received

A cheque for £1.15 was received from Npower and interest of £40.31 from Lloyds Bank PLC

d) S106 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) setting the Precept for 2025/26

Following discussions it was agreed that the Precept for 2025/26 will be £53,155.59. This represents an increase of 27.5%. The Precept for 2024/25 is £36,879.00. 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. Acceptance of the proposed increase was proposed by Cllr Easthope and seconded by Cllr Ramsay. It was agreed.

12 Reports (if any):

a) Neighbourhood Forum

There was nothing to report. Cllr Richmann agreed to replace Rowan Pashley who has resigned from the parish council.

b) Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Gough said there may be a leak. This is being monitored. There is a problem with the heating system. The clock has not kept time it was 3 hours behind. She is obtaining a quote from HIVE for a replacement. Cllr Easthope will be the representative of the parish council on the committee.

c) Police and Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough believes the PSO might have retired. No confirmation has been received.

d) District Council Information

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

e) County Council Information

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

Cllr McDonald specifically mentioned the imminent closure of gravel Pit Hill for re-surfacing. He also mentioned the recent A505 report which has been circulated. He referred to the possibility of traffic lights at the Flint Cross junction. Some discussion has taken place about improving the "McDonald's Roundabout" to deal with the expansion of the Genome site.

Cllr Easthope mentioned the dangerous drain cover in Fowlmere Road. This has been reported to CCC and Cllr McDonald.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow Derek Pinner to talk

Mr Pinner referred to the dangerous junction on The Green adjacent to the Bus Stop. He had asked John Obrien for a H sign to dissuade people from parking so as to obscure the view from this junction. This would be between the Bus Stop and the phone box. John Obrien had agreed to get this done but then changed his mind so nothing has happened. Cllr McDonald agreed to look into this. **PM**

The Chairman re-opened the meeting

13 Incursion of lorries onto Hurdles Way

It was agreed that Cllr Richmann will talk to EMG and ask if the proposed sign might go on their land.

14 Area on Village Green outside The Green Man

The parish clerk explained that it was hoped a meeting will take place in early February to thrash out the terms of a final agreement. Cllr Easthope has been instrumental in this.

15 Problems with flooding in parts of the Village

The parish clerk submitted a Freedom of Information request to Anglian Water and obtained a copy of their survey report. This however subject to Data Protection Regulations. He has asked for permission to circulate the document but at the time of preparing these minutes such permission has not been granted.

The Chairman closed the meeting to allow Derek Pinner to speak

Mr Pinner made the point that several persons giving opinions about the Grain Store development had made an issue of the drainage. He said the development of the Grain Store and drainage problems are not connected. Anglian Water will correct the problems. Residents should address the shape of the development and the parking issues. Mr Pinner suggested that there should be a public meeting at which representatives from Anglian Water should be given the opportunity to explain their proposals for dealing with the drainage problems in the village.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting

16 Annual Parish Meeting and preparation of APM Leaflet

The Annual Parish Meeting is at 8.00 pm on the 20th March. The parish clerk reminded all those who have yet to submit a report that they should do so by the end of the month.

17 Correspondence and information received

A list of correspondence received has been circulated to all parish councillors

18 Dates of next meetings

Next Parish Council Meeting – 10th March 2025

Annual Parish Meeting – 20th March 2025 at 8.00 pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

----- Chairman

..... Date

County Council Report

Peter McDonald

Parish Council Report January 2025

County Council Budget 2025/26

Ive deliberately focused on the 2025/25 budget as this is the key issue right now.

- The county council has shared its proposals to continue delivering its vision of a creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire. Part of these proposals will identify the Council's priorities for where to spend over £1billion to deliver services and support for people and communities across the county. Priorities included with the draft Business Plan and Budget are:
- Investing £21 million into the county's 4,500 miles of road network, footpaths, cycleways, and drainage systems in 2025-26, with a further £20 million being invested in 2026-27.
- Investing £20 million over the next 3 years to support providers of adult social care services to pay care workers the Real Living Wage, helping to recruit and retain people to deliver these essential services.
- Investing £6.8 million in low carbon heating for schools and council buildings and £8.7 million being invested to deliver enhanced and upgraded household waste recycling centres in Milton and March.
- However, rising demand for the services we provide, along with the costs of those services also rising, continues to impact the county council's available funding, just as is the case with many other local authorities. That means we also must continue to make difficult choices about where we spend and where we make savings.
- This means we have a budget gap of £34.2 million in 2025-26 which needs to be closed.
- As part of the report to be discussed by councillors, this includes a proposed council tax increase of 4.99% for 2025-26. This increase, if approved, would generate around £20 million in additional funding, not only helping the council to balance the books and set a legal budget, but more importantly, meaning we can commit to:
- continuing the record level of investment in the county's highway and cycleway network that we started last year.
- ensuring that adult care services can continue to support and protect vulnerable adults by investing over £30 million to meet rising demand and costs and supporting the social care workforce.
- funding almost £0.8 Billion investment in capital expenditure to build vital schools, investing in care and community facilities, including libraries, and continue to deliver our ambitious net zero target.

- provide £2.5m to maintain holiday school vouchers for those most in need.
- sustaining home to school transport for children in education right across the county by a further £4.7 million in additional funding to help meet rising demands and costs.
- helping to provide extra capacity to support children and young people in care and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- In our pre-budget engagement exercise, just over 50% of respondents supported an increase in Council Tax of up to 4.99% to help maintain or improve essential services.
- In reports, published for the Strategy, Resources and Performance committee, councillors considered:
- Progress to date and key investment areas for 2025/26 aligned to the council's recently updated and approved Strategic Framework – setting out how the authority will deliver its vision of a creating greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire through its seven ambitions and responding to the needs of residents gathered through its annual Quality of Life Survey.
- The proposed council tax increase of 4.99% and what this additional funding will mean in terms of helping to meet some of our increased costs, as well as additional investment in priority areas.
- The council's long-term approach to changing the way it operates so that it can improve efficiency, value for money and productivity. This means getting the basics right and innovating the way services are delivered so the council can maximise the value of every pound it spends. This work includes saving £1.5m from rationalising office accommodation, and £0.5m from making greater use of technology.
- Have your say - [complete our consultation survey](#).

District Report

Cllr Richard Williams

Local Planning Applications

As I'm sure Cllrs are aware, the Grain Store Planning application is still under consideration by the District Council. It is notable that a number of statutory consultees have objected, or expressed reservations, to the plans that were submitted.

The environmental assessment scoping application by Meridian Bio-Gas (which is not an application for planning permission) is also still under consideration, and again it is notable that a number of reservations have been expressed about the plans.

Annual report to tenants and leaseholders

South Cambs published its annual report to Tenants and leaseholders of council homes in December 2024. The full report is available at this link: [Tenant and Leaseholder news - South Cambs District Council](#).

Local Plan, Updated Timetable.

The District has approved an updated timetable for completion of the next Local Plan. The timetable envisages a full draft of a new plan going to statutory public consultation in late 2025,

with submission of the new plan likely in late 2026. Of course, the local plan process is somewhat overshadowed by the Government's 'Cambridge 2050' agenda, which envisages upwards of 150,000 new homes in our area by 2050 and the possibility of a Development Corporation. What this will mean for the plan, and development in our area, is still highly uncertain. But it seems clear that whatever happens with the Local Plan, the Government has plans for growth outside of any local planning process.

Four Day Week – Public Consultation Plan.

Two years and four months after the District Council introduced four days' work for five days' pay for council staff, a plan has finally been brought forward to ask residents about the initiative. The details of the planned consultation will be discussed by the Council's scrutiny committee this week, and if approved the consultation will run in the near future. Unfortunately, the draft consultation questionnaire does not ask residents directly if they support five days' pay for four days' work at the Council.

Local Government Reorganisation – Plan to Abolish District and County Councils.

The Government has brought forward a plan as part of its Devolution in England White Paper to abolish District and County Councils and replace them with new Unitary Councils that deliver all council services. The Government has suggested that new Unitary Councils should have a population of at least 500,000 people, although there can be exceptions. The combined population of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is around 900,000, so the most obvious structure would be some form of 'North Cambridgeshire and P'bro' Unitary Council and a 'Southern Cambridgeshire' Unitary Council (perhaps including the existing South Cambs, Cambridge City and East Cambs district). However, there is no formal proposal for our area and the government expects existing local councils to come up with a plan for new Councils.

Cambridgeshire is in the second tier of council reform, and we have been told that proposals will need to be submitted to the Government later this year. If that timetable holds, it is likely a new Council would take over from the existing Districts and County in 2028 (probably with elections to this council as a 'shadow council' in 2027).

There are certainly some advantages to a Unitary structure, which would be easier for residents to understand than the current set of Districts delivering some services and County other services. However, there are also disadvantages in that a single council will likely be larger than existing districts, so local government may become a bit more remote. As things stand, the process whereby a restructuring proposal for Cambridgeshire will be developed has not been set out. But the Parish Council may wish to express a view when the process becomes clear.