

THRILOW AND HEATHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The Barbara Pointon Room, Thriplow Village Hall on the 9th March 2026 at 7.30 pm

Present Jane Gough, David Easthope, Lynn Driscoll, Carly Richman, Richard Taylor, David Schneider

District Councillor - Richard Williams

County Councillor - Peter McDonald

Parish Clerk - Martyn Corbet

RFO - Austin Flynn

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Sonya Cooper, Tom Harvey and Fergus Ramsay

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th January 2026

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

4. Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 23rd February 2026

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

5. Matters arising from the above-mentioned minutes not otherwise covered by this Agenda

There were no matters arising

6. Health & Safety Reports, Health & Safety and Environmental Issues

a) Heath & Safety Reports

The parish clerk distributed Health & Safety forms for completion relating to various items which need to be checked. Distribution of the forms was as follows:

Schedule 1 – Cllr Richman

Schedule 2 - Cllr Taylor

Schedule 3 – Cllr Easthope

Schedule 4 – Cllr Gough

Schedule 5 - Parish Clerk

These forms must be returned by the 7th April.

b) Damage to the footpath in School Lane

The parish clerk outlined what has happened since the last meeting. Cllr McDonald said he is due to have a meeting with the local Highways Representative from CCC on Wednesday morning. He will report back after this meeting. Cllr Williams referred to Gravel Pit Hill. There is a large pothole which is dangerous. Cllr McDonald will mention this.

There is a ZOOM meeting on Monday 16th March to discuss the state of the roads etc. It was agreed that Cllrs Harvey Schneider and Taylor will be present. The ZOOM meeting will take place in The Barbara Pointon Room at 8.00 pm

TH,DS,RT

7. Parish Recreation Grounds and Maintenance

a) Work Required on Thriplow Rec

Cllr Gough confirmed that the dangerous tree has been removed. The parish clerk said that Cllrs Harvey and Schneider had been very proactive in dealing with this problem which required a speedy response.

b) Work required on the Heathfield Open Space

i) Repairs to Gate and Fences

The parish clerk said that the work required has been completed. Cllr Driscoll said that there are some pieces of wood still on site. She will remove these.

LD

c) Ditches in Lower Street and beside The War Memorial

Cllr Easthope spoke to “Rab” of Cambdrain in December. He was going to look into any grants which might be available to do the work. Cllr Easthope heard back from Rab today. Nothing is available to help. Rab is going to provide a quote for the work. This will hopefully be by the end of this week. **26/6**

8. Updates and Progress Reports on:

a) Wooded Area at Hurdles Way

Work has been done to clear the encroaching trees. Cllr Schnieder has not heard back from Angus Batey.

b) Application re 20 mph Speed Limit

The parish clerk will submit the application in the coming week. Cllr Williams will send the parish clerk a copy of Whittlesford PC's successful application to assist with the parish council's application.

c) Progress on Parking on the Ringstone Open Space

The work has been completed. It was agreed that it is a great improvement. It has been stressed that the carparking provided is for the use of all residents. Eventually a sign will be put up.

9. Tree Works & Tree Protection Orders

a) Tree Works

25/1473/TTCA tree work at Thriplow (CofE) Primary School – a notification but comments filed as follows – Thriplow and Heathfield Parish Council objects to this notification. Whilst it accepts that the removal of the Ash tree is necessary and does not object, the other trees are alive and not causing a problem. Their removal would be detrimental to the Street Scene and character of this part of the village. In addition, the trees provide a natural screen against noise for neighbouring properties. Perhaps there should be a site visit?

This response was read by the parish clerk to the meeting. Cllr Gough said that whilst the Ash tree needs to come down the other trees are alive and do not need to be felled. Cllr McDonald said there should have been a site meeting. Cllr Williams confirmed that work has not been carried out. The application has been withdrawn. The living trees do not belong to CCC.

b) Work required in respect of removal of the tree stump on The Green

The work has still not been completed. The ground has been too wet. The patience of the property owner has been noted and greatly appreciated. Recently an opportunity has been taken to obtain another quote for the grinding out of the tree stump. It is hoped this may mitigate further delays.

c) Trees and Bushes in Hurdles Way

This work has been completed as referred to in 8 a) above.

d) Trees in School Lane

Cllr Gough has arranged for a horticulturalist to look at the trees. There is a problem with ownership. One tree is on parish council land. Ownership of the remaining trees is with the property next door. The removal of the Ivy is important. It can be cut from the bottom. It was agreed that Cllr Harvey will be asked to do this. The parish clerk will write to the householder.

e) Tree on Thriplow Rec

This item was dealt with as part of item 7 a).

Cllr Taylor referred to the yew hedge behind the War Memorial. It was agreed to ask Cllr Harvey to cut it. Cllr Gough will contact The Royal British Legion about the replacement of the Union Flag. **JG,TH**

10. Footpaths

The damaged footpath in School Lane was discussed earlier at 4 b) above.

11. Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications Received

25/05032/FUL – installation of a new vehicle securing gate, consisting of two barrier arms to be installed to the rear/north of the existing security gate (on the north side of IWM Duxford). The new security gate will comprise 2 x automatic rising arm barriers with top and bottom skirts: sounder/strobe, safety loop, photocells and ground works covering concrete bases and connected electrical conduits – IWM - no objections

25/04859/FUL – new potato store to serve existing Savoursmiths crisp factory along with retrospective permission for the siting of Store A approved under 24/04820/FUL along with access and associated infrastructure – Manor Farm, Church Street – objections and comments filed please see SCDC website

26/00050/HFUL – single storey rear/side conservatory – Avonmore, 19A Lower Street – no objections

26/00116/FUL – single storey side/rear extension following destruction of existing garage/store and conservatory. Relocation of front entrance and erection of porch canopy. Render to existing external walls and alterations to fenestration. New timber gate to side of dwelling – 5 Foremans Road - no objections

b) Planning Decisions Received

26/00050/HFUL – single storey rear/side conservatory – Avonmore, 19A Lower Street – approved

c) Planning Appeals

None

d) Any Miscellaneous Matters

Cllr Williams confirmed that The Grain Store application has been approved.

12. Financial Matters

a) Authority was given to pay the following

Date	Payee	Amount	VAT	Total
25/03	Payroll	1,429.70		1,429.00

b) The following payments were ratified having been paid between meetings

Date	Payee	Amount	VAT	Total
12/01	Bank Charges	4.67	0.00	4.67
21/01	SSE – Street Lighting	64.91	3.25	68.16
22/01	Npower – Street Lighting	222.72	11.14	233.87
03/02	British Gas – Smithy Electricity	23.06	1.15	24.21
09/02	Tom Harvey – Materials for HOS	395.00	0.00	395.00
10/02	Bank Charges	4.25	0.00	4.25
17/02	Tom Harvey – Village Clear Up	220.00	0.00	220.00
19/02	Tom Harvey – Safety Tape	15.07	3.02	18.09
20/02	Npower – Street Lighting	216.16	10.81	226.97
21/02	SSE – Street Lighting	62.94	3.15	66.09
23/02	Tom Harvey – HOS fence repairs	490.00	0.00	490.00
25/02	Payroll	1429.70	0.00	1429.70
06/03	British Gas – Smithy Electricity	22.11	1.10	23.21

c) Items received after publication of this agenda

Date	Payee	Amount	VAT	Total
26/02	Langham Press – APM Leaflets	388.00	0.00	388.00
14/03	Bank Charges	4.25	0.00	4.25

d) Credits Received

The RFO reported that interest of £24.18 had been received from Lloyds Bank PLC. Interest of £34.91 from NS&I £389.10 from Saffron BS and interest of £1,126.27 from Cambridge BS. A payment of £1,593.47 has been received from HRA Limited in respect of grass cutting.

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 is in accordance with prevailing market rates.

f) Release of Accounting Records to the Internal Auditor

The release of accounting records to the Internal Auditor was agreed. They will be circulated to parish councillors first by the RFO.

OF

13. Construction of a ramp for wheelchairs between Kingsway and The Greenway

It was agreed that there should be further discussions with HRA about this matter.

MC

14. Reports (if any)

a) Neighbourhood Forum

There was nothing to report. Meetings are not taking place. The Presentation with representatives from Duxford AVTech has taken place as have wider consultations with residents. The general feeling of the parish council was that traffic issues have not been adequately addressed.

b) Village Hall Management Committee

The annual insurance bill have been received. It is £1,620 for the Village Hall and a further £135 for Governor’s Insurance. The PAT testing has been carried out. A small hole will be drilled for the Daffodil Weekend cables this week. The oil tank needs replacing. The manufacturer of the tank accepts liability. The wall protecting the tank needs to be discussed.

c) Police and Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough has heard nothing

d) District Council Information

Cllr Williams has prepared a report a copy of which is attached. The report has been circulated.

e) County Council Report

Cllr McDonald has prepared a report a copy of which is attached. The report has been circulated.

15. Incursion of Lorries onto Hurdles Way

The parish clerk has obtained a quote from BigDay Signs for a sign saying “No Left Turn For HGVs”. It was pointed out that lorry drivers are more likely to understand a standard sign. The parish clerk will go back to BigDay Signs about this.

16. Problems with Lorries using Duxford Business Park

Cllr Schneider has been doing work on this. It was agreed that there should be a meeting of Heathfield Councillors and others to plan action. Cllr Williams wishes to be involved and will be notified of the date of the meeting. Cllr Driscoll referred to an incident in which she found a lorry trying to access the sewage plant in the dark by reversing around Kingsway. The parish clerk will write to Cambirdge/Anglian Water about this.

MC

17. Barrels discarded near Heathfield

SCDC have confirmed that the land belongs to the water company. This is Anglian Water. The parish clerk will write to them about the barrels.

MC

18. Problems with Flooding in parts of the Village

Nothing more has been received apart from notification of TEAMS meetings. Cllr Taylor raised a point about the proposed closure of Middle Street. The parish clerk explained that the original proposal was going to affect Daffodil Weekend. Following some correspondence this issue has now been resolved. The work will take place in the following week.

19. Update of Standing Orders and various policies

The new Complaints Procedure and Complaint Form have been circulated. Cllr Taylor raised a query in relation to reporting a crime. Subject to an amendment it was proposed by Cllr Easthope and seconded by Cllr Driscoll that the procedure be accepted. This was agreed.

20. Correspondence

A list of correspondence received has been circulated to parish councillors

21. Distribution of the Annual Parish Meeting Leaflet & Annual Parish Meeting

The leaflets have been printed and distributed.

22. Parish Council Elections

SCDC no longer send out forms in the post. The parish clerk will print out forms and there will be a short meeting to distribute those forms and for information relevant to election such as Electoral register numbers to be provided. He reminded those standing for election that supporters must come from the Ward in which the candidate is standing. The process begins on the 30th March and forms have to be in to SCDC by 4.00 pm on the 8th April. As usual the parish clerk will be responsible for taking all the forms he is aware of to SCDC for checking.

MC

23. Date of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting - 19th March 2026

Annual Parish Council Meeting – 11th May 2026

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

..... Chairman

..... Date

Cambs County Council

Record spending on roads, thousands of extra school places and support for vulnerable residents underpin Cambridgeshire County Council's ambitious budget, approved by a majority of Councillors in Feb. By approving the 2026–29 Business Plan and Budget, Councillors have approved a legal, balanced budget that also drives investment for vital services that communities say matter most to them. The nearly £1.3 billion Business and Budget Plan includes a number of investments aligned with the council's three new ambitions:

Supporting a green and sustainable county

To improve day to day journeys for drivers, cyclists and bus users, it has allocated an additional £20m for highway maintenance, on top of Government funding, to provide safer and more reliable roads across Cambridgeshire.

The council will also continue to provide leadership and deliver its Climate Change and Environment Strategy.

Enabling full and healthy lives for all

To support older people, adults with disabilities and families, who rely on care every day, the council is allocating £14.7m of additional funding for adult social care providers. This will help them to manage rising costs and ensure care workers are paid the Real Living Wage, improving stability and quality for those who depend on care workers for their support.

Ensuring fairness and opportunity

To help families under pressure from the cost-of-living crisis, the council is prioritising £1m to continue holiday meal vouchers for the children most in need, through to the end of summer 2026. As the Government withdraws the Household Support Fund, the council will also use its new £5m Crisis and Resilience Fund to provide a wider range of anti-poverty measures, offering practical support to households facing financial challenges.

The plan will create 3,500 new primary school places and invest £72 million over five years to increase secondary school places, including at Alconbury Weald and North West Cambridge. It also includes £780,000 a year to run a children's residential home in South Cambridgeshire, as well as continued funding for the Families First programme, an early intervention project that helps keep more families together and is supported by the £6.7 million Children's, Families and Youth Grant. In addition, more than £1.2 million will be invested in libraries and archives over the next two years.

The plans discussed included an increase of council tax by 4.99%, the maximum permitted by Government for county councils, as is the case in nearly all councils across England, and the level assumed by Government in setting its grant allocations. A total 2% of this increase is specifically for adult social care funding. The increase will generate around £21million in additional funding and help the council continue providing the essential services people rely on. This will mean that for a Band D property, the County Council's share of Council Tax would increase by £84.78 a year, or £1.63 a week.

Low Income Family Tracker

Councillors at the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee approved procurement of a data-led system that will allow more targeted support for low-income families in order to address and prevent poverty.

The new data-led system will be delivered in collaboration with the district and city councils across Cambridgeshire and is expected to help:

- Identify missed benefits– such as those that should be claiming national benefits like Pension Credit, but are not doing so
- Increase access to Free School Meals by notifying eligible families not currently receiving this support, with the knock-on effect of also securing additional pupil premium funding for schools
- Identify geographic pockets of need at a hyper-local level to support the planning and delivery of other council services
- South Cambridgeshire District Council have already adopted such a system, and in the last 12 months has secured nearly 1,000 additional claims for residents which are worth over £500k to residents in their first year alone, with a lifetime value of nearly £4 million based on average claim lengths.

The committee unanimously approved procurement of the new system for an annual cost of between £200-£220k, for a 3-year period (for a total contract value of £600k-£660k).

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has confirmed that the full cost can be paid for using funding provided to the council by the Government's new Crisis and Resilience Fund.

Data-led systems used in other areas have shown a return on investment of over £400 for each £1 spent. This new platform will enable the council to focus on preventing residents from falling into poverty by building their financial resilience, reducing their future vulnerability and the need for subsequent more costly crisis interventions.

Following the approval of the Business Plan and Budget for 2026-27 earlier this month, the council has committed to ensuring fairness and opportunity wherever we can by investing in targeted interventions that help move people out of poverty and build long-term financial stability and independence. Procurement of this new system is a key milestone in delivering on this ambition for the people of Cambridgeshire.

Highways

728 potholes were filled in S Cambs in week 8. There are 513 out standing. We are trying to set up a highways call for Parishes March 9th 6pm. The Highways Committee agenda is here: https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccs_live/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2567/Committee/62/Default.aspx

District Report

Cllr Richard Williams

District Council Budget 2026/27

The District Council has now set its budget for the coming financial year.

As expected, the administration has proposed a Council Tax increase at the maximum level permitted without triggering a referendum. I voted against this increase. Whilst I recognise the financial pressures facing local government, I do not believe that continually raising Council Tax to the limit each year is sustainable for residents already facing significant cost-of-living pressures.

The budget also included increases in council house rents above the rate of inflation. Again, I voted against this. At a time when many tenants are struggling with household bills, increasing

rents beyond inflation adds further strain to some of the most financially vulnerable residents in our district.

That said, there were elements of the budget that I supported. Continued commitment to the Council's Climate and Nature Strategy is welcome, including investment in energy efficiency of council housing stock and wider environmental initiatives. These measures not only help address the climate emergency but can also reduce long-term running costs.

The budget maintained funding for core statutory services and key community support programmes, which is important given ongoing economic uncertainty.

In summary, whilst I support several of the Council's strategic priorities — particularly on the environment— I believe the approach taken on Council Tax and social rents places too much burden on residents and tenants. I will continue to argue for a more balanced approach that protects frontline services while recognising the financial pressures facing households across South Cambridgeshire.

Grain Store Planning Application

As I'm sure councillors will be aware, the application for 26 houses on the Grain Store site was approved by South Cambs planning committee in February by a vote of 7 in favour of approving the application and 2 votes against. I was one of the votes against approving the planning application. There were concerns about the number of houses that were proposed for the site and the fact that the development had something of an urban feel about it meaning it was not appropriate in a village setting. My main reason for voting against though was because Anglia Water had objected to the planning application on the basis that there was not sufficient capacity at the Foxton sewage works to deal with additional flows from developments in our area. Given the problems we had with sewage disposal in the village last year, I was very concerned about approving more planning applications when there isn't capacity to deal with additional sewage flows. Unfortunately, a majority of the committee felt that Anglia Water's objection could be ignored and voted to approve the application even though the evidence before the committee was that there's been something like an 800% increase in sewage discharges from Foxton in the last year because it is operating above its capacity. It wasn't the fault of the applicant that that this was the case, and I obviously accept the Grain Store is a good place for housing as allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan. So I'm supportive of the principle of housing on the site in line with the Neighbourhood Plan, but I didn't feel that, given the objections of Anglia Water and other concerns, it was right to approve the application.

Government Consultation on a Cambridge Development Corporation

The Government is consulting on the establishment of a Cambridge Development Corporation covering Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. If implemented, this would represent a substantial change to existing governance arrangements, transferring powers over planning, transport and certain infrastructure functions from elected local authorities to a new, appointed body for up to 25 years.

The consultation document suggests that a development corporation is required to address constraints on growth, including water supply, housing affordability and transport congestion. However, many of the major water infrastructure proposals cited, such as the Fens Reservoir near Chatteris and planned transfers from Grafham Water, fall outside the proposed development corporation area. It is therefore unclear how the corporation would directly accelerate delivery of these schemes.

In relation to housing, Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire councils have approved and are delivering significant levels of new development. The consultation does not identify specific major developments that have been refused and could only proceed under a development corporation

model. Employment growth has also been strong, with substantial new commercial and laboratory floorspace approved and delivered in recent years.

Transport is a key element of the proposal. The consultation argues that a development corporation could provide “coordinated ambition” for long-term transport solutions. Currently, strategic transport powers sit with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, led by an elected Mayor, who has set out proposals including potential light-rail schemes. The consultation also refers to the development corporation acting as a “backstop” should existing authorities fail to deliver agreed transport outcomes, raising questions about future decision-making and accountability.

During a recent presentation to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at South Cambridgeshire District Council, Peter Freeman, Chair of the Cambridge Development Corporation, outlined that its work would be expected to proceed in two phases. The first phase would focus on shaping and then implementing the emerging Local Plan. A second, longer-term phase would involve the development of new plans for future growth beyond the Local Plan period. In this context, he indicated that future development could be focused around existing transport hubs, including railway stations. This could have particular relevance for settlements such as Whittlesford, Foxton, Melbourn etc which have a mainline rail connection. It could become significant in the context of EWR if a station were added between Cambourne and Cambridge South (assuming EWR goes ahead)

The consultation raises wider questions about the balance between accelerating growth and maintaining local democratic oversight. Any change of this scale would have long-term implications for how planning and transport decisions are made across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, and merits careful consideration by parish councils and residents.

The consultation can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge>

Potato Store Planning Application.

Following concerns that were expressed by some residents about the reduction of certain information from comments that had been submitted on the planning application, I spoke to the planning department about the reasons why comments may have been blanked-out in public documents. The answer I received was that the reductions which had raised concerns had been made in order to prevent potentially sensitive information about wildlife sites being in the public domain. I was assured - and will make sure - that the substance of the comments is taken into account in the planning process

South Cambridgeshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Consultation

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council are currently consulting on the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the Greater Cambridge area. The consultation runs from 16 February to 29 March 2026 and seeks views on the proposed charging schedule and supporting evidence before it is submitted for independent examination.

The consultation documents and response portal can be accessed here:

<https://oc2.greatercambridgeplanning.org/document/1334>

CIL is a standard planning charge that local authorities can apply to new development in order to fund infrastructure required to support growth. More than half of planning authorities in England now operate a CIL scheme. Currently South Cambridgeshire does not have an adopted CIL, and most infrastructure contributions are secured through negotiated Section 106 planning obli-

gations linked to individual planning permissions. These agreements typically fund local mitigation measures such as schools, healthcare facilities, open space, play areas, libraries and community facilities.

The councils consider that the existing system is less effective at funding major strategic infrastructure, particularly transport improvements required to support planned growth across Greater Cambridge. Section 106 contributions are limited to impacts directly related to individual developments and can also delay planning decisions due to negotiation. The proposed role of CIL is therefore primarily to collect pooled contributions from development towards larger strategic infrastructure projects, particularly transport schemes required to accommodate growth.

For Parish Councils such as Thriplow and Heathfield, an important feature of CIL is the neighbourhood portion. Where a parish has an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, up to 25% of CIL receipts from development within the parish area would be passed directly to the Parish Council to support local infrastructure or community priorities. This would represent a new and more predictable source of locally controlled infrastructure funding compared with the current position where no CIL operates in South Cambridgeshire.

Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

The Government has opened a public consultation on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, seeking views on different structural options for replacing the current two-tier arrangements with new unitary authorities. The consultation considers four proposals submitted by councils across the area, including “Option B”, which is supported by South Cambridgeshire District Council (alongside Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire District Councils) and would create two unitary councils: one for Greater Cambridge (Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire) and one for North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Residents, parish councils and local organisations can respond directly to the Government’s consultation via the official portal:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

